

I Am with You Always

Allelu!

Growing and Celebrating with Jesus

Lesson 27, Kindergarten

Lesson 27 Goal

- Your child will be introduced to some of the ways Jesus is with us in the Church, the world, and in our own hearts.

Key Points

- Jesus left the earth and went into Heaven, but he promised his friends that he would always be with them.
- Jesus is with us in God's Word, through the actions of the priest at Mass, in the people gathered at church, and especially in the Holy Eucharist.



Parent Reflection

From the account given in the book of Acts (1:6–12), we might assume the disciples were momentarily too stunned by what they had seen as Jesus ascended into Heaven to say or do anything. They remained “gazing up toward Heaven” (vs. 10), and then were greeted by two angels, who said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward Heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into Heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into Heaven” (vs. 11). What did the angels mean? Certainly Jesus described his return in the last days after “tribulation,” saying “they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory” (Mark 13:26), but Jesus also returns to be with us in a very real way through the actions of the priest at Mass and, in particular, through the celebration of the Eucharist, which is Christ's own Body and Blood (I Corinthians 11:23–29).

Jesus also continues to be with us in other, albeit less complete ways. For example, he is with us in the Scripture, and particularly in the Gospels, which contain his own words and teachings. He is with us in the Church itself, which is the Body of Christ (I Corinthians 12:27). Jesus is with us in the poor and needy. Christ so identifies with the poor and the most vulnerable that he tells us when we see them, we see him (see Matthew 25:31–46).

Jesus also lives with us in our own hearts. Scripture tells us, “God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in him” (I John 4:16b). As we show love to others, we help to make Christ more present in the world around us.

Reflection Question

Where and when have I especially felt the presence of Jesus?

Lesson Preparation

Before inviting your child to sit with you for lesson time, prepare all materials.

Materials

- Family Activity Sheet
- crayons, colored pencils, or markers
- Activity Master #23
- safety scissors
- white paper plate
- glue stick or tape

- Activity Master #2 – Saint Page (Keep the saint page from each lesson to gather together a Communion of Saints Book created by your child.)

Preparation Steps

- Make sure your child has a copy of Activity Masters #2 and #23 (included with this lesson).

Gathering

Create a prayerful space. You might place a candle on the table, or set a cross in front of you. Invite your child to join you in quietly preparing for prayer.

Say the following or similar words: “Now that we are in this prayerful space, let us find the quiet in our hearts so we can talk with God.”

Sit together for several seconds of shared silence.

Say, “When we light a candle during prayer or in church, we are saying that we know Jesus is with us in the world. When we read what Jesus says in Sacred Scripture, Jesus is with us then too. When we say a prayer when we are all alone, we sometimes can feel that Jesus is with us, and showing us his love. Isn’t it wonderful, knowing Jesus is with us? Let’s pray to thank him.”

Begin in prayer:

Make the Sign of the Cross together or bless your child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead: “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

Say, “Think about a time when you knew Jesus was with you. When you think of a time, say it out loud and together we will all answer, ‘Thank you, Jesus for being with us.’”

Encourage your child to contribute, and then lead the response.

Parent and Child: *Thank you, Jesus for being with us.*

Thank you, Jesus, for your love. Please bless us today as we learn about you. Teach us to be loving too. Amen.

Discovering

The Ascension. Turn to the first page of the Activity Sheet and read about the Ascension.

Ask your child, “What job did Jesus give the disciples?” (*To tell everyone the good news*)

Turn to the second page of the Activity Sheet. Ask your child the “Ask Me!” questions and review the answers.

Exploring

Use the following activities to enrich your child’s understanding of the lesson and of our Catholic faith.

1. Jesus Is with Us. Turn to the main activity of the Activity Sheet (center pages) and invite your child to describe what he or she sees. Give your child crayons or colored pencils. Explain the activity to your child and have him or her complete it.

2. "I Am with You Always" Spiraling

Cloud. Have your child color and cut out the picture of Jesus (Activity Master #23) and set it aside. Show him or her how to cut a spiral from a paper plate to create a spiraling "cloud." Tape or glue the picture of Jesus to the center of the spiral. Remind your child of the story of the Ascension.

3. The Communion of Saints: Saint Dominic Savio.

Show your child the picture of Saint Dominic Savio on the Family Activity page and read about him. Then read more about Saint Dominic to your child (see below).

Ask your child:

- ▶ "What is one way Saint Dominic helped others?" (*by helping them stop fighting*)
- ▶ "How can we be more like Saint Dominic?" (*by being kind, by helping others, by doing the best that we can at school*)

Have your child write and draw about Saint Dominic Savio using Activity Master #2.

Sending

Pray with your child. Begin by making the Sign of the Cross together, or bless your child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead. Pray aloud with your child.

Parent: "Jesus, thank you for being with us through many people: our families, our Church, and our world."

Together: Thank you, Jesus, for being with us.

Parent: Jesus, thank you for being with us through Sacred Scripture.

Together: Thank you, Jesus, for being with us.

Parent: Jesus, thank you for being with us in the Eucharist.

Together: Thank you, Jesus, for being with us.

Parent: Jesus, thank you for being with us in our hearts.

Together: Thank you, Jesus, for being with us.

Saint Dominic Savio

Jesus Is Always with You

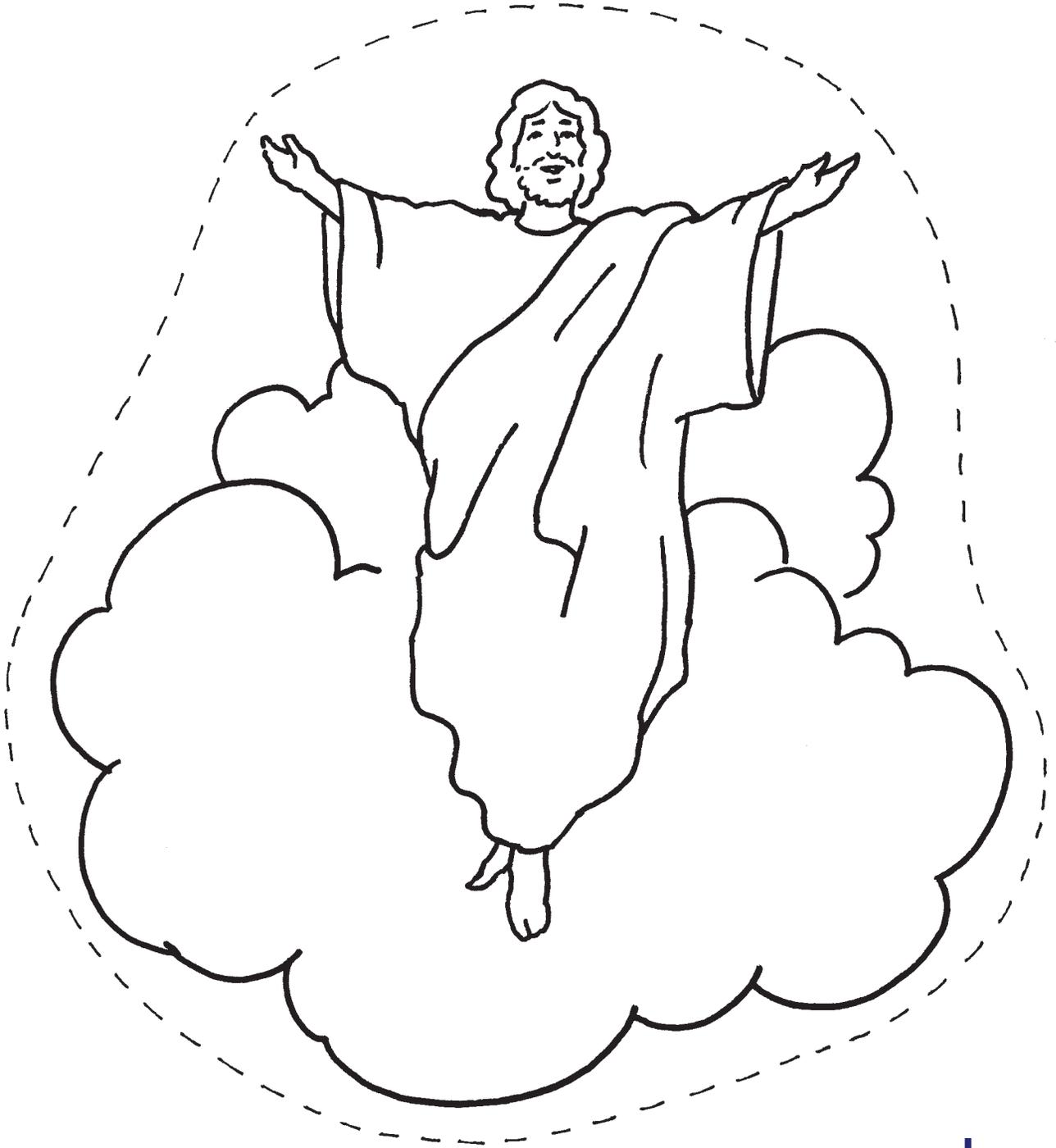
When Dominic was only five years old, he knew he loved Jesus. When he was seven, he made rules for his life! One was to receive the Eucharist often. Another was that Jesus and Mary would be his best friends.

He kept those rules. Still, like all people, Dominic got angry sometimes, but he was able to stop before he said or did anything in anger.

He helped others with their anger, too. One day at school, two boys yelled at each other. They got so angry they decided to fight by throwing rocks at one another! They could have been badly hurt, but because they were so an-

gry, they didn't care. Dominic cared though. He stood between them. Both boys liked Dominic, and didn't want to hurt him. Dominic told them that Jesus forgave his enemies and they should too. The two boys stopped fighting.

Dominic went to a school run by a good priest named John Bosco. When Dominic needed some advice on how to live his life, Father John told him, "Always be cheerful. Do your jobs and school work the best that you can. Show others how to act in a good way. And, remember that Jesus is always with you and wants you to be happy." Dominic never forgot that. He always felt Jesus was with him.



DRAW



St. Dominic Savio

**Saint
Dominic Savio,
pray for us!**