

YEAR 3 - LESSON 4 - CATECHIST GUIDE WK. 1



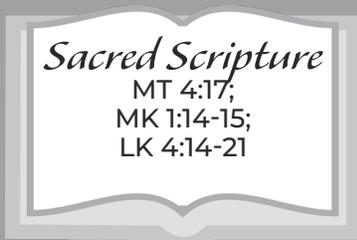
FAMILIES FORMING DISCIPLES

A FAMILY-FOCUSED APPROACH TO FAITH FORMATION

LIFE OF CHRIST: THE LUMINOUS MYSTERIES

TOPIC: THE PROCLAMATION OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD

LESSON 4 REFERENCES:



**CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH
NOS. 541-42**

CREED	LITURGY	LIFE	PRAYER
nos.	nos.	nos.	nos.
541-70, 763-65	1241, 1263, 1403, 1427-29	1716, 1720-24, 1726	2816-2821

MATERIALS

- For Ice Breaker: A large area and some chalk or masking tape.
- Bible
- [Rosary Coloring Book Station](#): (can be used at any time during session)
- crayons or colored pencils
- Beatitudes free printable from [Bible Study Printables](#)
- Background information for the catechist: [5 Saints who were devoted to the Sacred Heart of Jesus](#)

Goals:

- Families will reflect on who, where and what is the Kingdom of God that Jesus proclaimed.
- Families will identify the characteristics of those to whom the Kingdom of Heaven belongs.
- Families will identify those characteristics in one another.
- Families will identify ways that they can intentionally proclaim the Kingdom of God this Advent.

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

WHICH DO YOU LIKE BETTER?

How to Play: Make two lines on the ground, one at either end of the room. The families will stand in the middle of the room and the facilitator will call out two words while pointing to each line, the families then have to choose which category they like better and choose that line to go stand on.

Ideas for line categories: Christmas lights or ornaments, snow or heat, turkey or ham, mashed potatoes or stuffing, chocolate pie or fruit cake, purple or pink/rose.



TEACH

1. Hook/Question

Read Isaiah 52:7 and invite: Think about who fulfills this passage by bringing THE good news... Jesus. Jesus brings the good news in His words, actions, and very Person. He is the Good News!

OR

Watch: Gospel of The Kingdom (up to 4:46)



2. Introduce Topic

Today we will learn about the Third Luminous Mystery of the Rosary, *The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God*.

We will learn about how Jesus proclaimed that the Kingdom of God is at hand, who, where and what is the Kingdom of God, and how we proclaim it today.

3. CONTENT

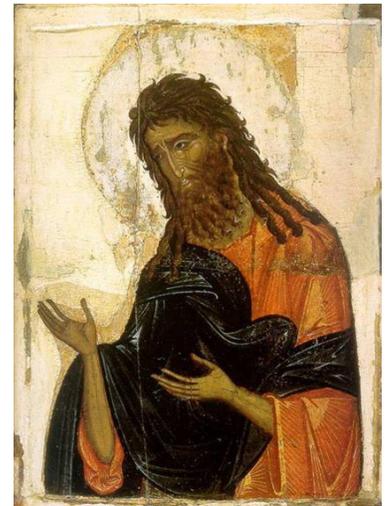
Ask: “Where is the Kingdom of God?”

Read: Open up your bibles to [Matthew 3:1-3](#). Let’s read what St. John the Baptist said about the Kingdom of God.

Ask: What was John saying about how to prepare for the coming of the Kingdom of Heaven?

Answers: Repent (expressing sorrow for sins, etc.).

Explain: Yes, John was calling the people to get their hearts ready, to straighten out their lives and live as God would want them to live. This is our first clue about where the Kingdom of God or the Kingdom of Heaven is.



In the New Testament, the Kingdom of God or the Kingdom of Heaven is mentioned 120 times. Ninety-nine times it is written about in the Gospels which are the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Ninety times Jesus Himself speaks about it, which means we need to pay close attention to the Kingdom of God since Jesus talked about it all the time!

The Kingdom of God is a mystery. When we read the Gospel stories it is easy to see that the disciples were themselves often very confused about the Kingdom of God, but Jesus kept on teaching them who, where and what it is.

The disciples thought that Jesus had come to conquer their enemies (at that time, the Romans) and establish an earthly kingdom where He would be the king, like David in the Old Testament. They couldn’t see then that God had much greater plans.

CONTENT CONTINUED:

They didn't understand that Jesus had not come to be just an earthly king, but rather He was the King of Kings! His kingdom would span both heaven and earth! Jesus had come to establish a spiritual kingdom that would last forever.

After his 40 days of training or preparation for his mission, Jesus went to his hometown and read from the scroll in the synagogue to explain that the Kingdom of God was now among them. He read, “**The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord.**” Jesus was telling them that He is the Kingdom of God. He was anointed by God and would fulfill everything written in the Scriptures. But the people did not understand; in fact they became so angry that they chased Jesus out of the synagogue and tried to throw him off a cliff.

Spiritual things are often difficult to see with earthly eyes, so Pope Benedict XVI teaches us that we can find the Kingdom of God in three places. He tells us who, where and what it is.

- 1. Who is the Kingdom of God? Jesus is the Kingdom of God.** The Kingdom of God is not a place, but a person. In and through Jesus—because He is the divine Son of the Father—the Kingdom of God is present.
- 2. Where is the Kingdom of God? The Kingdom of God lives inside each one of us, within our hearts!** This is possible because of grace, God's gift of Himself to us made possible through Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit. This is why we need to stay close to God, so He can live in our hearts and continue to make us into the persons He created us to be. This requires prayer and ongoing conversion, which helps us to love others and spread the Kingdom of God!
- 3. What is the Kingdom of God? The Kingdom of God is in and through the Church in the here and now!** Jesus came to redeem us and save us from our sins so we could be with Him forever, in communion with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God knew that we would need to see Him, feel Him, and to be as close to Him as we possibly can get. So, He gave us a Church, the Catholic Church, which gave us the Holy Scriptures and Sacraments, as ways for us to participate in the Kingdom of Heaven while we are still on earth. In this way, the Church is the “seed and beginning” of the Kingdom of God (see Second Vatican Council), to be fully completed or realized at the end of time in Heaven.

Provide each family with a copy of the Beatitudes (see materials list)

Watch: [God's Story: Sermon on the Mount](#)



[Crossroads Kids' Club](#)

Invite everyone to open up their bibles and read aloud



Explain: Jesus is telling us that there are times when we will proclaim the Kingdom of God through our words or actions and people will not understand, just like they did not understand Him. That is okay because we belong to God and His Kingdom is our home. When we are poor in spirit, when we mourn, are meek, hunger and thirst for righteousness, are merciful, are clean of heart, are peacemakers, are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, or suffer for believing in Jesus, ours is the Kingdom of Heaven. When we love and sacrifice for others out of our love for God, it may look foolish or weak to others, but this is the key to living a truly happy life. This is how the Kingdom of God is alive within us and we share it with others!

4. FAMILY CONVERSATION

The Kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these:

Poor in spirit

Mourning

Meek

Hunger and thirst for righteousness

Merciful

Clean of heart

Peacemakers

Persecuted for the sake of righteousness

Suffer for believing in Jesus

Looking at the list of characteristics of those to whom the Kingdom of Heaven belongs:

- In what ways can you see those characteristics of love and sacrifice in each member of your family?
- How does your family proclaim the Kingdom of God?
- What can you do this Advent to proclaim the Kingdom of God?

5. MISSION

1 First, Introduce Mission Activity

Introduce Mission Activity to be done at home during Week 2 and to be shared at the gathering of families on Week 3

2 Second, Explain Activity

Your Family At-Home Mission is to read the article, watch the videos and make a plan for how your family will proclaim the Kingdom of God this Advent/ Christmas Season! Meditating on the *Third Luminous Mystery of the Rosary*, pray a decade together as a family around your home altar.

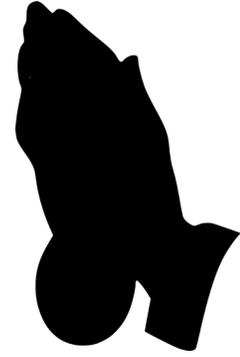
3 Last, Share Your Experience/Response

Model how to do the activities by sharing about your family's plan to do an act of service to proclaim the Kingdom of God and how you will live the Christmas season.

6. REVIEW & CLOSE IN PRAYER

Explain: Jesus gave us a perfect prayer, the “Our Father” or the “Lord’s Prayer,” which the Church teaches us so that every generation can continue to proclaim the Kingdom of God and know that He is in our midst.

Pray *The Lord’s Prayer* together.



SUPPORTING QUOTES FROM CHURCH DOCUMENTS

Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 541:

“Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying: ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent, and believe in the gospel.’” “To carry out the will of the Father Christ inaugurated the kingdom of heaven on earth.” Now the Father’s will is “to raise up men to share in his own divine life.” He does this by gathering men around his Son Jesus Christ. This gathering is the Church, “on earth the seed and beginning of that kingdom.”

Pope St. John Paul II, Apostolic Letter *Rosarium Virginis Mariae* (Oct. 16, 2002), no. 21:

Moving on from the infancy and the hidden life in Nazareth to the public life of Jesus, our contemplation brings us to those mysteries which may be called in a special way “mysteries of light.” Certainly the whole mystery of Christ is a mystery of light. He is the “light of the world” (Jn 8:12). Yet this truth emerges in a special way during the years of his public life, when he proclaims the Gospel of the Kingdom.... / Each of these mysteries is a revelation of the Kingdom now present in the very person of Jesus.... Another mystery of light is the preaching by which Jesus proclaims the coming of the Kingdom of God, calls to conversion (cf. Mk 1:15) and forgives the sins of all who draw near to him in humble trust (cf. Mk 2:3-13; Lk 7:47- 48): the inauguration of that ministry of mercy which he continues to exercise until the end of the world, particularly through the Sacrament of Reconciliation which he has entrusted to his Church (cf. Jn 20:22-23).

Pope Francis, *Angelus* (Feb. 4, 2018):

... Jesus’ proclamation of the Kingdom of God finds its most rightful place on the streets. To the disciples who look for him in order to bring him back to the town — the disciples went to find him where he was praying and they wanted to bring him back to the town — what does Jesus answer? “Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also” (Mk 1:38). This was the journey of the Son of God and this will be the journey of his disciples. And it must be the journey of each Christian. The street, as the place for the Good News of the Gospel, places the mission of the Church under the sign of “going forth,” of journeying, under the sign of “movement,” and never of idleness.

May the Virgin Mary help us to be open to the voice of the Holy Spirit which propels the Church to increasingly “pitch her tent” among the people, in order to bring to everyone the healing word of Jesus, the physician of souls and bodies.