

Jesus Makes New Friends

Allelu!

Growing and Celebrating with Jesus

Lesson 16, ages 3-4

Lesson 16 Goal

- Your child will learn that Jesus chose special friends, called disciples, who walked with him and helped him.

Key Points

- Jesus chose special friends, called disciples, who walked with him and helped him.
- We are also special friends of Jesus.



Parent Reflection

From the beginning of his public ministry, Jesus called disciples to witness his work, assist him, and carry his work to completion after he returned to the Father. Peter points out that following Jesus, being his disciple, is the call of each Christian: “For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his footsteps” (I Peter 2:21). Following Jesus, or being a disciple, means not only knowing Jesus’ life and words, but living them, and teaching them to others (CCC, 1816). Jesus said, “You are my friends if you do what I command you” (John 15:14). For Christ, love is a verb. It is the action of self-gift, and just as Christ gave of himself to us out of love, we are asked to give ourselves to others.

Reflection Question

What does discipleship mean to me? How do I follow Jesus in my everyday life—at work, at home, and in the community? When it is most difficult to be self-giving?

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
 - construction paper (2 pieces)
 - glue sticks or paste
 - safety scissors
 - Lesson 16 Activity Master – Saint Page (included with this lesson)
- (Keep the saint page from each lesson to gather together a Communion of Saints Book created by your child.)

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.

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.”

Pray together: *“Jesus, many people came to know and follow you. Help us to follow you and learn from you each day. Amen.”*

Discovering

Jesus Helps the Fishermen. Turn to the first page of the Activity Sheet and read about Jesus and the fishermen.

Ask your child, “Why do people want to follow Jesus?”

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 Makes New Friends. Turn to the

drawing in the main activity of the Activity Sheet (center pages) and invite your child to describe what he or she sees. Give your child a crayons or colored pencil. Explain the activity to your child and have him or her complete it.

2. I Walk with Jesus. Have your child trace his or her shoes on construction paper, then cut out the shoe outlines and glue or paste them on another piece of construction paper. Help your child write below the shoes “I walk with Jesus!”

3. The Communion of Saints: Saints James the Greater and John the Apostle. Show your child the picture of Saints James and John on the Family Activity page and read about them. Then read more about Saints James and John to your child (see page 3).

Ask your child, “Do you think that Jesus knew John and James well before he trusted them?”

Have your child draw about Saints James the Greater and John the Apostle using the Lesson 16 Activity Master.

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:

“Dear Jesus, help us to share with our friends, but most of all, help us to share your love. Amen.”

Saints James the Greater and John the Apostle

Jesus Chooses Apostles

Jesus used to be a child like you. And then he grew up to be a man. He knew that he had important work to do and he needed help to get it done. So he chose twelve Apostles. Some of these Apostles had been his friends for many years.

Jesus had two friends named James and John. They were brothers. Some people believe that they may have even been Jesus' cousins. Both James and John were fishermen. They worked hard every day to catch fish, which people used for food. Jesus asked them to put away their nets

and come work with him. He wanted them to help him teach people about God's love.

James and John did what Jesus asked. They traveled to many places with him, and watched the way that he taught. They learned to understand Jesus' ideas. Jesus knew that he could count on them to help teach other people about God after he died. And when he did die, James and John were two of the first people to carry on his work. They helped people to remember Jesus Christ.

DRAW



**Saints James the
Greater & John
the Apostle,
pray for us!**