



FAMILIES FORMING DISCIPLES

A FAMILY-FOCUSED APPROACH TO FAITH FORMATION

CALLED TO LOVE: THE ADVENTURE OF LIFE IN CHRIST

TOPIC: Mary & the Mission of Discipleship

Mary as Model Disciple

GOALS

- Families will read Sacred Scripture about the life of Mary.
- Families will reflect on Mary as the model disciple.
- Families will honor Mary as our Blessed Mother with a May Crowning ceremony.
- Families will celebrate another year together in *Families Forming Disciples*!

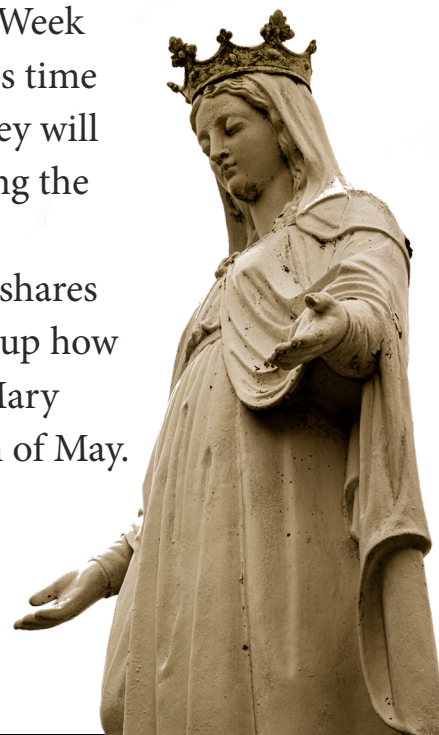
OPENING PRAYER

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.

ICE BREAKER

Honoring Mary

- Share ideas from Week 2 and give families time to discuss how they will honor Mary during the month of May.
- Each family then shares with the large group how they will honor Mary during the month of May.



MATERIALS

Finding Mary in the Bible Scavenger Hunt [Handout](#)

One set of items per family

- List of Bible verses
- Bible, bag, white feathers, piece of straw, cocktail sword spears, or coffee stirrs
- Piece of fabric (Jesus' tunic)
- Heart made of cloth or an Immaculate Heart of Mary medal (Mary's heart)
- Candle, Marian Prayer Card, wine corks

May Crowning (see directions)

- Rosaries
- Rosary for Children Pamphlet
- Music, Altar, Statue of Mary
- One flower per person
- Large vase(s)
- Crown for Mary
- Treats with plates, napkins, utensils
- Ice cream is optional but preferred!

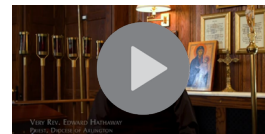
MAIN CONCEPT

Mary is Our Mother and Our Queen

Watch: Model Disciple | Mary, Explained (8 min)

OR

Mary - The Best Disciple and Our Model (5 min)



CONTENT

Finding Mary in the Bible Scavenger Hunt

Gather Materials- See Materials List Above

Setup - Hide the items in various places around the gathering space before families enter. Be sure to mix them up so that all the items for one verse are not found in one place.

Instructions

1. Give each family a Bible and a [list of verses](#).
2. Each family looks up the Bible verse and then tries to find the item that represents the verse. When they find it, they put it in the bag.
3. The goal is to find something related to each verse.

→ Luke 1:26-38 – White feather

→ Luke 2:1-20 – Straw

→ Luke 2: 22-38 – Plastic Cocktail Sword, or coffee stirrs

→ Luke 11:27-28 – Small scroll

→ John 2:1-12 – Wine cork

→ John 19: 23-27 – Piece of material (Jesus' tunic) & a heart made from cloth or an Immaculate Heart of Mary medal (Mary's heart)

→ Acts 2:13-14 – Prayer card with picture of Mary

→ Acts 2:1-4 – Candle

Finding Mary in the Bible Scavenger Hunt

Mary is Jesus' first disciple! She knew about His coming and began learning from Him right from the moment Mary conceived Jesus in her womb! Reading about Mary's life in Sacred Scripture shows us an example or model to follow, so that we too can be true disciples of Jesus.

**Read each Bible verse and using the hint provided,
find the hidden object that represents that moment in Mary's life.**

→ **Luke 1:26-38**

hint: Mary believed, even as a young teen, what the Archangel Gabriel said to her, that nothing is impossible for God. vs 37

*Of what would paintings of Archangel
Gabriel's wing appear to be made?*

→ **Luke 2:1-20**

hint: Giving birth to her baby in a stable full of animals could have been a humiliating experience for many mothers, but Mary was humble. She offered herself to God and was one in the peace of Christ Whom she was bringing into the world, trusting in His love.

*What do you think Mary would have used as a cushion in the manger
to soften it for Jesus when He was a newborn baby?*

→ **Luke 2:22-38**

hint: Here, Mary learns that her tiny baby would be the rise and fall of many, a sign of contradiction. Her own motherly heart would be pierced with a sword and her pain would be used as part of God's plan. Even though such a prophecy would make a young, new mother terribly sad, since it could only mean her little Son would one day deeply suffer, Mary still had great hope in God, Her Savior!

What were Simeon's words to Mary in vs 35?

→ **Luke 11:27-28**

hint: Jesus explains that Mary is to be praised above everything for hearing the word of God and keeping it. That is the essence of who she is! Those who do this are blessed. By her life, Mary shows us how to hear the word of God and live it!

What kind of paper was the word of God written on in ancient times?

→ **John 2:1-12**

hint: "Do whatever He tells you", are the words that Mary lived by and are the words she says to us today! Mary did whatever God our Father asked of her, even though it was often difficult; she trusted in God's great love. When we are struggling with anything, Mary our mother will always pray for us. All we have to do is ask her, as the couple at the wedding of Cana did, and she will always go to Jesus to ask Him to help us.

*Jesus changed the water into the good wine.
What is used to keep wine in a bottle?*

→ **John 19: 23-27**

hint: The soldiers cast lots to see who would get to keep Jesus' tunic for himself. "It was seamless, woven in one piece from the top down." vs 23 Some ancient stories tell us it was Mary who had woven that tunic so beautifully and with such love. While the soldiers were doing this, Jesus, knowing He is about to die, made certain that Mary would be cared for and gave her to John, "Woman, behold your son.... Son, behold your mother." With these words, Mary is now both Jesus' mother and the mother of all God's children. She is our Holy Mother too! After this, Jesus said, "It is finished." And bowing his head, he handed over his spirit." vs 30 And the sword of sorrow pierced Mary's heart.

Look for two items!

#1 Jesus' tunic was woven by Mary's hands in one piece.

#2 This is when Simeon's prophecy was fulfilled, a sword of great pain had pierced Mary's heart, "so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." Lk 3:35

→ **Acts 2:13-14**

hint: After Jesus ascended to Heaven the Apostles listened to Jesus' instructions and returned to Jerusalem where they prayed and fasted together with Mary and the other disciples for nine days. It must have been very comforting for the frightened Apostles to have Mary with them to listen, comfort and pray with them. She was now truly their mother too! Since she is also our mother, we should never hesitate to ask her to help us to follow Jesus. She gave her life to God, so that through her Son Jesus, our hearts would be healed and made one with His!

A prayer asking Mary to pray for us brings Jesus joy!

→ **Acts 2:1-4**

hint: Pentecost is often called the birthday of the Church! The Apostles, disciples and all those who would be baptized, made up this infant Church. To help her survive, the Church needed a wise, warm, loving, spiritual mother to guide her. Mary cared for this little Church just as Mary had cared for, nurtured and safeguarded her infant Son, Jesus. Mary is Jesus' mother and the mother of all God's children, still caring for and interceding for us all with her Holy Mother's Immaculate Heart. Our Holy and Blessed Mother was present at the birth of the Church and she has been nurturing it ever since!

In what form did the Holy Spirit appear at Pentecost, as He "parted and came to rest on each one of them"? vs 3

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 your *call to love, the adventure of life in Christ*, this year impact your relationship with God, one another and your parish church community? (Give families time to share with everyone)

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:
(Time for food and fellowship!)**

Note for families: *The call to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ and form disciples never ends! Make a commitment to pray together regularly as a family, to have regular conversations about the faith, and to grow as disciples. Thank you for your witness to Jesus!*

Note for catechetical leaders and catechists: *Year 5 of Families Forming Disciples (FFD) marks the completion of the FFD cycle. Parishes are invited to utilize the years 1-5 cycle starting over at year 1. Supplemental FFD resources for sacramental prep will be developed next. Thank you for all your efforts in supporting and accompanying families in their mission of evangelization and of forming disciples!*

