

# FAMILIES FORMING DISCIPLES

## MARY AND ISRAEL

**TOPICS:** MARY'S "YES" FULFILLING THE PROPHETS' CALL TO OBEY GOD  
NEW COVENANT IN AND THROUGH JESUS

### GOAL(S):

- Families will reflect on Mary's "yes," which sets the stage for the New Covenant in Jesus.
- Families will review why we honor Mary.
- Families will review the Families Forming Disciples year.

### MATERIALS:

(See the directions for the May Crowning at the end of the lesson.)

- Bowl of M&Ms
- Rosaries
- Rosary for Children Pamphlet
- 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 God,

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.

# ICE BREAKER

## Mix & Meet Fun Facts

**What You Will Need:** A bowl of M&M's

**Set Up:** Each color of the candy is associated with a meaning.

Example:

Blue=Family

Green=Church

Yellow=Friends

Red=School

Brown= Favorite Easter Candy.



**How to Play:** Don't tell the group what they will be using the M&M's for. Ask them to grab some from the bowl. How many they have in their hand will be the number of facts they will have to tell, (so you may need to limit the number of candies each person can take depending on the amount of time allotted for the ice breaker). For each blue one they have, they must tell a fact about their family, for each green they must tell a fact about their church and so on, until everyone has completed all the facts. When they're finished they can enjoy eating the M&M's.

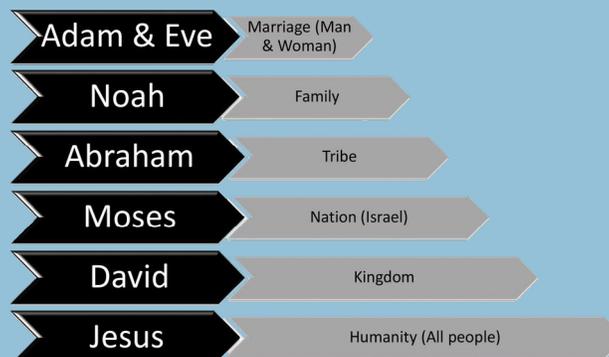
## FAMILY SHARING

Easter is 50 Days, and we are still in the Easter Season. What is your favorite *Living-the-Easter-Season Family Plan* activity that you have done together as a family so far? Why was it your favorite?

## CONTENT

**Explain:** We are all part of the family of God. This year we learned about God's covenant with our spiritual ancestors, or our family members in the faith that came before us. We read about these individuals and their stories in the Old Testament. We talked about creation, Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham, Moses, the Exodus, the giving of the 10 Commandments and King David.

### God's Covenants



## FAMILY CONVERSATION

- Name your favorite story or favorite person of the Old Testament? Why?
- Name two new things that you learned this year at Families Forming Disciples.

## REVIEW MAIN CONCEPT

Mary and Israel:  
Mary's "yes" fulfilling the prophets' call to obey God;  
New Covenant in and through Jesus

## CONTENT

**Explain:** At our last gathering we talked about how God tells us in the Old Testament that there would be a New Covenant.

We also read about the covenantal promise that God made with Mary, as well as how she gave her FIAT, which means she faithfully said "yes" to God's promise. By the Holy Spirit, Mary became the Mother of God the Son, and the Ark of the New Covenant. Through Mary's "yes," God became man, a baby boy. It will be in, with and through this baby, Jesus, that God the Father will make a New Covenant with his children. In this New Covenant, Jesus will be the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. He will be both the high priest and the perfect sacrifice that will redeem all mankind.



The prophets of Israel continued to call the people to a deeper faithfulness to God, to a greater "obedience of faith" that was first seen in Abraham, our father in faith (see CCC, nos. 145-47). Mary fulfilled the call of the prophets. She "most perfectly embodies the obedience of faith" (CCC, no. 148).

In Year 3 of Families Forming Disciples, we will immerse ourselves in the life of Jesus, the making of the New Covenant and the beginning of the Catholic Church.

## 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 about Sacred Scripture and living the faith together as a family, and with other families, impact your relationship with God, one another and your church community? (Give families time to share with everyone)

# CONTENT CONTINUED

**Watch:** *Why do Catholics Honor Mary?*  
Real Life Catholic



## MAY CROWNING

**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. 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 outside altar (weather permitting, otherwise inside) 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.

(Adapted from Catholic Culture)

### Celebration to conclude the Families Forming Disciples Year:

Since we have learned about God’s covenant with us and His love for us, we conclude the Families Forming Disciples year by thanking God for the gift of faith and by celebrating a wonderful year together. (Time for food and fellowship!)

