

FAMILIES FORMING DISCIPLES

THE FALL AND THE PROMISE

TOPICS: THE FALL OF MAN AND THE PROMISE OF REDEMPTION

NEW ADAM – JESUS

NEW EVE – MARY

ORIGINAL SIN/ BAPTISM

GOAL(S):

- Families will reflect on Jesus' and Mary's "Yes" to God.
- Families will reflect on the many ways to say "Yes" to God.
- Families will reflect on how important saying "Yes" to God is for themselves and for future generations.

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.

MATERIALS

- Rosaries & Mysteries of the Rosary Pamphlet
- Family Activity – Jesse Tree items:
 - printable ornaments printed on stock paper
 - colored pencils or crayons
 - cutting tools – scissors or 2 ½ hole punch (perfect for cutting these ornaments)
 - a tree - see tree instructions below
 - Hanger Material options: string and needle, tape, tack, putty, stapler, or metal hooks
 - Bible

ICE BREAKER

Step 1: Set Up: Split everyone up into teams of 4-6 people per team. If a family is big enough, they are a team. Families with fewer members present can combine to create a team.

Step 2: Appoint one person to be the caller.

Step 3: Explain that the caller will call out instructions for the teams to follow. Teams can only communicate to one another through hand signals.

Step 4: Once the teams are ready, the caller should call out instructions to the teams:

- *Everyone please line up in order of your ages from oldest to the youngest.*
- *Everyone please line up by height with the shortest first.*
- *Everyone please line up in alphabetical order according to your first name.*

Adapted from [Kid Activities](#)



FAMILY SHARING

Ask each family to share about their Senior Sharing experience by explaining whom they interviewed and what he/she shared about their favorite memories of sacrificial love in their families when they were growing up or when they were raising their own families.

Explain: The Senior Sharing was a beautiful work of mercy! Ask what they learned from their experience.

REVIEW MAIN CONCEPT

- The Fall of Man, Original Sin, and the Promise of Redemption
- Family Advent Plans

FAMILY SHARING

As a reminder, model for families by briefly sharing your own Family Advent Plan. Then ask each family to share about their Family Advent Plan.

CONTENT

Explain: At our last gathering, we talked about how Adam and Eve doubted God's love for them and disobeyed God, deciding to eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. This was the first sin, or what we call *the what?*

Answer: Original Sin

Explain: We are the children of Adam and Eve, and because of that we have inherited Original Sin (not as a personal sin but as a fallen state, lacking the grace of original holiness and justice). So, we do not have the gifts that they first had in the garden. But, as we said, not to worry, because God had a plan.

God knew that someday He would send His Son to save us. Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross and his Glorious Resurrection and Ascension into Heaven for all mankind would be the source of His saving grace that comes to us through His Church and her holy sacraments.

Watch: *Sacraments 101: Baptism* (why we baptize)
Busted Halo (play up to 2:55 or to the end at 6:28 min)



CONTENT CONTINUED

Explain: The Sacrament of Baptism washes away the Original Sin that we inherited from our first parents (and forgives any actual sins if we're baptized as adults) and makes us holy and members of God's family. In infant baptism, our parents say "Yes!" to God for us.

When Adam sinned by trying to make himself a god, he essentially said "no" to God and refused God's love. Jesus, by contrast, is called the last or the New Adam, because as the Divine Son He humbled himself, was obedient to the Father, and said "yes" to laying down his life to save all of His Father's children from their sins. Through Jesus' life, Death, and Resurrection, He was and is sacrificial love.

Eve also said "no" to God and sinned by trying to become like a god (and both Adam and Eve were already made "in the image and likeness of God"!). In contrast, Mary is called the New Eve, because she said "yes" to God, accepting to be the mother of God's own Son by the Holy Spirit. She too was humble and obedient and suffered greatly out of love as she accompanied her Son as He carried His Cross. She followed Jesus' example of sacrificial love.

Through our baptism, our parents said "Yes!" to God for us. Whenever we receive a sacrament, we are saying "Yes" to God. There are many ways and times throughout our lives when we must choose to say "Yes" or "No" to God. The grace of the sacraments help us say "Yes" to God and to seek His mercy when we sin.

PRAY

Read: Luke 1:26-38, or use the Mysteries of the Rosary for Children pamphlet to explain the First Joyful Mystery the Annunciation

Explain: In verse 38 Mary gives her "Yes" or what is known as her "FIAT" to God when she agrees to be the Mother of Jesus, His Son, when she says: "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word."

Let's pray one decade of the Rosary as we think about how Mary wants us to also say "Yes" to whatever God is asking us to do with our lives. In this decade, we will say "Behold the servant of the Lord, be it done unto me according to your word" after each "Hail Mary" to show we trust that God loves us and wants what is best for us. We are saying "Yes" like Jesus and Mary have.



FAMILY ADVENT ACTIVITY

[Jesse Tree Adapted from Catholic Inspired](#)

The Family Advent Activity below can be started at the gathering and then completed at home if time is short. (See materials list above.)

Families will be asked about this activity at the December gathering.

Explain: There are many times throughout the history of God's family that people gave their "Yes" to God. The Jesse Tree reminds us of those individuals and of why their "Yes" was so important in God's plan to save us as He had promised. The Jesse Tree also reminds us that our "Yes" to God is very important because not only does it bring us closer to Him, but our "Yes" can bring others closer to God both now and for generations to come.



PRAY

Glory be...

REMIND

Remind families about the next meeting date and time.

