

We Wait for Jesus with Joy



Growing and Celebrating with Jesus

Lesson 22, ages 4-5

Lesson 22 Goal

- Your child will learn the meaning of the word “promise,” and about God’s promise to send Jesus.

Key Points

- Making a promise means saying you will do something.
- God promised to send his Son, and he kept his promise.



Parent Reflection

Because God the Father delights in working together with his children, he chooses people through whom he can accomplish his will. We see a profound example of this in the story of the Annunciation. Mary is called by God to help bring his plan to fruition. She is given a choice about whether or not to participate. Through her “yes,” she and all people are blessed.

Today, God still chooses to work together with his people to accomplish his will in the world. It is our hands he uses to feed the poor, our voices to speak for justice, our lives to point the way to Jesus, his Son. Like Mary, if we seek God, we will be shown his plan for our lives and will be called to work with him. If, in courage and faith, we say “yes” to God’s plan for our lives, we will bring God’s blessings to those around us.

Reflection Question

How has God called me to participate in his plan?

Lesson Preparation

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

Materials

- ☐ Family Activity Sheet
- ☐ crayons or colored pencils
- ☐ two paper towel rolls
- ☐ adult scissors
- ☐ 8½" x 14" sheet of paper
- ☐ glue or clear 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 Master #2 (included with this lesson).
- ☐ Cut the paper towel rolls to a length of 8½ inches.
- ☐ Place the 8½" x 14" and horizontally on the table.
- ☐ Glue or tape the paper towel rolls onto either side of the sheet.
- ☐ Roll both ends of the paper so that it looks like a scroll.

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, *"Long, long ago, God the Father made a promise. When you make a promise, you say you will do something. It is important that you then do it. That is keeping the promise. Today we will talk and pray about God's promise. What do you think God promised? (Encourage some answers.) He promised his people that he would send Jesus to us. Did he do that? (Encourage an appropriate answer.) Let's say a thank-you prayer."*

Begin in prayer:

Pray 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."

"Thank you, our Father in Heaven, for sending us your Son, Jesus. You promised you would and you did! Thank you for keeping your wonderful promise. Amen."

Discovering

The Angel Announces Jesus' Birth. Turn to the first page of the Activity Sheet and read about the Annunciation.

Ask your child, "How can you show your love for God, as Mary did?"

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. The Angel Visits Mary. 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. Share the Good News Scrolls. Have your child illustrate the story of the Annunciation on the prepared "scroll" and invite him or her to

share the Good News with the rest of the family.

3. The Communion of Saints: Saint Nicholas. Show your child the picture of Saint Nicholas on the Family Activity page and read about him. Then read more about Saint Nicholas to your child (see below).

Ask your child:

- Can you surprise people like Saint Nicholas did? Let's name three ways you could surprise someone at school or home.
- What are some blessings you can share with others?

Have your child write and draw about Saint Nicholas 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 the Hail Mary aloud with your child, leading him or her in repeating each phrase.

Hail Mary, (Repeat.)

full of grace. (Repeat.)

(Continue helping the children repeat each phrase.)

The Lord is with you.

Blessed are you among women

and blessed is the fruit

of your womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,

pray for us sinners,

now and at the hour of our death.

Amen.

Saint Nicholas

Special Gifts

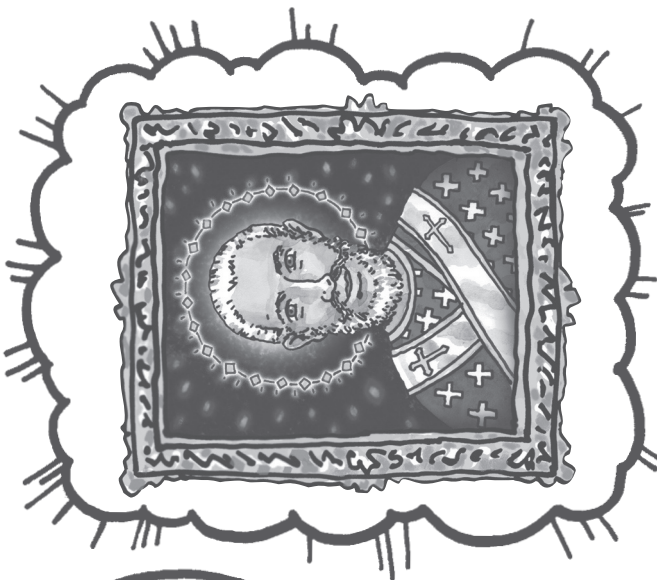
Nicholas' parents had a lot of money. They loved God and his people, and shared their blessings with people who were poor. They taught Nicholas that Jesus wants us to work for fairness for all people. When Nicholas was a teenager, he secretly gave all his money away to help people in need.

Nicholas lived near the house of a man with three daughters. The family was very poor and had a hard time paying for food! Nicholas wanted to help the family. One dark night, he put money into a cloth bag and quietly brought the

bag to the man's house and dropped it into the house through an open window. He then went away quietly so no one would know he had done this kind deed.

Nicholas soon began to leave unexpected gifts for other people who were in need. He became known for caring so much for people. When he grew older, Nicholas decided to become a priest. He continued to care for all people who came to him for help. Stories of his kindness spread to many countries. We still remember his gift-giving and generosity today!

DRAW



**Saint
Nicholas,
pray for us!**