

Young Apprentices

A RESOURCE FOR THE RCIA

INQUIRY SESSION: JESUS

Inquiry Session (Approximately 60 minutes)

Prepare

For this session you will need the following supplies: a flip chart or white board; markers; paper; crayons; pencils and/or pens.

Set the space with chairs in a circle and in the center place a candle and a Bible. (Mark the Scripture citations noted in the participant materials.)

Have various names of Jesus written on individual sheets of paper. Choose several from among the following suggestions, and place your choices face down on the prayer table: Lord of Hosts; Word of God; Prophet; The Amen; Head of the Church; Savior of the World; Prince of Peace; King of Kings; Son of David; Son of God; Son of Man; Bread of Life; Light of the World; Good Shepherd; and The Way, the Truth, and the Life.

If needed have nametags. Have refreshments available, too.

Gather (10 – 15 minutes)

1. Greet the children as they arrive. Invite each child to share his or her name and something good that happened since the last time the group gathered.

Take time to find out how the children are doing.

Ask if they had an experience of prayer or church since the last session.

2. Share with the children your full name and anything special about your name. (*For example: Were you named after one of your parents? After another relative? After a Saint?*)

Invite volunteers to share their full names and anything special about their names, too.

3. Invite the children to help you make a list of other names by which people are often known.

(Begin by giving an example or two, such as: daughter; son; husband; wife; scout; athlete, etc.)

4. Discuss with the children:

- Why names are so important to us
- How it makes us feel when our name is mispronounced or when someone makes fun of our name
- How it makes us feel when someone calls us by name in an angry tone of voice
- How it makes us feel when someone calls us by name in a happy tone of voice

5. Read together the **My Story** section of the participants' page and discuss the questions found there.

Expand (15 – 20 minutes)

1. Encourage the children to name all of the titles by which they already know Jesus. Explore their understanding of these titles.

One by one turn over the slips of paper on the prayer table and share the titles written on the slips of paper. Invite the children to share what they think each title means.

2. Read and discuss the **God's Story** section of the participant's page.

3. Highlight the following discussion points:

- Two important titles for the Son of God:
 - Jesus, which means "God saves"
 - Messiah, which means "Anointed"
- The Bible contains several hundred different ways of knowing Jesus, both titles and relationships.

- All titles and relationships of Jesus help us understand who he is and his relationship to God, to the Church, and to us. They also help us understand Jesus' great love for us and his desire to do God's will.
4. Conclude the discussion by asking, "What questions do you have about the names of Jesus?"
 5. Read aloud each of the Scripture passages listed below. After each passage is read, invite volunteers to share what the passage tells us about Jesus.

Matthew 1:18-25 (The Birth of Jesus)

Isaiah 9:5-6 (The Prince of Peace)

Matthew 1:23 (The Birth of Jesus, read again for emphasis on "Emmanuel")

Our Response (15 – 20 minutes)

1. Ask the children:
 - Which title or name for Jesus do you like best? Why?
 - Is there a title or name for Jesus that you would add?
2. Give the children each a piece a paper and invite them to write down their favorite name or title for Jesus. Invite them to decorate their title.

Encourage the children to take home their paper and to put it in a special place so they will see it frequently and remember to take time to talk to Jesus.
3. Invite the children to listen to the story of a Saint who honored the name of Jesus. Tell in your own words or use the participants' page to tell the story of Saint Joan of Arc.

4. Point out the **Faith Words** section of the participants' page. Review the faith words with the children.

Pray (2 – 3 minutes)

Invite the children to close their eyes and then slowly and reflectively read aloud the names and titles of Jesus you have discussed during today's session. (*Note: You may wish to turn this into a litany by inviting the students to respond, "Hear our prayer" after each name or title is read. You may also wish to chant or to sing the titles and the response.*)