

Mary, Mother of Us All

Allelu!

Growing and Celebrating with Jesus

Lesson 8, ages 3-4

Lesson 8 Goal

- Your child will learn that Mary is Jesus' Mother and our Mother in Heaven.

Key Points

- Mary is the Mother of Jesus.
- Mary is our Mother, too.



Parent Reflection

In Luke's Gospel, the angel Gabriel calls Mary "full of grace." (Hence the start of the "Hail Mary" prayer.) Grace is the share of God's own life that enables us to do what he asks of us. We received grace through our baptism and continue to receive grace through the Sacraments.

But none of us is "full of grace." Having "fullness of grace" would mean always doing what God wants, which was vital for the Mother of God. But Mary didn't earn the grace granted to her by God. He made her sinless for a special purpose. She was human, just like we are. Jesus was her Savior just like he is ours and was to those who came before him. God gave Mary the special grace that would come through Jesus in *advance* so she could be a perfect Mother for him. Mary's role as Mother gives her a special place in the lives of all Christians. We can always depend on her motherly care and know that she remembers us to her Son, Jesus.

Reflection Question

How do I show honor to the Blessed Virgin Mary as Mother?

Lesson Preparation

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

Materials

- Family Activity Sheet
- blue and yellow crayons, colored pencils, or markers
- Activity Master #7 and Lesson 8 Activity

Master – Saint Page (both are 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: *“Dear God, thank you for the Light of the World, Jesus. Thank you for Mary who chose to say “yes” when you asked her to be the Mother of Jesus. Help us also to say ‘yes’ to you and do what you want us to do. Amen.”*

Discovering

Mary, Jesus’ Mother. Turn to the first page of the Activity Sheet and read about Mary.

Ask your child, “What can we learn from Mary?”

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. Mary and Jesus. 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 crayons or colored pencils. Explain the activity and have your child complete it.

2. Hail Mary. Give your child a copy of Activity Master #7 to color. Instruct him or her to color with blue and yellow crayons or markers. Practice reciting the Hail Mary together. Have your child repeat line by line after you.

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

Ask your child, “How do you think Anne and Joachim might have helped Mary learn about God?”

Have your child draw about Saints Anne and Joachim using the Lesson 8 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:

“Thank you, Jesus, for your Mother, Mary. Please watch over us today and always. Amen.”

Saints Anne and Joachim

The Blessing of Grandparents

We know that Jesus was special and that he was raised lovingly by Mary and Joseph. But where do you think that his mommy and daddy learned to love God? From their parents!

When Mary was a little girl, her mother and father taught her to love God. They were very old when she was born, and they thought that they would never have a child. One day Mary's father, Joachim, was traveling away from home. He met an Angel of God, who explained that he would soon have a baby girl. He rushed home and shared the news with Mary's mother, Anne. "I have received the same message!" she exclaimed.

Anne and Joachim knew that they were very

lucky to have been blessed with a baby girl. They taught her to read the Bible. They also helped her learn to obey God's rules. When she was three-years old—just your age!—Mary started working in the Temple. The Temple was like a church. Everyone in the Temple tried to follow all of God's laws. There was a lot of work to do to help people serve God in a special way.

When Mary grew up, she became the Mother of Jesus. This was because she had been chosen by God. He knew that she had learned well and would be the best Mother possible for Jesus, his special Son. She had been taught well by her parents, Anne and Joachim.



DRAW



**Saints
Anne and
Joachim,
pray for us!**