

LIVE JESUS IN OUR HEARTS

# JESUS CHRIST AND THE NEW TESTAMENT



saint mary's press

# UNIT 1

## Jesus and Faith

What does it mean  
to have faith in Jesus?

### OVERVIEW

#### Unit Summary

This unit addresses the identity of Jesus Christ as both fully human and fully divine. The students will focus on the two natures of Jesus—human and divine—as revealed in the Gospel of Mark and the Letters of Saint Paul to Galatians, Ephesians, and Corinthians. The students will also come to understand that the truth about Jesus’ life and message can be found in both Scripture and Tradition. Coming to know Jesus Christ will help the students develop a deeper faith in him as the One who bridges the gap between God and humanity, leading to our happiness, holiness, and eternal salvation.

#### Learning Objectives

DESIRED RESULTS	
TRANSFER	ESTABLISHED GOALS
<i>Students will be able to independently use their learning to . . .</i>	
Explain how Jesus Christ’s identity as true God and true man makes possible his unique role in God’s plan of salvation.	<b>USCCB Framework</b> Who is Jesus Christ?: IIA.1.b.c; IA, IA.1.2; III.A1.2.3.4; IB.1.a.b.c, IB.3.a.b, IB.4.a.b.c.d, IB.2.b, IB.1.b, 1.B.2.d

MEANING MAKING	
ENDURING UNDERSTANDINGS <i>Students will understand that . . .</i>	ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS <i>Students will keep considering . . .</i>
<p>U1. The Gospel of Mark reveals Jesus as the human face of God who reveals God's love, and as the Divine Mystery who invites us to put our faith in him.</p> <p>U2. The truth about Jesus can be found in his life and message as revealed in both Scripture and Sacred Tradition.</p> <p>U3. Jesus is one Divine Person with two distinct natures. Because Jesus is truly human, he can identify with our sufferings, challenges, and joys. Because he is truly God, Christ is the unique mediator between God and human beings, making God's saving grace available to all.</p> <p>U4. Faith in Jesus Christ leads to happiness, holiness, unity, and eternal salvation.</p>	<p>Q1. Who is Jesus?</p> <p>Q2. Where can I find the truth about Jesus?</p> <p>Q3. What does it mean to say that Jesus is true God and true man?</p> <p>Q4. Why put my faith in Jesus Christ?</p>
ACQUISITION	
KNOWLEDGE <i>Students will know . . .</i>	SKILLS <i>Students will be able to . . .</i>
<p>K1. The Gospels and the Letters of Saint Paul reveal the identity of Jesus as both human and divine.</p> <p>K2. The context in which Jesus lived, taught, and proclaimed his mission.</p> <p>K3. The <i>Incarnation</i> is the term used for God becoming human in the person of Jesus Christ.</p> <p>K4. Conversion is a change of heart that is a response to God's love.</p> <p>K5. Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition work together to reveal God's will.</p> <p>K6. The Magisterium is the official teaching authority of the Church.</p> <p>K7. The Gospels developed in stages that include oral tradition and inspired written word.</p> <p>K8. <i>Hypostatic Union</i> refers to the mystery that Jesus Christ is fully human and fully divine.</p> <p>K9. Faith in Jesus will lead to happiness, holiness, unity, and salvation.</p> <p>K10. Justification brings a sinful human being into right relationship with God.</p> <p>K11. Faith and religion are so closely connected that we cannot have one without the other.</p>	<p>S1. Articulate that the New Testament is the Good News about who Jesus is: human and divine.</p> <p>S2. Identify the cultural attitudes, political tensions, and key Jewish groups that defined life in first-century Palestine.</p> <p>S3. Explain the significance of the Incarnation in God's plan of salvation and the connection to John 3:16.</p> <p>S4. Articulate that conversion is not a moment but a lifetime of responding to God's love.</p> <p>S5. Explain why we need both Scripture and Tradition to understand the fullness of Divine Revelation.</p> <p>S6. Explain the essential role of the Magisterium in the infallibility of the Church.</p> <p>S7. Identify the stages of Gospel development and articulate why the details of stories may differ in the four Gospels.</p> <p>S8. Explain how the Incarnation is necessary for the Christian understanding of salvation.</p> <p>S9. Explain that faith in Jesus will help us to live happy and holy lives on Earth and eternal life in Heaven.</p> <p>S10. Recognize the term <i>justification</i> as God's will for us to be in good relationship with him.</p> <p>S11. Articulate that religion helps us to live out our faith in Jesus.</p>

# UNIT 2

## Exploring Jesus' Divinity

Was Jesus Christ really divine?

### OVERVIEW

#### Unit Summary

This unit explores the divine nature of Jesus through the Gospel of John. Jesus' identity as the Word Made Flesh, together with his miraculous "signs," his self-revelatory "I AM" statements, and the accounts of his Passion, death, and Resurrection, will help the students answer the unit focus question: *Was Jesus Christ really divine?* The implications of Jesus' Incarnation are further explored in the Letters to the Philippians, Colossians, and Hebrews. These letters provide testimony to Jesus' human and divine natures and show how the Incarnation makes Jesus the perfect model of humility, service, and self-sacrifice for all people.

#### Learning Objectives

DESIRED RESULTS	
TRANSFER	ESTABLISHED GOALS
<i>Students will be able to independently use their learning to . . .</i>	
Articulate their belief in the divine nature of Jesus Christ using references to the Gospel of John and New Testament Letters.	<b>USCCB Framework</b> Who Is Jesus Christ?: II.A.1.a

MEANING MAKING	
ENDURING UNDERSTANDINGS <i>Students will understand that . . .</i>	ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS <i>Students will keep considering . . .</i>
<p>U1. In the Book of Signs, the Gospel of John reveals Jesus' divine nature through divine imagery, miraculous "signs," and self-revelatory "I AM" statements.</p> <p>U2. In the Book of Glory, the Gospel of John continues to emphasize Jesus' divine nature by portraying Christ in control during his Passion, death, and Resurrection, his glorious triumph over sin and death.</p> <p>U3. New Testament letters provide insights into Jesus' Incarnation, particularly how he models humility and service, and how his human and divine natures make him the perfect sacrifice for our salvation; thus, Christ is preeminent and no one else can substitute for Jesus.</p>	<p>Q1. Who is Jesus, really?</p> <p>Q2. How can Jesus' death be glorious?</p> <p>Q3. Why does it matter that Jesus is God?</p>
ACQUISITION	
KNOWLEDGE <i>Students will know . . .</i>	SKILLS <i>Students will be able to . . .</i>
<p>K1. The term <i>Incarnation</i>, that God became human in the Person of Jesus Christ.</p> <p>K2. The Gospel of John reveals the divine nature of Jesus.</p> <p>K3. That there are two main sections in the Gospel of John: the Book of Signs and the Book of Glory.</p> <p>K4. That there are seven miraculous signs in the Gospel of John that point to Jesus' divine nature.</p> <p>K5. That there are seven "I AM" statements that Jesus makes about himself in the Gospel of John.</p> <p>K6. That the Washing of the Feet only takes place in John's Gospel and does not happen on the night before Jesus dies.</p> <p>K7. That Jesus was in control during his Passion, death, and Resurrection.</p> <p>K8. That in the Gospel of John, Jesus appears first to Mary Magdalene and then the other disciples after he has risen from the dead.</p> <p>K9. That the New Testament Letters are written to early Christian communities to encourage them.</p> <p>K10. That the New Testament presents Jesus is the perfect example of humility, obedience, service, and self-sacrifice.</p>	<p>S1. Articulate the meaning of the term <i>Incarnation</i> to others.</p> <p>S2. Identify content and themes from the Gospel of John that identifies Jesus as God, the Word Made Flesh.</p> <p>S3. Explain the purposes of the Book of Signs and the Book of Glory in the Gospel of John.</p> <p>S4. Recognize the seven miraculous signs of Jesus and retell in their own words what Jesus did in each one.</p> <p>S5. Find the "I AM" statements in the Gospel of John and connect those statements to God's Revelation to Moses, "I am who Am."</p> <p>S6. Articulate differences in the Passion narratives of the four Gospels, including the account of the washing of the feet.</p> <p>S7. Point out at least five examples of how Jesus shows that he is not a passive victim during his Passion and death.</p> <p>S8. Tell the stories of the appearances of Jesus after his Resurrection, as they appear in the Gospel of John.</p> <p>S9. Explain the difference between the communities that Paul writes to in his letters to the Philippians and Colossians and why they need encouragement.</p> <p>S10. Identify the importance and practice of humility, service, and self-sacrifice in their own lives.</p>

ACQUISITION continued	
KNOWLEDGE <i>Students will know . . .</i>	SKILLS <i>Students will be able to . . .</i>
K11. That the Letter to the Hebrews differs from letters that Paul wrote and makes strong connections with the Old Testament.	S11. Explain the theme of the Letter to the Hebrews, showing how Jesus is the Messiah, as foretold in the Old Testament.
K12. That Jesus is our Divine High Priest.	S12. Identify priests or ministers who continue to model Jesus' life of love and service.

# UNIT 3

## Jesus Reveals the True God

What is God like?

### OVERVIEW

#### Unit Summary

This unit uses the Gospel of Luke and the Letter to the Romans to explore Jesus' message of God's judgment and justice and mercy and forgiveness. Jesus' teachings become the basis for discussing the nature of God, leading into the central Christian mystery of the Trinity. Concepts include the mystery of the Trinity, the development of Trinitarian doctrine in the Catholic Church, the uniqueness of each of the Divine Persons, and the Trinity as a model for human relationships. Mary's role in God's plan and the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy are also included in this unit. Through diverse and engaging learning experiences, the students will deepen their understanding of these foundational concepts and the language the Church uses to express them.

#### Learning Objectives

DESIRED RESULTS	
TRANSFER	ESTABLISHED GOALS
<i>Students will be able to independently use their learning to . . .</i>	
Articulate the concept that Jesus revealed God as just and merciful and judging and forgiving and to recognize the role of the Trinity in revealing the unified and distinct natures of the three Divine Persons as a model for human relationships.	<b>USCCB Framework</b> Who is Jesus Christ?: IIA; IVA3; IIC5a-c; IIB1a-d; IIC1-4; IIC1a-d; IIB2a-b; IIC2a-d; IIC3a-c; IIC4a-b

MEANING MAKING	
ENDURING UNDERSTANDINGS <i>Students will understand that . . .</i>	ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS <i>Students will keep considering . . .</i>
<p>U1. The Gospel of Luke highlights both God’s judgment (justice) and mercy (forgiveness). The Letter to the Romans also highlights God’s forgiveness.</p> <p>U2. The Trinity is the central mystery of the Christian faith that God exists as a communion of three distinct and interrelated Divine Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God is both unity and community, a model of love for all human relationships.</p> <p>U3. In response to false teachings about Jesus’ Incarnation, the Church has been constant in teaching that he is both fully God and fully human. In response to false teachings about God’s nature, the Church has been constant in teaching that there are three Divine Persons in one God.</p>	<p>Q1. Does God judge us or forgive us?</p> <p>Q2. Why is the Trinity so important?</p> <p>Q3. How do people misunderstand the Incarnation and the Trinity?</p>
ACQUISITION	
KNOWLEDGE <i>Students will know . . .</i>	SKILLS <i>Students will be able to . . .</i>
<p>K1. The Gospel of Luke reveals God’s justice and mercy.</p> <p>K2. Mary plays a special role in God’s plan for salvation.</p> <p>K3. The Letter to the Romans teaches us about God’s mercy and salvation through Jesus Christ.</p> <p>K4. Our belief in monotheism emphasizes God’s power and love.</p> <p>K5. The mystery of the Trinity is the central Christian mystery of their faith.</p> <p>K6. There are three Divine Persons in one God.</p> <p>K7. The Divine Persons are united, yet distinct.</p> <p>K8. The Church developed the doctrine of the Trinity over centuries.</p> <p>K9. The Nicene Creed communicates the essential truths of the Catholic faith.</p> <p>K10. The Trinity teaches us how to be in relationship with others.</p>	<p>S1. Use parables like the Rich Man and Lazarus, the Prodigal Son, and the story of the Good Thief as examples of God’s justice and mercy.</p> <p>S2. Articulate what is meant by Mary’s “Yes” to the angel’s message asking her to be the Mother of God.</p> <p>S3. Use given passages from the Letter to the Romans to show God’s mercy.</p> <p>S4. Compare polytheistic religions with gods and goddesses to their faith in one God.</p> <p>S5. Articulate the Church’s understanding of the Trinity as a Mystery of Faith.</p> <p>S6. Identify the three Divine Persons of the Trinity and describe their characteristics.</p> <p>S7. Explain that each Person of the Trinity is united, yet distinct.</p> <p>S8. Point out some key moments in the development of the doctrine of the Trinity.</p> <p>S9. Recognize and articulate the essential truths of the Catholic faith as expressed in the Nicene Creed.</p> <p>S10. Use concrete examples to show how the Trinity is a model for our human relationships.</p>



# UNIT 4

## Jesus and the Early Church

Were the first Christians  
that different from us?

### OVERVIEW

#### Unit Summary

This unit focuses on the development of the early Church in the Acts of the Apostles, the Pastoral Letters to Timothy and Titus, and the Letter to Philemon. The growth of the Church under the guidance of the Holy Spirit continues today as we too are called to spread the Good News. The students will explore the Book of Revelation and its hopeful message that God will triumph over evil. They will come to know about the Four Last Things and what the Church teaches about eternal life.

#### Learning Objectives

DESIRED RESULTS	
TRANSFER	ESTABLISHED GOALS
<i>Students will be able to independently use their learning to . . .</i>	
Read and study Scripture and come to an awareness of the ever-present guidance of the Holy Spirit helping us spread the Good News throughout history; and come to an understanding of the hopeful message of the Book of Revelation and Church teaching about eternal life.	<i>USCCB Framework</i> II.A.1.b; IV.C.3.e; IV.D.4.a

MEANING MAKING	
ENDURING UNDERSTANDINGS <i>Students will understand that . . .</i>	ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS <i>Students will keep considering . . .</i>
<p>U1. The Acts of the Apostles tells how the Church, emboldened by the Holy Spirit, grew from a small community of frightened Jewish disciples in Jerusalem, to a religious movement with thousands of believers throughout the Roman Empire.</p> <p>U2. Many of the New Testament letters challenged the first Christians to be faithful in living the teachings and values of Jesus; they are still relevant today.</p> <p>U3. Rather than predicting the end of the world, the Book of Revelation communicates God’s love, care, and protection through signs and symbols, assuring us that good will triumph over evil and that we have hope for everlasting life.</p>	<p>Q1. How did the Church start?</p> <p>Q2. How does the Church practice what it preaches?</p> <p>Q3. Does the Book of Revelation predict the end of the world?</p>
ACQUISITION	
KNOWLEDGE <i>Students will know . . .</i>	SKILLS <i>Students will be able to . . .</i>
<p>K1. The Church began with the coming of the Holy Spirit on the feast of Pentecost.</p> <p>K2. Jewish Christians welcome Gentiles into the Church under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.</p> <p>K3. The Apostle Paul proclaims the Gospel throughout the known world, leading him to be arrested in Rome.</p> <p>K4. When early Christians realized that Jesus Christ would not return in their lifetimes, they began planning for long-term survival of the Church.</p> <p>K5. The Pastoral Letters to Timothy and Titus provide characteristics and responsibilities for Church leaders.</p> <p>K6. The Letter of Saint James gives advice for living the values of Jesus.</p> <p>K7. The Letter of Philemon is Saint Paul’s request to free a slave and teach the Church community about equality.</p> <p>K8. The Book of Revelation is not about the end of the world, but a message of divine care and protection.</p> <p>K9. The Book of Revelation is not intended to frighten, but to teach that because of Jesus, good will ultimately triumph over evil.</p> <p>K10. The Four Last Things: judgment, Heaven, Hell and Purgatory.</p>	<p>S1. Describe the events of Pentecost and how the disciples began to proclaim the Good News.</p> <p>S2. Apply Christian values to conflict resolution.</p> <p>S3. Trace Paul’s missionary journeys using a biblical map and name some of his companions and experiences.</p> <p>S4. Point out the significance of events around the expectation of early Christian who were awaiting the second coming of Jesus.</p> <p>S5. Call Church leaders today to accountability just as Paul did with early Church leaders.</p> <p>S6. Practice good works and actions as part of their faith.</p> <p>S7. Identify the difference between charitable acts and action for social justice.</p> <p>S8. Explain how the Book of Revelation uses signs and symbols to address Christians in seven local Churches who are being persecuted by Romans.</p> <p>S9. Live in hope that good will ultimately triumph over evil in the world.</p> <p>S10. Name the Four Last Things and what the Church teaches about judgment, Heaven, Hell and Purgatory.</p>

# UNIT 5

## Following Jesus

What does it mean to follow Jesus?

### OVERVIEW

#### Summary

This unit addresses the call to holiness—the call to be in union with God and a witness to Jesus’ love and mercy. The Letters of John and Peter remind students that being in union with God is seen in both words and action, particularly through our love for others. Jesus himself, as well as the Apostles and saints, are models of this—examples of holiness for us to follow and be inspired by. Jesus’ teaching in Matthew, chapter 25, reminds us that we will also be judged by how we serve the poor and vulnerable—the foundation of Catholic social teaching and another guide to living a holy life.

#### Learning Objectives

DESIRED RESULTS	
TRANSFER	ESTABLISHED GOALS
<i>Students will be able to independently use their learning to . . .</i>	
Read and study Sacred Scripture to discover the tenets of Catholic social teaching; as well as study the lives of Jesus, the Apostles, and the saints as models of holiness, in an effort to discern their calling to serve the poor and vulnerable.	<b>USCCB Framework</b> IV.D.4.a; II.C.5.a.b.c.d.e; IV.A.2 and 4, IV.C.5, IV.B.1.2.3., IV.C.1.2.3, IV.C.4.a.1.2.3 and b.1.2.3, IV.D

MEANING MAKING	
ENDURING UNDERSTANDINGS <i>Students will understand that . . .</i>	ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS <i>Students will keep considering . . .</i>
<p>U1. Everyone can be holy, by nurturing a relationship with God, loving our neighbor, and learning to pray as Jesus taught us in the Gospels.</p> <p>U2. Service to the most vulnerable is an essential part of being a Christian, and as members of the Church, we promote the common good by living the principles of Catholic social teaching.</p> <p>U3. <i>Witness</i> means helping others experience the love and mercy of God. The Apostles and the saints inspire us and model what it means to witness to our Christian faith. Like them, we witness the Good News of Jesus Christ through our words and actions.</p>	<p>Q1. Can I be holy?</p> <p>Q2. What does Christian service mean?</p> <p>Q3. What does it mean to witness?</p>
ACQUISITION	
KNOWLEDGE <i>Students will know . . .</i>	SKILLS <i>Students will be able to . . .</i>
<p>K1. The Letters of John call us to live in union with God through our love for our brothers and sisters.</p> <p>K2. Jesus’ words and actions show us the need for prayer and teach us how to pray.</p> <p>K3. We should pray with humility and persistence, knowing God will hear us.</p> <p>K4. Faith, hope, and love are Theological Virtues that we are called to develop in our lives.</p> <p>K5. Saint Paul was dedicated to spreading the Good News and to being of service by raising money for those who are poor.</p> <p>K6. We are created in God’s image, made to serve one another, and will be judged by how we serve the most vulnerable among us.</p> <p>K7. Catholic social teaching is based on the common good and expressed through seven principles.</p> <p>K8. Numerous canonized young saints have answered the call to serve.</p> <p>K9. First Peter calls us to witness our faith and word and deed.</p> <p>K10. Like the Apostles, we are called to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ.</p>	<p>S1. Explain that we show our union and love for God by loving others.</p> <p>S2. Give examples of how Jesus went off to pray and how he taught us the Our Father.</p> <p>S3. Be persistent in prayer, even when it doesn’t seem like their prayers are making a difference.</p> <p>S4. Name the Theological Virtues and know that the greatest of the virtues is love.</p> <p>S5. Be committed to a life of sacrifice and of service to the less fortunate.</p> <p>S6. Cite Matthew 25:37–40 as the passage when Jesus responds to the question, “Lord, when did we see you?” with “whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine . . .”</p> <p>S7. Give an example of the common good and recognize the seven principles of Catholic social teaching.</p> <p>S8. Name at least one young saint in church history who answered the call to serve.</p> <p>S9. Recognize when their words and their actions are in conflict.</p> <p>S10. Explain what <i>evangelization</i> means and how we can evangelize in the twenty-first century.</p>