

Pacing Plan for Children’s Catechesis

Preparation

Review the Catechist Background pages and collect any supplies you will need. In addition to the materials listed for each session, you will need three pieces of poster board. On the top of each, write the words “Meet Jesus.” On one, write the title “The Son of God”; on another, the title “The Way”; on the final one, the title “The Word of God.” These poster boards will be used in the final transition back to the large gathering space.

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Children gather with their families. After the opening prayer and scripture reflection process, catechists will gather with their group to be dismissed for child-specific preparation. Once in your gathered space, you will begin with Session 1.

Session 1: We Belong

***Say:** We began our time together by praying with our families. Prayer is talking to and listening to God. We pray using words. We also pray using our bodies, too! Let’s learn more about how we do that.*

Page 9: Skip this page.

► Play Opening Video 1.

Pages 10–17: Have the children turn to page 10 in their Child Book as you open your Catechist Guide to Page 10. Follow the catechist instructions through the activity on page 17. Skip the instructions for the Family + Faith Pages and Closing Ritual Prayer on the last page for this session.

Transition

Have the children stand and sing “I Am the Way” (track 18) from the *Songs of Scripture, Grades 1–3 CD*. Teach them the words to the song. Encourage the children to add hand motions and dance along as they sing.

Session 2: We Gather

***Say:** We have been talking about the difference Jesus makes in our lives. The things we say and do with our friends and families should show that we are close to Jesus. Because we are human, we sometimes do things that take us away from Jesus. We sin and need forgiveness. God’s mercy is greater than anything we can imagine! Let’s learn about how God’s mercy can lighten our burdens.*

Page 19: Skip this page.

▶ Play Opening Video 2.

Pages 20–27: Have the children turn to page 20 in their Child Book as you open your Catechist Guide to page 20. Follow the catechist instructions through the activity on page 27. Skip the instructions for the Family + Faith Pages and Closing Ritual Prayer on the last page for this session.

Transition

Again, have the children sing “I Am the Way” (track 18) from the *Songs of Scripture*, Grades 1–3 CD. Now that they are more familiar with the words to the song, they should require less assistance. Encourage them to add hand motions and dance along as they sing.

Session 3: We Listen and Respond

Say: *We know Jesus is the greatest teacher ever. He shows us how to live and love. We can get closer to Jesus by reading God’s Word in the Bible. Now we are going to learn about listening carefully and showing reverence for God’s Word.*

Page 29: Skip this page.

▶ Play Opening Video 3.

Pages 30–37: Have the children turn to page 30 in their Child Book as you open your Catechist Guide to page 30. Follow the catechist instructions through the activity on page 37. Skip the instructions for the Family + Faith Pages and Closing Ritual Prayer on the last page for this session.

Transition for Closing

Put the three Meet Jesus posters in a place where they will be accessible to the children. You may want to place them on a table or on the floor. Review why we call Jesus by each title. Have three volunteers write down a few key words for each title. Invite three other volunteers to carry the Meet Jesus posters high above their heads as your group returns to their parents in the meeting space. When all of the children have gathered, invite them to call out the titles of Jesus and share something they learned about Jesus during these sessions.