



FAMILIES FORMING DISCIPLES

A FAMILY-FOCUSED APPROACH TO FAITH FORMATION

LIFE OF CHRIST: THE GLORIOUS MYSTERIES

TOPICS: THE ASSUMPTION OF MARY, THE CROWNING OF MARY AS QUEEN OF HEAVEN AND EARTH

GOALS

- Families will continue learning about the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary.
- Families will reflect on and discuss the fourth and fifth mysteries, *The Assumption of Mary* and *The Crowning (or Coronation) of Mary as Queen of Heaven and Earth*.
- Families will review who Mary is and why we honor her.
- Families will review the *Families Forming Disciples* year.
- Families will participate in the May Crowning tradition.

MATERIALS

- (See the directions for the May Crowning at the end of the lesson.)
- Bibles, Rosaries, Rosary for Children Pamphlet
- [Assumption of Mary](#) free coloring page
- Crayons or colored pencils, Music, Altar
- Statue of Mary
- One flower per person, Large vase(s), Crown for Mary
- Treats (Birthday Cake if celebrating Pentecost) with plates, napkins, utensils
- Ice cream is optional but preferred!

OPENING PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ,
We entrust our family to You and ask for Your blessing and protection. We love You Lord Jesus with all our hearts and we ask that You help our family become more like the Holy Family. Help us to be kind, loving, and patient with one another. Give us all the grace we need to become saints and Your faithful disciples. Amen.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR THE CATECHIST:

- [The Fascinating History of the Feast of Mary's Assumption](#)
- [What is the Source of this Quote Testifying to Mary's Assumption?](#)
- [Where was Mary Assumed into Heaven?](#)

ICE BREAKER

Where would you fly if you had wings?



REVIEW MAIN CONCEPT

Today we will learn about and celebrate the Assumption of Mary, and the Crowning of Mary as Queen of Heaven and Earth!

CONTENT

Ask: At the beginning of this year, we reflected on the First Joyful Mystery, *The Annunciation*, when Mary said “Yes” to God and became the Mother of Jesus. But does anyone know the moment when Jesus gave Mary to us to be our mother, the Mother of all God’s children?
(Take answers)

Explain: As Jesus was suffering and dying on the Cross, He knew that He would rise from the dead, ascend into Heaven and take his place as the King of kings. Yes, the Church would receive the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and the Holy Spirit would lead her, but the new Church would be vulnerable and need nurturing, like a newborn baby. In addition to God’s presence, Jesus knew that the Apostles and other disciples would be comforted if they had someone there to be a mother to them, to turn to, to learn from, to pray for them, as it would not be easy to spread the Gospel throughout the world. They would need someone who could show them what it meant to be a follower of Jesus. They would need someone who knew and loved Jesus better than any other person on earth.

Read: John 19:25-27

“Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, ‘Woman, behold, your son.’ Then he said to the disciple, ‘Behold, your mother.’ And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.”

Explain: This scripture reading is a firsthand account of Jesus giving Mary to the Church to be our mother. John, who wrote these words, was the disciple who took Mary into his care. When Jesus said, “Behold your mother,” He was giving Mary not just to John, but to all God’s children throughout all time.

We know from Sacred Scripture and Apostolic Tradition that Mary was with the disciples in the upper room at Pentecost when they received the Holy Spirit (see Acts 1:14 and CCC, no. 726).

Later, John took Mary with him and the disciples spread the Gospel, the Good News of Jesus’ saving Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Glorious Ascension. In fact, this is a picture of the house that Mary had lived in when she traveled to the ancient city of Ephesus with John. There they taught people about Jesus and many believed and were baptized!

To preserve Mary’s home, a church has been built over the site. There is archeological evidence that the early Christians lived there. The large, hearthstone on the floor where Mary cooked is still there today. Tradition says that Mary Magdalene was also there with Mary. Many people from around the world have visited her home, including Pope Benedict XVI, St. Paul VI and St. John Paul II, who celebrated Mass there.

We know that Mary stayed with and helped the Apostles and other disciples, until it was time for God to assume her, body and soul, into Heaven. However, that did not stop her from being their mother and our mother. In Heaven, she prays for her children, bringing us God's grace by her unique intercession as our mother. She wants to help us by leading us to her Son and showing us how to love Jesus more and more deeply.

Watch: [Why is Mary important?](#)

The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary



The Catholic Church also teaches that when Mary was assumed into Heaven, she was crowned Queen of Heaven and Earth. (In ancient Judaism, the mother of the king was the queen, not the king's wife.) This makes Mary both our Queen and our Mother!

(“In 1950, Pope Pius XII made an infallible, ex-cathedra statement in the Apostolic Constitution *Munificentissimus Deus*, officially defining the dogma of the Assumption: “By the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, of the Blessed Apostles Peter and Paul, and by our own authority, we pronounce, declare, and define it to be a divinely revealed dogma: that the Immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory,” the pope wrote.) ([Source](#))

FAMILY SHARING

- What do you love most about Mary our Mother?
- What do you think was the most important thing you learned this year in *Families Forming Disciples* (FFD)?

OPEN MIC!

Explain: Now that *Families Forming Disciples* is coming to a close this year, give each family the opportunity to share their experience with everyone.

Ask: How did learning and living the faith together as a family, and with other families, impact you? (Give families time to share with everyone)

Explain: As we end our *Families Forming Disciples* year, we thank God for bringing us together and we invite the Holy Spirit into our lives as Mary did. This year we learned about the life of Jesus through the Mysteries of the Rosary. These are Mary's memories of the life of her Son that she wants to share with us. Mary wants us to know how very blessed we are to have such a generous, merciful and all loving God!

Mary is the Spouse of the Holy Spirit, and during the month of May we honor Mary as Queen of Heaven and Earth. Her Son, Jesus, is our King, so therefore His Mother is our Queen! A May crowning is a special way we honor Our Lady during the Month of May.

MAY CROWNING DIRECTIONS

- Decorate an altar where you have placed a statue of Mary.
- Make a crown of flowers that will fit the statue. Let the smallest child carry the crown.
- Give everyone else a flower to be placed in a vase on the altar.
- Tell the children that the flower is a symbol of their love for their heavenly Mother.
- Line up in a procession and sing a Marian song, like “Immaculate Mary,” as each family processes to the altar and places their flowers in the vase(s).

Pray: After the crowning, gather around the altar and pray the Fifth Glorious Mystery of the Coronation of Mary as Queen of Heaven and Earth.

FOOD, FUN, AND FELLOWSHIP

Celebrate the *Families Forming Disciples* Year and all the gifts God has blessed us with, and His unending love!

