

1 Opening Prayer

Scripture: In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." (Luke 1:26-28)

Together: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created, and You shall renew the face of the earth. O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit, we may be truly wise and ever rejoice in His consolations, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

2 Opening

This lesson is about Mary. To stimulate students' background knowledge, ask them what a mother is, and what a mother does. You can have a class discussion or, depending on the time you have, you can have the students each draw a picture of a mother and share them.

After discussing mothers in general, let the class know that Mary is Jesus's mother. Ask them what they think Mary did as Jesus's mother. What did she do? What kind of mother is she?

Finally, let the class know that Mary is also our mother. How? What does Mary do as our mother? How does she act in a motherly way towards us? This may be difficult for the class. Tell them to look for answers to this question as they watch the video, and you will be discussing it again as one of your discussion questions.

3 Video

Watch the Lesson 4 Video on Catholic Brain

4 Comprehension Questions

- 1) What message did the angel Gabriel have for Mary?
She had been chosen to be the mother of God's Son
- 2) What did Simeon mean when he told Mary that a sword would pierce her heart?
She suffered greatly when she witnessed Jesus suffering and dying on the cross
- 3) What miracle did Jesus do at a wedding because of Mary's request?
He turned water into wine
- 4) Who did Jesus give Mary to, from the cross?
The Apostle John – and us
- 5) What do we call Mary's going to Heaven, body and soul?
Her Assumption

5 Discussion Questions

- 1) Why is it so important that Mary said “yes” to God?
Mary’s “yes” plays a very important role in our salvation because through it, Jesus, our Savior, came into the world.
- 2) How is Mary a mother to us?
Mary loves us. She prays for us and asks Jesus to help us. Occasionally, she even visits from Heaven with important messages for us. She wants what is best for us and helps us to follow her Son.

6 Activity

Mary is our mother, and it is important to have a relationship with her. One of the greatest ways to do that is to pray the Rosary. Introduce the class to the Rosary. Pray one decade today; choose one of the Joyful Mysteries. (You can pray more than one if you have time.) If you have students without much of a religious education background, pick a Mystery they will be familiar with, like the birth of Jesus. You may also read the story of the Mystery you choose from the Bible before beginning your prayer.

But first, take time to teach and explain the Rosary to students who may be unfamiliar with it. Emphasize that the most important part of the Rosary is meditating on the Mysteries of the Rosary. Teach them how to use the beads to keep track of the prayers, and let them know that by the repetition of familiar prayers, our goal is not to impress, or “bribe” God with how many prayers we pray. We are creating a rhythm for our minds so that they will be freer to meditate.

- *Note: The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has a useful guide about how to pray the Rosary. It is found at: <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/rosaries/how-to-pray-the-rosary.cfm>
You may want to print copies for your students.*

7

Closing Prayer

Together: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.