

Journey of Faith



Sharing the Good News

Mrs. Evans was having a party for the very last day of class. "Before we start the party, I have one last assignment for all of you," Mrs. Evans announced. "I want you to share everything you learned here with someone else. Especially the things that really made a difference to you. Don't keep your faith to yourself. Share it!"





How can you share your faith with others?

Share Your Faith

Before he returned to heaven, Jesus gave his disciples a mission. He told them to go out and teach others about God and God's love. He told them to "make disciples of all nations...teaching them to [obey] all that I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19–20).

That's a really big job, isn't it? But you don't have to do it alone. The Holy Spirit dwelling in your heart will help you. So will your families, both at home and church, and other Catholics.

Helping others to know and love God is called **evangelization**. Evangelization is the job of all good Catholics. To help us, Pope St. John Paul II gave us five steps to follow.

Step 1: Witness Christ

To **witness** Christ means to let your love for Jesus show in all that you do. When you see people doing good deeds, being kind, smiling, and sharing, you want to be with them and live like them. When people see you acting like Jesus by helping, loving, and welcoming others, they're more likely to be attracted to Jesus and want to follow him.

Mass is the first place you can witness Jesus. When new families come to your church, they may feel lonely and out of place because they don't know anyone. While others in the parish are welcoming the parents, you can welcome new children. You can talk to them about your church and invite them to share in the fun things you all do together.



Can you think of one way you could welcome new children in your church?

Step 2: Share Your Faith

Some children never learned the things you learned about Jesus and the Catholic Church. You can be the one to teach them. You can tell stories of Jesus to your friends. The more they hear about Jesus, the more they'll want to know him better. After all, to know Jesus is to know God!





Step 4: Challenge Culture

Culture means the way a group of people gets used to doing something or living life. Sometimes, we have to challenge the ways we do things that aren't working for what Jesus wants. Sometimes what our culture says is right really isn't. Or the way our culture sees things isn't the way Jesus would.

We also have to treat people as Jesus would want us to. Jesus once said, "Whatever you do to others, you do to me" (adapted from Matthew 25:40). If someone is hungry and you help that person, you're helping Jesus. If someone is lonely and you ignore that person, you're ignoring Jesus. In our world, many people are hungry, lonely, or sad. It's our job to help them.



Which story about Jesus is your all-time favorite? Why?



How can you help others today?

What are some ways you can challenge culture to be more like Jesus?

Step 3: Offer the Love of Jesus

Everyone wants to be loved. Deep down, everyone wants to give love, too. Jesus' first and most important commandment is all about love: "Love God with all your heart, and all your soul, and all your mind" (Matthew 22:37). Jesus' second commandment is also about love: "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:39).

Isn't it wonderful that Jesus taught us how to be good Christians? He said we should love. He said God loves us more than anybody else. That's a lot of love! We can lead people to Jesus by loving them and letting them know how much they're loved by Jesus.



How can you love your family better? Your friends? Classmates?



Step 5: Make the Good Better

Most people try to do good and make right choices. But we can always get better at following Jesus and doing more for others.

Below are sayings of Jesus from the Gospel that have been adapted from Scripture. After each one, write one way you can follow Jesus' words in your life today.

Love one another as I have loved you (John 13:34).

Don't judge others if you don't want to be judged (Luke 6:37).

Always forgive others as God forgives you (Mark 11:25).



OUT IN THE WORLD

For each of the five steps you learned today, draw a picture or write a story or poem showing how we can live out that step in the world.

1. Witness Christ.
2. Share your faith.
3. Offer the love of Jesus.
4. Challenge culture.
5. Make the good better.

In Short



- A relationship with Jesus is important for conversion.
- We are called to share the good news.
- The Church prepares us for the mission of evangelization.

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