

INSPIRATIONS IN FAITH

Aim

To identify people who have passed the faith on to us, such as Mary, the saints and everyday people in our lives.
To help the child recognise how they can imitate the lives of the saints in their everyday life.

Resources

Leaders

- Catholic Youth Bible
- Prayer cloth, cross, candle
- Electronic device - laptop/tablet for YouTube links

Child

- Catholic Youth Bible
- Activity Book (page 23-24)

Preparation

for Catechist

Spend some time in prayer for the child.
How do you reflect on the scripture?
Think of your own stories and be ready to share these.

Background

for Catechist

One of the riches of our Catholic faith is that we honour people who have lived God-centred lives. This session will look at Mary, the Mother of God, the saints and real life people who inspire us.



Reflection

As we gather, we light a candle to remember that Jesus is the light of the world. Sit quietly and listen to the words of the song *Open the Eyes of My Heart*.

Open the Eyes of My Heart

<https://youtu.be/wutmEjdbedE>

Video **Link 7.1**



After listening to the words of the song, *Open the Eyes of My Heart*, share how you have encountered God this week.



Follow up from last session

In the last session, we explored the Mass.

Do you have any questions from the last session or from the Activity Book?



Exploring

Why is Mary so important?

The first among saints is Mary, the Mother of God. Mary gave her life to God by saying “Yes” when asked to be the mother of Jesus. We are also called to say “Yes” to God in our lives and to bring God’s love to those we meet. Mary listened to God just as we are asked to listen to God.



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Joseph is another example of a person who listened to God and lived a life in response to God's call. Joseph took Mary as his wife and said "Yes" to God when asked to protect Mary and Jesus.

There are other people in our Church who are recognised because they have said "Yes" to God in their life. Australia's first Saint, St Mary of the Cross MacKillop said "Yes" to God in her life by recognising the need to educate the poor.



Activity

Saintlike qualities

St Paul calls the Christian community "the Saints of God". In our own lives there are faith-filled people who live saintly lives. Think about a family member or a friend, either living or dead, who has some of these qualities and who has answered their baptismal call in their life.

Is your parish named after a saint or saints?

Do you know about these saints?

What qualities would a real life person of faith have?

Can you think of some real life people who have these qualities?

What sorts of things do these people do that show they are people of faith?

Can you think of some Christian people in your life who inspire you?

What qualities do they have in common with the saints?

Which of these qualities do we see in each other?

In the Activity Book (page 23), there are 2 outlines in the shape of a person. On one outline, write the qualities of a person who lives a Christian life. On the other outline, draw or write the name of a person who has these qualities and write what they do to inspire you.



Living it out in the everyday

Activity Book

Look into the life of a saint.

In your Activity Book (page 24), write the qualities of this person.

What saintlike qualities do you have that you want to develop?



Scripture and Prayer

Scripture

Listen closely to the following scripture passage.

We begin with the sign of the Cross:



In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Use the Gospel from the following Sunday.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to ...



Glory to you, O Lord.

(At the end of the Gospel)

The Gospel of the Lord.



Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Following a couple of minutes of silence to reflect on the scripture passage, invite the child to share a word or two from the passage that was particularly meaningful for them.

What is one important message for you in this scripture passage?

Prayer

We pray together the words that Jesus gave us.



Our Father...