

**Lesson Plan: 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade**  
**June 2013**

**Instructions:** Using the *Forming Disciples for the New Evangelization: Archdiocesan Religion Curriculum Guide*, choose a topic, the Standards, and the Indicators for the grade level you teach (Use Grade 8 if you work with older students.) Find supporting materials for teaching the lesson in the religion textbook for your grade level. Develop a lesson plan which incorporates the **methodology of critical thinking**. Follow the Lesson Planning Outline. Be sure to indicate the grade or age group you are teaching.

**Preparing to Teach the Lesson**

**Lesson Title:** Jesus is God's Best Gift

**Standard 1 Creed:** Understand, believe and proclaim the Triune and redeeming God as revealed in creation and human experience, in Apostolic Tradition and Sacred Scripture, and as entrusted to the teaching office of the Church.

Standard 2 Scripture: Read, comprehend and articulate salvation history as conveyed in God's revelation through Sacred Scripture.

Standard 7 Prayer: Know and participate in the Catholic tradition of prayer and acknowledge prayer as the primary way we deepen our knowledge of God in the community.

Standard 8 Catholic Church: Understand and appreciate the mystery of the Church, the Body of Christ, the community of believers, as expressed in the Church's origin, mission of evangelization, hierarchical structure, marks, charisms, members and the communion of saints.

"God sent Jesus to die and rise in order to give us new life". –Loyola Press, Christ our Life series.

**Indicators:**

2.01.08: Understand that God gives us the gift of grace; a participation in the life of God

2.02.04: Recognize that Jesus lives and died to save us

2.07.02 Identify the Sign of the Cross as a prayer to the Trinity (Prayer, the Sign of the Cross is a prayer of the Trinity)

2.08.04 Explain how the Catholic Church is a sign of God's love for the world (Christian Living is a sign of God's love)

**Topic:** How can we become disciples, followers of Jesus?

God gives us grace by allowing us to share in his life. Grace gives us strength and courage to live as God wants us to live. God sent his only son Jesus, to save us all from sin and allow us to live a new life in Christ. If we choose to follow Jesus we will live forever in heaven. Jesus taught his disciples many things while he walked on earth. One of those things that can be traced back to the times of the Apostles is the Sign of the Cross, which is prayer that symbolizes the Holy Trinity.

**Grade Level:** 2nd Grade

**Pages in the textbook:** pages 9-14

**Background Reading for Catechist:** Teacher manual pages 15-18, CCC 457, 615-618, 2157; GDC #98, Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy #128, Dogmatic Constitution on the Church #3 Vatican II:

[www.vatican.va/archive/hist\\_councils/ii\\_vatican\\_council/documents/vatii\\_const\\_19641121\\_lumen](http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vatii_const_19641121_lumen)

**Environment:** Desks will be set up according to the needs of the students. If I have talkers or students with attention problems I will now move them accordingly by placing their books where I want them to sit. The prayer corner will be set up like last week changing the liturgical color table cloth if needed. I would also write our schedule on the board so the students know what to expect for this evenings class.

**Materials:** Bible, Catechist Manual, textbooks, pencils, color pencils, picture of a vine or try (copies for all students), picture of Jesus, battery candle, Our Father poster.

### Teaching the Lesson

**Welcome:** (5 minutes) As the students enter the class I would welcome them and ask them what has happened to them this past week. I am sure we will have some new students entering the class since the first few weeks see an increase in class size.

**Prayer:** (5 minutes) I would move the students to the prayer table where we will review

what is at our sacred prayer table: the candle, the Bible, the color of the cloth, and today a picture of Jesus. We will begin with the Sign of the Cross, I would ask for any prayer intentions; next we would pray the Our Father.

**Review:** What did we learn last week?

**Preview:** Today we are going to learn about the greatest gift God gave us, Jesus.

Presentation: (20 minutes) I would begin by telling the students that today we are going to think about some very important things. Next I would ask the students: Why did God send his son Jesus to earth? (I must remember to pause here and let the children take time to think and formulate answers). We can write the students answers on the board. Next, I would tell the students that Jesus answered this same question himself! Let's open our books and read what Jesus told the disciples. Wait that's big word...disciples. Can anyone tell me what "disciple" means?

Write disciple on the board-a person who follows Jesus

Read page 9: Discuss Jesus Shows Us the Father's Love. Leave time for students to ask questions and come up with answers.

Page 10: Jesus' story about a seed

Page 11: Read and discuss The Friends of Jesus Are the Church

Page 12: Read and discuss Jesus Shares His Life with Us

**Activity: Critical Thinking:** (15 minutes) Now that the students have a background from the readings, have them think of ways that they can be disciples of Jesus? Why is it important to be a disciple of Jesus? What does Jesus promise us if we are his disciple?

Have them punch out the crosses at the back of their books and write ways they can be disciples of Jesus on the crosses. What can they do at home? At school? In this classroom? Where are some places that are hardest to be disciples of Jesus? The students can then color their picture of vine and stick their crosses on the vine.

Direct the students to a discussion about prayer (10 minutes). Why do we pray? Who are we talking to when we pray? What types of prayers are there? Remember our prayer rings? One of the simplest prayers is the Sign of the Cross. This prayer has been around since the time of the apostles. It symbolizes God embracing us with blessings. At the same time, in the Sign of the Cross, we express our belief in God from whom all blessings come, and we recall the loving sacrifice of Jesus crucified. This will be great time to practice doing the sign of the cross with the students. I know from past experience this is a very necessary and tedious lesson. Many of the children do not know their right hands and many do not know how to properly do the sign of the cross. It is very important the students understand why we make the sign of the cross and they

learn reverence and piety with this lesson. I would also incorporate the Closing Prayer at this time.

**Evaluation:** (3 minutes) How are you going to be disciples this week?

**Assignment:** (5 minutes) Do at least one thing that you wrote on your crosses this week. Also, practice your prayers and the Sign of the Cross. Remind the students about their bucket fillers.

**Announcements:** If applicable.