

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 Lamb of God”; on another, the title “The Bread of Life”; on the final one, the title “The Light of the World.” 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 4.

Session 4: We Accept and Offer

***Say:** God loves us so much that he gave us his only Son. We celebrate that gift of Jesus every time we go to Mass. Now let’s learn about some other gifts and celebrations.*

Page 39: Skip this page.

► Play Opening Video 4.

Pages 40–47: Have the children turn to page 40 in their Child Book as you open your Catechist Guide to Page 40. Follow the catechist instructions through the activity on page 47. 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 “The Supper of the Lamb” (track 12) from the *And With Your Spirit* CD. Teach them the words to the song. Encourage the children to add hand motions and dance along as they sing.

Session 5: We Give Thanks and Receive

***Say:** We just learned that the Mass is a sacrifice and a celebration, but it is also a gift. It is a gift of the Bread of Life—Jesus Christ! Whoever believes in Jesus Christ will never be hungry. What a gift that is! Now let’s learn about the important role of food in our ritual celebrations.*

Page 49: Skip this page.

► Play Opening Video 5.

Pages 50–57: Have the children turn to page 50 in their Child Book as you open your Catechist Guide to page 50. Follow the catechist instructions through the activity on page 57. 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 “The Supper of the Lamb” (track 12) from the *And With Your Spirit* 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 6: We Share

Say: *We just learned that the Eucharist strengthens us to let our light shine! What makes you light up with joy? How can you let Christ’s light inside you shine so others can see it? Let’s find out.*

Page 59: Skip this page.

► Play Opening Video 6.

Pages 60–67: Have the children turn to page 60 in their Child Book as you open your Catechist Guide to page 60. Follow the catechist instructions through the activity on page 67. 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.