

Grade 1 - Chapter 5

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Discover

Catechist Tips: Enhance the Lesson

To help teach about Jesus' life in a family, work with your school librarian or media specialist to find paintings or other images of the Holy Family. Place the images in the prayer space or another central location for the children to observe throughout the lesson.

Catechist Tips: Family Life

The Gospels according to Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John all acknowledge Joseph's role as foster father to Jesus, which can open the door to discussions with the children about what makes a family. Families can be made up of a mother and her child, or may include such extended family members as grandparents, cousins, and half-siblings all living under one roof. Point out to the children that the common denominator is the love shared among family members.

Catechist Tips: Jesus' Life

To help give the students a better sense of the time and place in which Jesus grew up, share with them pictures from *The Land and People Jesus Knew: A Visual Tour of First-Century Palestine*, by J. Robert Teringo (Bethany House, 1985). This book can help address the student's questions about everyday life in Jesus' time.

Catechist Tips: Grandparents

Gather the children into a story circle and read *Now One Foot, Now the Other*, which is the story of how a grandchild helps an ill grandfather. When you have finished the story, talk with the children about how family members help each other every day.

Discussion starters:

How many of you help your grandparents or great grandparents?

What do you do to make family members smile?

How do you help family members with things that are hard for them to do?

Catechist Tips: Grow Like Jesus

Proclaim the Scripture story on page 95. Write these words so that all can see them and remind them that this is what Jesus did when he was their age: *obeyed, grew wise, grew strong*. He took care of his body and of his mind. He obeyed his family; he learned; he grew strong. As you point to each word, let them give examples of how they obey their family, learn and become wise, are good, and grow strong. Help the children see that these are ways they are like Jesus. This is very pleasing to God.

Glossary Activity: Holy Family

Many churches are adorned with statues of Mary and Joseph.

- The Mary statue is usually found at the head of the left aisle, the Joseph statue at the head of the right aisle.
- Visit the parish church to let the children look at the statues. Note that Mary often carries lilies; Joseph, cherry blossoms.

Additional Activity: Family Customs

Families have varied traditions. Some family traditions are the product of a family's cultural background.

- Vietnamese families celebrate the Chinese/Vietnamese New Year with foods such as coconut jam, rice cake, pork, fish, and eggs.
- They decorate their homes with colorful balloons and flowers for this holiday.

Additional Activity: Holy Family Art

Show the children some examples of fine art or folk art depicting the Holy Family.

- If possible, share examples that reflect diverse ethnic representations, as a way of reminding the children that families all over the world identify with Jesus' family.

Additional Activity: Review Catch

List the words *wise, good, strong, and obey* on the board or on chart paper.

- Have the children sit in a circle and toss a ball. After they have tossed it a few times, read a word from the list.
- Whichever child catches the ball next must suggest a way of performing the action with their family.