



Inquiry - Step 2

Who is Jesus

Aim

To grow in understanding of who Jesus is and how we can be counted amongst his friends.

Resources needed

Leaders:

- *Crossroads Inquiry 2 Notes*
- *Large sheets paper / white board*
- *Break Open the Word*
- *Catholic Youth Bible*
- *Computer / TV screen to watch YouTube video*

For Young People:

- *Crossroads Activity Book (p5&6) or Journal*

Prayer Focus

Expressions of our belief:

Bible - (*God is with us*)

Candle - (*The light of Christ*)

Cross - (*God so loved the world*)

Cloth - (*Appropriate for Liturgical season*)

Image - (*An appropriate Jesus story*)

Liturgical Link:

At every Mass we hear Gospel stories which tell us about the life and person of Jesus. Through prayer and, in a special way, reception of Holy Communion we grow in relationship with Jesus.

Overview

- Who is Jesus?
- A memorable meeting
- Friends of Jesus
- Becoming a friend of Jesus
- Scripture and Reflection
- Prayer
- Activity to do at home

Preparation by Catechists

- *Familiarity with content & resources*
- *Reflect on and be ready to share ways you have developed your relationship with Jesus*
- *Pray for the young people & leaders*

Scripture Passages

- John 21:11 Wedding at Cana
- Matthew 10:2-3 Twelve Apostle
- John 15:15 I call you friends
- John 13:34-35 Love one another

Tenets of Faith (Faith Formation)

- Jesus, the Son of God, a Jew
- The Christian faith still has many links with the Jewish tradition
- Mary, the Mother of Jesus was the first disciple, an example to follow
- Jesus ministry only lasted 3 years

Gathering

- **Setting:** create a welcoming environment and have everything in place before the young people arrive. Welcome each individual by name, have spare name badges in case any extras turn up.
- **Welcome & Introduction:** Welcome the young people back and introduce any here for the first time. Remind the group of the context for the gathering and outline the process involved, then the aim and outline of the gathering for today.
 - Check if there are any questions or reflections arising from the previous gathering. Invite group members to share some of the words family members used to describe them.

Content - Exploring:

- Use **Crossroads** Inquiry Session 2 - **Jesus** - material for 30-40 minutes

Optional Activities for use, or to add if you have more time with the young people:

- **Who is Jesus?** (use as the initial activity to discover the level of understanding)
Activity: Ask the young people to 'buzz', with a neighbour anything they know about Jesus. Then each pair to share one thing in turn, no repeats allowed, go around at least twice, then ask if there are any more additions. Note the contributions on a large sheet of paper / white board, or computer and screen.
Thank the young people for these and highlight which are linked to important Gospel stories and understanding of Jesus as the Son of God.
 - then use the questions in the **Crossroads** session to tease out more from the young people – working as a large group or with them sharing initially in 3's then feeding back to the group.
 - draw together using highlighting the Tenets of Faith information.
 - let the young people know that over time they will be introduced to many other stories about Jesus, including some they have already mentioned. Today we will listen to one that shows the special relationship Jesus had with his Mother.
 - see **Crossroads** notes: The wedding at Cana - additional questions and Faith Formation:
 - * What did Jesus say when his mum told him the family had no wine?
 - * Jesus then responded to his mum's request, why do you think he did that?
 - Jesus said "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." Mary and Jesus both knew the embarrassment and shame the bridal party would face. Jesus knows he has a mission, but this is not the way he anticipated it starting. Mary prompts him to see there are people in need, so encourages him to get on with his ministry. Respect for his Mother, and concern for the family is enough to encourage him to act. These very human qualities prompt Jesus reveal himself as the Son of God. Here his public ministry begins, a ministry that lasted three short years.

Just like Jesus, sometimes we also need others; parents, friends, teachers or team leaders to encourage us to use our gifts:

Activity: Ask the young people to reflect quietly for 30 seconds to recall a time when they needed other people to encourage them to use their gifts, to recall the feelings they experienced, and any impact the occasion had on others.

- **Friends of Jesus:** Following the question 'what makes a good friend' invite some general sharing amongst the group and see if there is a consensus on three elements of friendship.

- Before asking the names of Jesus' friends refer back to the Gospel passage read in the previous session, Jesus calling four of the disciples – can they remember the names? Peter, Andrew, James and John. Were they friends of Jesus? Yes of course.
- see **Crossroads** notes: re Mtt 10:2-3
do you know which of these were the most special friends of Jesus? Peter, James and John can you remember any stories relating to these people?
Peter being called: *Mtt4:18-22* later being asked 'who do you say I am?' *Mtt16:13-20* and being given the keys of the Kingdom, defending Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, *Mtt 26:51-54* but later denying and running away from Jesus, *Mtt 26: 69-75* John, the faithful disciple, the only one at the foot of the cross. Peter, James and John at the transfiguration. *Mtt 17:1-9, Mk 9:2-10, Lk 9:28-36.*

Other names of Jesus' friends include: Mary, Martha, Lazarus - do you know of these people, or stories relating to them? Martha and Mary: *Luke10:38-42* The Raising of Lazarus: *John 11:1-45*

These friends of Jesus believed in him they loved and had complete trust and faith in him. The journey you have begun is designed to help you grow into that same kind of relationship.

- see **Crossroads** notes: re *John 15:15* before the hand drawing exercise:
Activity – refer back to the elements of friendship the young people identified earlier. Invite them to consider how they can work at making these elements stronger in their own lives, amongst their family members and friends, and in their relationship with Jesus.
- **A New Commandment** *John 13:34-35* - following the **Crossroads** Notes
 - Earlier we saw how Jesus began his public ministry, prompted by his mother to help people in need. Now we hear Jesus telling the disciples to put love at the center of their lives, to follow his example and show God's love to others as he has. It can be easy to love those who love us, but Jesus calls us to love everyone, which means looking beyond our own circle of comfort, which is not always easy.
Activity: invite the young people to spend a few seconds alone thinking of someone they find it hard to love, then to identify one positive way they can improve the relation with that person. In pairs: Consider which people in your family, school, or neighbourhood are most in need of love? Are there any practical ways you could reach out to them?

Prayer *an alternative* **Together slowly and gently, we offer this prayer:**

Lord Jesus,
Though not yet sure where this journey will take me,
I know that being in a relationship with you will demand changes of me.
Help me to know your love, to grow in relationship with you each day,
and so be able to share that love with others, especially those who feel unloved.
Please Lord, keep safe the family and friends I love, and especially those I find it hard to love.
This I ask in your name. Amen