

Leader's Guide for
THE LIFE OF JESUS
Jesus Comes (Advent, Christmas and Jesus' Early Years)

Jesus has told us, "I have come to call you friends." How wonderful it is when we accept the friendship Jesus offers us and we discover that we are capable of being friends with him.

In *Jesus Comes*, we walk through Advent, Christmas and Jesus' early life, discovering the wonderful joy Christ's birth brings us. We begin to know and welcome Jesus as a friend and to recognize his life in our own lives.

1. Offer the invitation to reflect silently: Try to get in touch with how you feel inside right now. Be quiet. Take your time. Can you name that feeling? Now take a moment to recall one thing you heard or saw about Jesus. Be calm. Just let that memory come to you. Now open your eyes. Invite sharing of what was felt, seen or heard.
2. Recall what Jesus did during his growing-up years and when the family took a trip to Jerusalem. Pantomime the finding of the child Jesus in the Temple. Talk about the way each person in this story felt. What do you do when you do not understand something?
3. Talk about Mary. Have children tell about the things that Mary did. Were these things difficult? Easy? How do you say "yes" to God in your life as Mary did in hers?
4. Introduce and pray the mysteries of the rosary. Talk about each mystery. Make a tableau scene of the different mysteries.
5. Talk about a journey. Have students recall their favorite trips. Recall the three journeys presented in this video. Where were the people going? What happened before, during and after each journey?
6. Make and arrange figures for a crèche scene. In your manger, have students place straw daily for a prayer or good deed they have done. Sing *Silent Night* before the crèche scene.
7. Write a prayer thanking Jesus for coming into our lives and living with us.

PRAYER GATHERING

(Place a candle on your prayer table and invite students to gather around the table.)

Opening Prayer

Jesus is our friend and he asks us to be friend with him and with one another. We light our Jesus Candle. In prayer, we want to thank you, God, for Jesus coming into our lives.

Reading

Tell the story of how Jesus came.

Quiet Reflection

Silently thank God in your own words for sending Jesus into your life. Think of one way you can live in your family as Jesus lived in his family.

Litany Prayer

Our response will be: THANK YOU, JESUS, FOR COMING INTO OUR LIVES.

For all mothers and fathers, grandmothers and grandfathers...RESPONSE

For all brothers and sisters, sons and daughters...RESPONSE

For all families...RESPONSE

For all people who help others to grow...RESPONSE

For all people who show love and care...RESPONSE

Jesus, our friend, is always in our family life. We thank you, Jesus, for becoming like us, so that we can become like you. Amen.

Closing Prayer

(Have students repeat each line after you.)

Jesus said, / I have come to call you friends./

We say / thank you for coming into our lives./

Thank you for being our friend, Jesus.

As friends of Jesus, let us offer a sign of this friendship with one another. (Let students exchange a handshake, pat on the shoulder, hug, etc.)

Go now in peace and be a friend.

Amen.

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NOTE: This guide can be printed and cut down in size to be stored with the DVD version of this video program. Simply cut $\frac{3}{4}$ inch from each side of the page for a guide that, when folded, can be placed inside of the DVD case or attached to the DVD or VHS case.

For use with: *Jesus Comes* on VHS (K170A) and DVD (D1700)

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www.AmericanCatholic.org

Leader's Guide for
THE LIFE OF JESUS
Jesus Promises (Holy Week, Easter and Pentecost)

Jesus has told us, "I have come to call you friends." How wonderful it is when we accept the friendship Jesus offers us and we discover that we are capable of being friends with him.

Remembering Jesus' suffering, death, resurrection and the promise and coming of the Holy Spirit is the heart of our faith as Christians. We begin to know and welcome Jesus as a friend and to recognize his life in our own lives as we open ourselves to the promises of Jesus.

1. Invite students to reflect silently: Close your eyes for a moment. See if you can get in touch with how you feel inside right now. Be quiet. Take your time. Can you name that feeling? Now take a moment to recall one thing you heard or saw about Jesus. Be calm. Just let that memory come to you. Now open your eyes. What are some of the things you remember?
2. We all need friends in our lives. What are some things you do with a friend? When do you most need a friend to be with you?
3. Name the days of Holy Week—Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunday. In what ways does your home family mark these days? Talk about how we gather as friends with our Church family—the gestures we exchange and the rituals of remembering this friendship story of Jesus.
4. Have a procession. Make pennants with different sayings: Hooray, Alleluia, Joy, etc. Choose one student to be Jesus. Wrap a cloak or sheet around Jesus. Process around the classroom singing an appropriate song. Talk about the happiness of the people on Palm Sunday.
5. Talk about prayer. Where do you like to pray best? When? With whom? Share a prayer you like to say with others and one you like to say when you are alone.
6. Tell the story of Peter denying that he knew Jesus. How do you think Peter felt? Jesus? How do you feel when a friend tells you that he or she does not want your friendship anymore? Talk about how we are sometimes like Peter when we are afraid to tell the truth.
7. Read the story of the Resurrection, Ascension or Pentecost. Have students pantomime the story.
8. What has Jesus promised us? Talk about the Ascension and the promise; talk about Pentecost and the keeping of this promise. List on the board promises we could make to Jesus and to one another. Talk about keeping promises. How do you mend a broken promise? Think of ways we

can become promise-makers and promise-keepers like Jesus.

9. Make a large cardboard or wooden cross. Have students design, color, cut out and paste flowers on the cross as a sign of the Resurrection, a sign of living forever with Jesus.
10. Write a prayer thanking Jesus for what he promised and for showing us in his own life how to make and keep promises.

PRAYER GATHERING

(Place a candle on your prayer table and ask students to gather around the table.)

Opening Prayer

Jesus is our friend and he asks us to be friend with him and with one another. We light our Jesus Candle. In prayer, we want to thank you, God, for what our friend Jesus promised us.

Reading

Tell the story of the Ascension.

Quiet Reflection

Silently thank God in your own words for God's promise. Think of one way you can live these words of Jesus.

Litany Prayer

Our response will be: **THANK YOU, JESUS, FOR BEING WITH US.**

In all the work we do...RESPONSE

In all the prayers we say...RESPONSE

In all the games we play...RESPONSE

In good times and not-so-good times...RESPONSE

In all the promises we make and keep...RESPONSE

We hear your promise deep in our hearts: "I am with you always, even until the end of the world." And you have kept your promise. Thank you. Amen.

Closing Prayer

(Have students repeat each line after you.)

Jesus said, / I have come to call you friends./

We say / thank you for what you promised./

Thank you for being our friend, Jesus.

As friends of Jesus, let us offer a sign of this friendship with one another. (Students exchange a handshake, pat on the shoulder, hug, etc.)

Go now in peace and be a friend.

Amen.

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Leader's Guide for
THE LIFE OF JESUS
The Meals of Jesus (Holy Thursday and Eucharist)

Jesus has told us, "I have come to call you friends." How wonderful it is when we accept the friendship Jesus offers us and we discover that we are capable of being friends with him!

In *Meals of Jesus*, children learn about the different meals Jesus celebrated, the meaning of the Eucharist today, and ways in which meals celebrate blessings and give thanks. Welcoming Jesus as a friend, they come to recognize God's life in their own lives.

1. Talk about your family meals. What is your favorite food? Conversation? Meal? Think of what it would be like if your family never ate together. Do you like eating alone or with others? Have you ever invited a friend to eat with you at school or at your home? What does a meal do for you?
2. Jesus ate many meals with his friends. How many do you remember? List them or act them out.
3. Have each student choose one meal Jesus ate with his friends and draw a picture of this meal. Have each student hold their picture in front of the class as they explain the story.
4. Visit your parish church. Show the students the altar, cruets for water and wine, chalice, ciborium, altar table and priest's vestments. Talk about the meal of the Eucharist.
5. On a long piece of newsprint, draw a table. In the center of the table, write WE ARE FRIENDS. Around the table, have students place paper-doll cut-outs of themselves. Draw Jesus at the table. One the table, draw pictures of different kinds of food and drink for this meal.
6. Write a prayer to say before meals, after meals or before a snack. Talk about the blessings of food and giving thanks.

PRAYER GATHERING

(Place a candle on your prayer table and invite students to gather around the table.)

Opening Prayer

Jesus is our friend and he asks us to be friends with him and with one another. We light our Jesus Candle. In prayer, we want to thank you, God, for our friend Jesus.

Reading

Tell one story of a meal Jesus had with his friends.

Quiet Reflection

Silently thank God in your own words for this meal. Think of one way you can live these words of Jesus.

Litany Prayer

Our response will be: WE THANK YOU, JESUS.

For the gift of yourself in the meal of the Eucharist...RESPONSE

For inviting us to eat a meal with you...RESPONSE

For our family meals...RESPONSE

For being present at all the meals we eat...RESPONSE

For showing us how to celebrate a meal as friends...RESPONSE

Jesus, our friend, is always in our family life...RESPONSE

For becoming like us, so that we can become like you...RESPONSE

Amen.

Closing Prayer

(Have students repeat each line after you.)

Jesus said, / I have come to call you friends./

We say / thank you for celebrating meals./

Thank you for being our friend, Jesus.

As friends of Jesus, let us offer a sign of this friendship with one another. (Children exchange a handshake, pat on the shoulder, hug, etc.)

Go now in peace and be a friend.

Amen.

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