

Discover the Love and Saving Work of Jesus!

Kerygma 4 Kids

Grade 2 Leader Guide

God Knows Your Name



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Introduction: Welcome to Kerygma 4 Kids!

Background

From the first moments of his pontificate, Pope Saint John Paul II called the Church to focus on the task of evangelization. He recognized that billions of people do not know Christ. Worldly structures and ideologies had rejected God's sovereignty, political and economic structures did not reflect Christian values, and much of the culture had closed itself off to Christ. As a result, the pope prepared the Church for a renewed missionary thrust and summoned her to a New Evangelization.

Pope John Paul II made it clear that evangelization is not an optional activity but an urgent duty; the goal is to renew the world through conversion to Christ. Pope Benedict XVI gave new force to the work that John Paul II began by creating a new council for promoting the New Evangelization and calling a world synod of bishops in October of 2012, propelling evangelization to the top of the Church's agenda. Evangelization as a missionary thrust continues in the pontificate of Pope Francis. In his first Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium* (*The Joy of the Gospel*), he calls the Church to relish the joy of the Good News of Jesus Christ and presents practical guidelines to encourage and guide the whole Church in a new phase of evangelization. The marching orders are clear.

The Church has begun to mobilize and the New Evangelization is beginning to take shape. Many dioceses are developing pastoral plans to help people encounter Christ anew and to help believers begin to live a life of discipleship that reflects their baptismal call. Tools such as *Alpha* and *ChristLife* are emerging to help adults encounter and come to know Christ in a personal way. Resources such as *relit* are providing parishes the training they need to evangelize their communities. Organizations such as the *Catherine of Siena Institute* are developing innovative resources and programs to form the laity and equip them to participate in the mission of the Church. However, all of these initiatives are aimed at adults.

What is being done to evangelize children and youth? The General Directory of Catechesis (GDC) and the National Directory of Catechesis (NDC) insist that catechesis must be viewed within the framework of evangelization.¹ However, have we been faithful to this directive? In his 1979 Apostolic Exhortation, *Catechesi Tradendae*, Pope John Paul II observes:

"A certain number of children baptized in infancy come for catechesis in the parish without receiving any other initiation into the faith and still without any explicit personal attachment to Jesus Christ; they only have the capacity to believe placed within them by Baptism and the presence of the Holy Spirit; and opposition is quickly created by the prejudices of their non-Christian family background or of the positivist spirit of their education. In addition, there are other children who have not been baptized and whose parents agree only at a later date to religious education: for practical reasons, the catechumenal stage of these children will often be carried out largely in the course of the ordinary catechesis. Again, many pre-adolescents and adolescents who have been baptized and been given a systematic catechesis and the sacraments still remain hesitant for a long time about committing their whole lives to Jesus Christ - if, moreover, they do not attempt to avoid religious education in the name of their freedom."

What follows is an exhortation to sharpen our focus and be more intentional about evangelization:

"This means that 'catechesis' must often concern itself not only with nourishing and teaching the faith, but also with arousing it unceasingly with the help of grace, with opening the heart, with converting, and with preparing total adherence to Jesus Christ on the part of those who are still on the threshold of faith."²

Closing the Gap

For catechists and faith formation leaders, the call to the New Evangelization is a call to incorporate evangelization into the faith formation process. Although many catechetical resources have weaved themes of discipleship into their curriculum, they continue to utilize a catechetical approach. Evangelization is not the same as catechesis. Evangelization is not "better catechetical methodology," nor is it exposing children to doctrine for a longer period of time.

Evangelization is the proclamation of salvation in Jesus Christ and the response of a person in faith.³ It aims at conversion: the acceptance of a personal relationship with Christ, a sincere adherence to Him, and a willingness to conform one's life to His. Conversion to Christ involves making a genuine commitment to Him and a personal decision to follow Him as His disciple.⁴

Catechesis, on the other hand, is the teaching of Christian doctrine imparted in an organic and systematic way, with a view to initiating the hearers into the fullness of Christian life.⁵ Catechesis is a *moment* in the process of evangelization; it is the *teaching and maturation stage*.⁶ It is concerned with *ongoing* conversion and growth.

The methodology used in evangelization and catechesis differs as well. Evangelization generally involves preaching, testimony, and witness; it is very personal and relational. Evangelization drives toward a decision: Do I want to give my life to Christ and live as His disciple? Catechesis involves systematic teaching using textbooks; it aims at growing in understanding of the faith and deepening one's relationship with Christ. It seeks to form disciples through knowledge of the faith, knowledge of the meaning of the liturgy and sacraments, and formation in morality and prayer. It also prepares the Christian to live in community and participate in the life and mission of the Church.⁷

Today's young people need both evangelization and catechesis. Without first awakening them to the Person of Jesus Christ and His saving work, catechesis will fall on deaf ears; but an evangelized child will better see the teachings of the Church in their proper light and will be more likely to respond and adhere to these teachings. It is evident that the absence of evangelization leaves a gaping hole in the process of bringing someone to faith. The recognition of this gap, the absence of effective tools for the evangelization of children, and a desire to bring kids to Christ were the inspiration behind *Kerygma 4 Kids*.

Kerygma 4 Kids

Kerygma, used in the New Testament, refers to the proclamation of the gospel message. *Kerygma 4 Kids* is an evangelization tool for children in grades Kindergarten through 5th and 6th through 8th. Developed to supplement an existing curriculum, *Kerygma 4 Kids* proclaims the basic Gospel message at an age-appropriate level.

In *Evangelii Gaudium*, Pope Francis writes, "*On the lips of the catechist the first proclamation must ring out over and over: 'Jesus Christ loves you; he gave his life to save you; and now he is living at your side every day to enlighten, strengthen and free you.'*"⁸

² Pope John Paul II. On Catechesis in Our Time (*Catechesi Tradendae*) (CT) (Washington, D.C.: USCCB, 1979), no. 19.

³ USCCB, Go and Make Disciples (Washington, D.C.: USCCB, 2002), no. 10.

⁴ NDC, no. 17B.

⁵ CT, no. 18.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ NDC, no. 20.

⁸ Pope Francis. The Joy of the Gospel (*Evangelii Gaudium*) (EG) (Credo Institute, 2013), no. 164.

Using Scripture, guided prayer, and facilitated discussion, *Kerygma 4 Kids* does just that. Through this program, the children will:

1. Experience God's personal love

2. Understand that sin separates them from God

3. Understand that Jesus restores that relationship through His passion, death, and resurrection and opens the way to eternal life

4. Accept Jesus' gift of salvation by making a choice to invite Jesus into their lives

Each grade-level lesson has three sections which unfold the Gospel message:

I. DISCOVER God's Love

II. UNDERSTAND Sin and the Good News of Jesus Christ

III. RESPOND and INVITE Jesus into your Life

The basic Gospel message is the same at each grade-level, but goes into more depth for each successive grade. Each grade has a particular theme or perspective through which the kerygma is proclaimed. The discussion and reflection questions speak to the issues that are characteristic to that particular age group. The lesson culminates by inviting the children to respond to Jesus' gift of salvation with a short commitment prayer. At the conclusion of the lesson, the children are given the language to proclaim the Good News and share it with others.

Kerygma 4 Kids was developed with the intent of presenting one evangelization lesson every year to each grade. These lessons stand alone and can be used as a supplemental resource in a parish or school catechetical program, or at a retreat or camp. All three sections may be done in one day or spread out over the course of three days. The following page lists some suggestions for delivery and implementation. A training video is included to help the leader understand the process of evangelization and provide tips for successfully implementing the program.

Suggestions for Delivery and Implementation:

	Delivery	Implementation
Religious Education Session	Present all three sections in one 60 minute session	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• At the beginning of every religious education year in a classroom setting• As part of a larger event where youth begin with praise and worship and break out into smaller groups• A special Lenten session to help the youth better understand the Triduum and Easter
Catholic School	Present one 20 minute section for three consecutive days	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• At the beginning of every school year• At the beginning of Lent
Retreat Day	Present each section sequentially throughout the day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use for a sacramental retreat• Include a time of Eucharistic Adoration after Section II: <i>UNDERSTAND Sin and the Good News of Jesus Christ</i>

Leading Sessions - Grade 2

Each section takes about 20 minutes to complete. The Grade 2 lesson assumes that the child has not yet received the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. However, this lesson is an excellent first step in their preparations. When used in the context of a catechetical program, it is important to help the children see how their catechetical curriculum ties *back to the kerygma*. The kerygma is not one topic among many, but the core of our Faith.

In this Leader Guide, the video content is located in the boxed area. It is strongly recommended that the leader present the videos on the accompanying DVD, but the lesson can alternatively be delivered in person using the notes. Each child should have a *Kerygma 4 Kids* Grade 2 Workbook containing the activities that accompany the lesson. Near the back of the workbook is a removable poster that summarizes the kerygma. Children are invited to keep the poster to help them remember the Good News of Jesus Christ. On the back of the poster is a Thoughts and Prayers page. The children can use this page to write ways they can stay close to Jesus or write a personal prayer to Him.

Leaders should feel free to adapt the lessons as needed and share their own faith journey as appropriate. Additional hands-on activities can be supplemented to engage the children.

Leaders need to be in control of their group. It is important not to let any one child monopolize the discussion or disrupt the group. Leaders should encourage discussion while ensuring that the sharing is relevant to the topic at hand.

Evangelizing Children

Leaders need to remember that evangelization is a personal and relational process. Each child will encounter and experience God in a unique way. Lessons should never be rushed; children should be given whatever time is needed to explore concepts and ask questions.

Evangelization aims at conversion, and conversion must begin with a personal encounter with the risen Christ. Many children know *about* Christ, but it is the aim of *Kerygma 4 Kids* to help kids *know* Christ. Children need to know that Jesus is real, He is alive, and He loves and knows each of them personally. The language in traditional catechetical texts tends to talk about Jesus in the past tense and discuss His salvific work as it relates to the whole of humanity. *Kerygma 4 Kids* intentionally talks about Jesus in the present tense at a very personal and individual level. We do not want the children to think of Jesus as simply a historical figure who founded our faith, but as their personal Lord and Savior.

To encourage this, guided meditations are incorporated into every lesson so that the children can experience Jesus directly. Because the Bible is the living Word of God, it has the power to speak directly into the hearts of the children. It is important to create an appropriate environment for the Scripture meditation, free of noise and distractions.

It is not the leader's job to convert the hearts of the children. The Holy Spirit is the agent of conversion; the leader simply creates an environment of encounter and presents the Gospel message, which in itself has intrinsic power. However, leaders should strive to be sensitive to the movement of the Holy Spirit and as such, need to be persons of prayer. Leaders should read Scripture daily and attend Mass faithfully. A key component to lesson preparation is prayer and intercession. It is important to pray for each child - by name, if possible - asking the Holy Spirit for openness and protection.

Let the Children Come

Children have an incredible capacity for God. They are naturally contemplative and nearer to the truth that we *are made for God*. Is Jesus too busy for children? In the Gospel of Matthew, the disciples rebuked the people who tried to bring children to Jesus. In the ancient world, children had no rights and no voice. The disciples must have thought that Jesus had more serious matters to attend to. But the Scriptures reveal the heart of the Lord:

Then children were brought to him that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked them, but Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." (Matthew 19:13-14)

I pray that *Kerygma 4 Kids* helps you to bring your children to Christ. May the Lord bless you and anoint you in all your efforts.

- Anita Houghton

The Evangelist's Prayer

Father in heaven,

Thank You for the opportunity to share Your Word and life with these children today.
Fill me with Your Holy Spirit and bless my efforts to be a true witness of Your Presence to them.

Help me to proclaim the Good News with passion and conviction.

Help me to guide them toward accepting Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior.

Father, I surrender my intellect, my will, and my speech to You.

Sanctify all that I say and do.

Use me as Your instrument to proclaim Your Truth.

Bless these children, Lord.

Open their minds and hearts to receive everything You want to give them.

Bring people into their lives that will accompany them
and support their decision to follow Your Son.

Lord, protect our meeting space.

Surround us by Your angels to shield us from any spiritual attacks
that may attempt to thwart our efforts.

Blessed Mother,

Please intercede for me as I present this lesson.

I ask all this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Prep and Supplies

- View the Leader Training Video prior to the lesson
- A recording of children's praise & worship music and a way to play it
- A Catholic children's Bible for the leader
- A recording of quiet instrumental music
- A *Kerygma 4 Kids* Grade 2 Workbook for each child
- Pencils and crayons or markers for each child
- DVD containing three Grade 2 videos: DISCOVER, UNDERSTAND, RESPOND

Gather and Opening Prayer

- Pray the Evangelist's Prayer.
- As the children arrive, play children's praise & worship or Vacation Bible School (VBS) music in the background.

Opening Prayer

- Invite the children to sing a praise & worship or VBS song that they know. Alternatively, teach them a new song and invite them to praise God through the music.
- Invite them to sit and prepare their hearts and minds for prayer.

SAY: Boys and girls, we are going to listen to a Bible reading about the goodness of God. As I read this passage, use your imagination to think about how wonderful God is.

[Sign of the Cross]

Let us begin in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

- Proclaim with *joy* and *enthusiasm* Psalm 36:5-9 from a children's Bible.

SAY: Heavenly Father,
Thank You for loving us and caring for all our needs. Help us to never forget how awesome and good You are! Be with us today as we learn more about Your Son, Jesus. Please send Your Holy Spirit upon us so that as we learn and pray, we can grow in our friendship with You.

[Sign of the Cross]

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

Background

In this first section, we want to help each child discover the personal love of God. We begin by exploring the experience of human love so that the children can begin to conceive the infinite love of God. Second graders need security. They can also be moody or shy and may think that nobody likes them. In addition, second graders may change friendships frequently. It's important for each child to know that with God there is a great deal of security and stability.

Group activities can be overwhelming for second graders. It is better to allow them to work individually or with a partner. The activities in the Grade 2 Workbook are designed for individual work. The sharing can be done with partners or moderated in a large group setting.

Be sure to create an appropriate environment for the guided Scripture meditation, free from noise and distractions. You may want to use instrumental background music during the meditation to help block distractions. Allow the Holy Spirit to direct you in what you say and the length of time you spend in the prayer. Be confident that the Lord will, in fact, speak to the hearts of the children. Help the children know that Jesus can be present in this way in their personal prayer time, as well.

As you draw this section to a close, help the children understand that God's love is never-ending and that He really does have a plan for their lives. Help them come to the realization that God wants to help them fulfill this plan, and that it's easy to do so when they open their hearts to Jesus.

Play the **DISCOVER - Grade 2 Video**
OR

Present the following material to the children

- Hello boys and girls! Isn't it exciting to be in the 2nd grade? This is an awesome year for you! Not only are you a year older and a year wiser, but this year you are going to experience Jesus in a very special way through the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist.
- There's a lot to do to get ready for these special events, but the most important thing in your preparation is to get to know Jesus.
- You may have heard stories about Jesus in church or your religion class. From these stories, we know that Jesus lived on earth a long time ago, and that He came to teach people about the Father's love. The Bible tells us that Jesus healed people who were sick, and that He invited people to follow Him as His disciples. We also know that Jesus died on the cross, rose from the dead, and now lives in heaven with His Father.
- These are beautiful stories that teach us exactly what we heard in our opening prayer: that God really loves His people and cares for them.

- But today, we're going to talk about Jesus and *you*: how much He loves you and how He is inviting you into a very special friendship with Him. So, let's begin!
- Let's start with a question: How does it make your heart feel when someone loves you? Take a moment to think about someone who really loves you. How does that feel? Does it make you happy? Does it make you smile? Does it make you feel peaceful and safe? To be loved is an amazing experience!
- Well, if human love is like this, *imagine* what it's like to feel God's love. God loves you very much! He is your heavenly Father, and He sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to help you reach heaven one day. Jesus loves you just as much as His Father does. Even though Jesus lived on earth a long time ago, He is alive in heaven now. Sometimes it might feel like Jesus is far away because we can't see Him. But the truth is, He's not far away at all.
- And, He knows you personally! Believe it or not, Jesus knows your name. He knows where you live, He knows your favorite color, and your favorite food. The Bible tells us that God even knows the number of hairs on your head!
- Take a few minutes to do the activity in your workbook and talk about God's personal love for you. After the activity, your leader is going to guide you through a prayer which will give Jesus the opportunity to show His love and speak into your heart.

- Guide the children through the activities.
- The SHARE sections are meant for partner discussion or a large group moderated discussion. Allow enough time for the children to share their answers.
- Children are to complete the fill-in-the blanks individually. You may ask them to share these answers, too.
- Invite the children to find the three yellow stickers in their workbook and place them on the page. This will help reinforce the idea that Jesus is all-knowing.
- Ask the children to close their workbooks.

SAY: Jesus cares for you and wants you to know how much He loves you. Next, we're going to give Jesus some time to speak to your heart. I'm going to read a Bible story and help you to imagine being in the story with Jesus.

DISCOVER God's Love

Share: How does it make your heart feel when someone loves you?

My name is: _____

My favorite color is: _____

My favorite food is: _____

Place the stickers to help you remember that Jesus knows you personally!

Draw your hair on this face!

Share: How many hairs do you think are on your head?

God loves you! You are very important to Him.

4 Share: How does God knowing all these things make you feel?

- Take time to transition into this guided meditation. Be sure that the children are sitting comfortably.
- Begin the instrumental music at this time.
- Invite them to take a few deep breaths and clear their minds.
- As you lead the prayer, allow for silence at the appropriate times. The pace of the meditation should be slow enough to allow the children to hear God, but fast enough so they don't get restless.
- Open your Bible to Mark 10:13-16. The New American translation should be easy for the children to understand. Alternatively, you may choose to use a children's Bible.

SAY: *[Sign of the Cross]* In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Come, Holy Spirit, and be with us now. Open our minds and our hearts to welcome Jesus.

Boys and girls, now we're going to hear a story about people bringing children to Jesus. Please close your eyes and keep very still. Imagine you are there...

- Read Mark 10:13-16 slowly

SAY: *[Pause between each sentence]* Imagine you are being brought to Jesus. Jesus smiles as you come near to Him. Jesus takes you in His arms and He is holding you.

What do you want to tell Jesus? Tell Him now, silently. *[Pause for about 15-20 seconds.]*

What is Jesus saying back to you? Listen to Him now. *[Pause again for about 15-20 seconds.]*

- At this time, in the silence of your heart, begin to intercede for the children and ask Jesus to come and pour His love into their hearts. If possible, pray for each child by name.
- Once you conclude, allow for some silence to let the Lord do His work.

SAY: Lord Jesus, thank You so much for being with us today and speaking into our hearts. Please continue to listen to our prayers and help us grow closer to You. Amen.

[Sign of the Cross]

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

- Pause the music.
- Lead a large group discussion about their prayer experience. Be sure to give each child a chance to share:
 - Did you feel that Jesus was with you in this prayer?
 - What is it like to be held by Jesus?
 - What did He say to you?

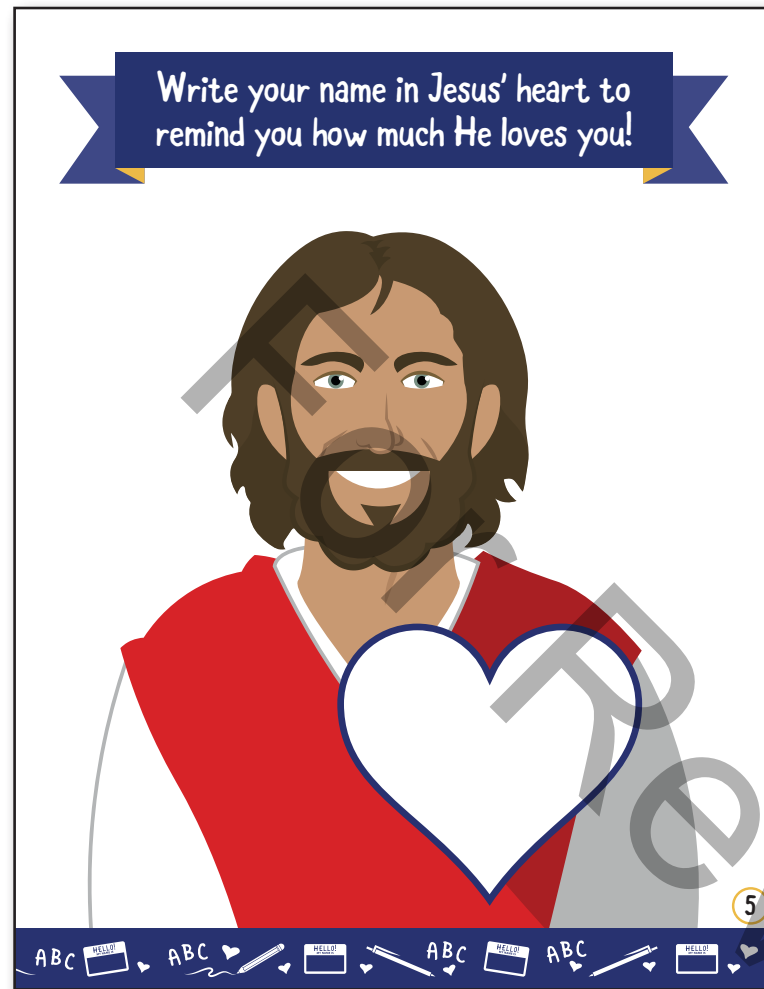
- Invite the children to complete the activity.
- Reinforce the point that Jesus knows and loves them personally.
- Ask the children to close their workbooks.

God's Love Never Ends

SAY: Today, you experienced God's love for you.

God's love is very real. He will never stop loving you, no matter what. God has an exciting plan for your life, and He is already preparing you for it!

- As this section draws to a close, you may continue the discussion to let the children share any additional thoughts or ask them if they have any questions.



Teacher Notes

II. UNDERSTAND Sin and the Good News of Jesus Christ

Background

This lesson contains the proclamation of the *kerygma* — the Good News that Jesus died and rose to save us from sin.

The consequences of sin and the death of Jesus are presented gently. The impossibility of reaching heaven without Jesus cannot be ignored and is presented here in an age-appropriate way. The aim is to help the child grasp the necessity of Jesus for our salvation.

The concept of "atonement" is foreign to a second grader; a story is presented to help make this clear. The analogy helps the child understand what Jesus accomplishes through His passion, death, and resurrection. It is "unthinkable" that a brother or sister would take on the punishment that another child deserves; this unlikely act shows the radical love of God. Indeed, God's ways are not our ways. (cf. Is 55:8)

This lesson closes by reminding the children that Jesus is alive today and that forgiveness of sins is offered to us. No sin is too big for God. You can use this opportunity to explain how the Sacrament of Reconciliation is Jesus' ongoing gift of salvation.

Sin Hurts our Friendship with God

Play the **UNDERSTAND - Grade 2 Video**

OR

Present the following material to the children

- The Bible teaches us that all people sin. Sin is a thought, word, or action that we freely do, even though we know it's wrong. When we sin, we hurt ourselves and we hurt others.
- Can you think of a time when someone did something mean to you? Do you remember how it felt? When we are mean and selfish to our friends, it hurts our friendship. If a friend stops being nice to you, it's very likely that your friendship will grow farther and farther apart.
- The same is true with God. Sin hurts our friendship with God. It makes God sad. Sin is like a sickness that separates us from God and from one another.
- The Bible teaches us that because of sin, the road to heaven is broken up! We can't get into heaven if our heart is sick with sin.
- The Good News is that God loves us and cares for us even when we sin. That's why God sent His Son, Jesus into the world. Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for our sins. This opens the way to heaven for you and for all people. Jesus saved us! That's why we call Him our Savior.

III. RESPOND and INVITE Jesus into your life

Background

Once the children experience the love of God and have had the opportunity to ponder Christ's saving work, we want to invite them to respond. While adults and older youth have the capacity to make a choice to follow Christ, younger children can make commitments that are more appropriate for their age. In this next section, the children will have an opportunity to invite Jesus into their hearts.

We begin by once again reminding the children that this is a special year for them. It's a good time to explore the gift of the Eucharist and the way in which the Eucharist can strengthen their friendship with Christ.

The lesson concludes by teaching children how to share the Good News of Jesus with others. By virtue of our Baptism, we are called to evangelize. It is important to lay this foundation at an early age. The final activity gives the children the language by which to proclaim the kerygma themselves. Children can be encouraged to introduce their friends to Jesus and share what they have experienced and learned.

Play the **RESPOND - Grade 2 Video**
OR

Present the following material to the children

- A story may help you understand this. Joey is playing ball in the house and breaks a vase. His mom doesn't know who did it, but says, "Someone has to get punished for this!" Joey's older sister Allie steps forward. He thinks she is going to tell on him, but instead she says, "I'll take the blame for it. Mom, you can punish me." Joey is shocked! *She* gets grounded instead of *him*?
- This is exactly what Jesus does for us. Just as Allie, who did nothing wrong, offers to be punished for Joey's mistake, Jesus, who did nothing wrong, offers His life on the cross for our sins. Jesus takes upon himself the punishment we deserve so that we wouldn't be separated from God forever.
- Three days after Jesus died, God the Father raised Him from the dead, and Jesus is still alive today. He has the power to forgive us when we are sorry for our sins, and that's why we are so thankful for all that Jesus does for us!
- Take some time now to do the activity in your workbook and then talk about what Jesus did for you.

UNDERSTAND Sin and the Good News of Jesus Christ

Share: Imagine you broke the vase in the story. How would you feel if your brother, sister, or friend took the blame for you?



Fill in the blank:
What breaks up the road to heaven?

Share: How does it make you feel that Jesus died on the cross for you?



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- Invite the children to open their workbooks and guide them through the activities.
- Discuss the first SHARE question as a large group.
- The fill-in-the-blank answer is "SIN."
- Invite the children to find and place the sticker that fixes the broken road (the cross).
- Ask them why the cross fixes the road to heaven. (Jesus died for our sins and restores our relationship with the Father. This opens the way to heaven for us.)
- Facilitate a large group discussion for the last SHARE question.
- The children may have a wide variety of reactions after realizing that Jesus died for them. Give them time to process their feelings and ask questions. You may share with them the comfort you feel knowing that Jesus died for you.
- Ask the children to close their workbooks.

- This is going to be a very special year for you and Jesus. Not only will you experience Jesus' forgiveness, but you will also receive Him in the Eucharist. Sin hurts our friendship with God, but the Eucharist brings us closer to Him. At the moment you receive the body and blood of Jesus in the Eucharist, He is very close to you. It's a special time to pray to Him, and it's also a time when you can open your heart and let Him love you. Receiving Jesus in the Eucharist strengthens your friendship with Him.
- [Begin *instrumental background music*] Jesus wants to be your best friend now and always. He wants to bless you, lead you, and be with you as you grow up. Having Jesus as your best friend makes everything in your life better, even the friendships you already have!
- Would you like to begin a friendship with Jesus? Take a minute to think about it.
- If you're not sure, just close your eyes and pray silently for your friends. If you said "Yes," I'm going to invite you to say a prayer to invite Jesus into your heart. Ready? Close your eyes and imagine Jesus right in front of you. [Pause] Keep your eyes closed and repeat this prayer after me:

Dear Jesus,
Thank You for loving me and dying on the cross for me. Thank You for opening to me the way to heaven. I love You very much. I invite you into my heart and ask You to fill me with your peace.
Amen.

[Music fades]

- Take the appropriate time to transition into the next activity.
- Invite the children to complete the RESPOND activity.
- Instruct them to complete the stick figure to draw a picture of themselves and place the JESUS heart sticker on the drawing to remind them that they have invited Jesus into their heart.
- Ask the children to close their workbooks.

Staying Friends with Jesus

SAY: Boys and girls, now that you have invited Jesus into your heart, let's talk about some ways that we can stay friends with Jesus.

Teacher Notes

- Ask the children to share what they think would keep their relationship with Jesus strong.
- You can supplement their answers with the following:
 - Daily prayer in a quiet place
 - Reading stories about Jesus from a children's Bible and listening to what God is saying in their hearts
 - Going to Mass every Sunday or Saturday Vigil and receiving the Eucharist
 - Avoiding sin and going to confession a few times a year

RESPOND and INVITE
Jesus into Your Life

Complete this stick figure to draw a picture of yourself.

Write **Jesus** in the heart to remind you that you have invited Jesus into your heart!

ABC HELLO! ABC HELLO! ABC HELLO! ABC HELLO! ABC HELLO!

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IV. Share the Good News with your Friends!

SAY: Boys and girls, God wants us to share the Good News with others. Do you know anyone who needs help? Tell them about Jesus! Our last activity will help you remember the words we learned today.

- The final activity can be done individually or in a large group. Children should fill in the blanks with the appropriate answers. They can practice sharing the Good News with each other or think about people they know who might have yet to become friends with Jesus.
- God [**loves**] you!
- [**Sin**] hurts your friendship with God.
- Jesus died on the [**cross**] for your sins.
- That's why He is your [**Savior**].
- Jesus wants to be your [**best friend**].
- My answer to Jesus is "[**Yes**]!"

Teacher Notes

SHARE the Good News with Your Friends

How would you share the Good News of Jesus with your friends?

♥ God _____ you!

♥ _____ hurts your friendship with God.

♥ Jesus died on the _____ for your sins.

♥ That's why He is your _____ .


♥ Jesus wants to be your _____ .

♥ My answer to Jesus is "_____" !

8

ABC HELLO! ABC HELLO! ABC HELLO! ABC HELLO! ABC HELLO!

8

 **SAY:** There is a poster in the back of your workbook that you can cut out. Use the poster to share the Good News with your parents or guardians when you get home, and put it in a prominent place to help you remember the Good News of Jesus. Use the Thoughts and Prayers section on the back of the poster to write any notes on ways you can stay close to Jesus, or use this section to write your own special prayer to Jesus.

Let's close with a prayer to thank Jesus for our time together.

[Sign of the Cross]

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

Jesus, thank You for these beautiful boys and girls who have opened their hearts to You today. Please keep them close to You and help them to grow in Your friendship. Give them the courage to share their stories with their friends and family. Amen.

[Sign of the Cross]

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

Mr. Only

Grade 2 Leader Guide

Kerygma 4 Kids

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