

Being a Disciple of Jesus

FOR THE TEACHER:

This lesson is designed to help the kids think about what it means to follow Jesus and be his disciple. Being a disciple is different than being the Father's adopted child. All people are the adopted children of the Father through the humanity of the Son of God living as the man Jesus Christ. But a disciple is someone who believes this truth, who listens to what Jesus says, and participates with Jesus' work through the Holy Spirit in educating others to know who they are as the Father's children. Being a disciple of Jesus is rewarding but also means we may have to give some things up - the way a kid may have to stop play video games in order to spend time with his Dad playing catch.

Questions marked with an asterisk (*) are part of the Trinitarian Catechism.

FIRST ACTIVITY: Marbles. For this activity you will need some freezer tape and some marbles. Before class, use the tape to "draw" a medium/large circle on the floor. Within that circle, use the tape to make another smaller circle (like a bulls eye on a target).

Start the activity off by reviewing with the kids who God is as the Trinity. On a piece of paper draw the 3 circles showing Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Next, have the kid's line up either around or in a line behind each other and give them 1-3 marbles each. Explain that the large circle represents Jesus and the smaller circle represents everyone who understands that they have been adopted through Jesus. The marbles represent all people. The goal is to role the marble anywhere inside the circle of Jesus, but you want to try and get your marble in the smaller inner circle.

Let the kids take turns rolling their marbles. Once everyone has rolled, if there are marbles outside of the large circle, ask -

"Has everyone been adopted and included through Jesus?" (Yes). Have the kids take turns moving all the marbles inside the large circle.

Activity Lesson: We have been adopted by the Father through the Son in the Holy Spirit. Some of us understand what that means (being in the smaller circle) and some of us don't (being in the larger circle). Either way, we are all included!

Have the kids help pick up the marbles and put them away.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Ask for a helper to pass out a bible to each child. Have them all turn to Luke 14:25-33. For older kids, have them take turns reading.

²⁵Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: ²⁶"If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters—yes, even his own life—he cannot be my disciple. ²⁷And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

²⁸"Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? ²⁹For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him, ³⁰saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.'

³¹"Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Will he not first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? ³²If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. ³³In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple.

PRIMARY LESSON: Being a disciple of Jesus means believing that he is the one who has made us the Father's children. It also means giving up some things so that we can be a part of helping others know this truth about themselves.

SECOND ACTIVITY: Being Disciples. Bring several small puzzles to class (around 25 or less puzzle pieces each) Divide the kids up into groups of two. Privately give one person in each group the lid or picture of the puzzle and tell them not to show it to partner. Give the other person a Ziploc bag with the puzzle pieces. Have them open the Ziploc bag and carefully lay the puzzle pieces on the table. Ask -

"For those who have puzzle pieces, what are you missing?" (The picture.)

"Is it harder or easier to put the puzzle together without the picture?"
(Harder)

Remind the kids about the first activity when we learned that all people are included but only some of us understand what it means to be adopted. Just like in this puzzle, you can't understand fully what the puzzle will look like until you have the picture. The kids with the pictures are the "Disciples" of Jesus who can share what they know to help the kid trying to put the puzzle pieces together. Have each group put their puzzle together.

Activity Lesson: Sometimes it takes some work and involves giving up something to share with others the beauty of their adoption.

PRAYER: For older kids, have one of them pray this prayer (or come up with their own). For younger kids, have them repeat after you as you read the prayer.

Father in heaven, thank you for including us all in your life through Jesus. Thank you, Jesus, for not leaving anyone out of the Kingdom. Holy Spirit, please help us to reach out to other people and help them understand how they are the Father's children through Christ. In Jesus' name, Amen.