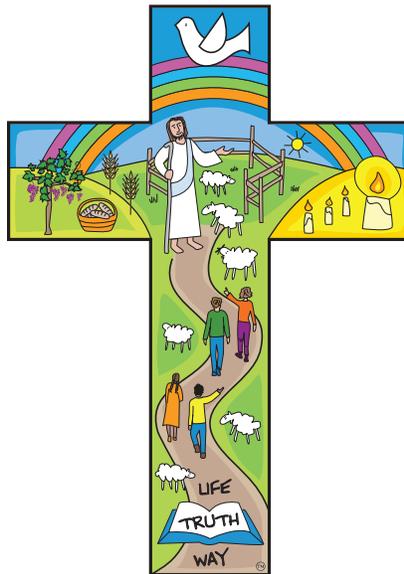


# BIBLICAL MISSION FOR YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

GOD'S WORD COMES TO LIFE  
IN YOUNG PEOPLE

Mission Guidebook



Instituto Fe y Vida  
Biblical Team



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[www.MisionBiblicaJuvenil.org](http://www.MisionBiblicaJuvenil.org) (Spanish version)

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# MISSION PRAYER

## "GOD'S WORD COMES TO LIFE IN YOUNG PEOPLE"

Jesus, our friend, prophet, and teacher,  
how great you are for desiring  
God's Word to come to life in young people!

You are the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

You are the Way that guides our steps  
to bring the Good News to those who long for God's love.

You are the Truth that feeds our spirit,  
as we take part in making your Kingdom present in the world.

You are the Life that transforms our lives,  
as your love becomes incarnate through the Word of God.

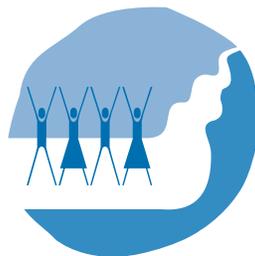
Jesus, our friend, prophet, and teacher,  
how great you are for inviting us, so that  
God's Word may come to life in young people!

We pray from the bottom of our hearts  
for the success of this Biblical Mission.

We place before you, in a special way, all the young missionaries  
and those who will participate in the biblical sessions.  
May God's Word find a home in their hearts.

Enlighten them, strengthen them, and fill them with your Spirit,  
so that, with Mary as their companion,  
they may become your prophets, here and now,  
and God's Word may come to life in young people.

Amen.



# INTRODUCTION

The First Continental Biblical Mission for Youth and Young Adults, “God’s Word Comes to Life in Young People,” consists of four complementary publications: two *Manuals*, one for the Core Team and the other for the Team of Young Missioners, this *Guidebook* for the young missioners, and the *Mission Journal* for the participants.

The *Mission Guidebook* contains this introduction, a detailed guide to the process for conducting the four biblical sessions, and forms for evaluating each session. This introduction is itself subdivided into three parts:

1. **Goals, objectives, and motto of the Biblical Mission, “God’s Word Comes to Life in Young People.”**
2. **Presentation of the First Continental Biblical Mission for Youth and Young Adults.** This part presents the focus of this Biblical Mission, as well as its *mística*,\* expressed through the symbols of the Mission Cross. It also describes the strengths of *The Catholic Youth Bible* and introduces the Biblical Mission’s theme song.
3. **Methodological introduction to the *Guidebook*.** This part is composed of two sections: the first presents the organization of the biblical sessions and gives instructions for their study, and the second explains the process to be followed in each session.

## 1. GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND MOTTO OF THE BIBLICAL MISSION, “GOD’S WORD COMES TO LIFE IN YOUNG PEOPLE”

### General goals

1. To bring the Word of God to young people with new ardor, expressions, and methods.
2. To promote the evangelizing vocation of young Catholic leaders.
3. To create a sense of the universal Church among Catholic youth and young adults in the Americas.

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(\*) The word *mística* refers to a set of ideals, attitudes, values, and feelings that motivate and guide people or communities in their faith journey, inspiring their response to God, and generating a spirituality that animates their lives and pastoral ministry. It comes out of a deeply spiritual experience, founded on prayerful reflection about our shared call to ministry and mission as members of the Body of Christ, the Church.

The Mission Cross and its symbols, the theme song, the videos produced in Spanish, and the images and materials utilized in the four sessions all help to generate the *mística* of the Biblical Mission project. Nevertheless, it is the young people—with their enthusiasm, love for Jesus, apostolic zeal, interest in seeing God’s Word come to life, and desire to bring the Good News to their peers—who give the Biblical Mission a prophetic, youthful *mística* that is capable of generating faith in Jesus and his message of salvation.



## Objectives of the young evangelizers and hosts

1. To bring the Word of God in a meaningful way to millions of young people in the Americas, with a bilingual and multicultural reach.
2. To become more aware of their vocation as evangelizers and become apostles to other young people in their own environment.
3. To grow in their faith and enjoy a spirit of collaboration and fellowship with other young people throughout the Americas.
4. To learn a pastoral approach to peer evangelization, designed especially for youth and young adults, with all the necessary resources to be facilitated by youth ministers, catechists, youth and young adult leaders, or parents.
5. To use their knowledge of Sacred Scripture and catechetical training to share the Word of God with other young people.

## Objectives of the Biblical Mission as a response to the Church's call

1. To answer the call of Pope John Paul II for a New Evangelization, in the spirit of the apostolic exhortation *Ecclesia in America*.<sup>1</sup>
2. To answer the call of Pope Benedict XVI in his convocation of the Synod on the Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church, that “the Word of God be known, discerned, loved, and more profoundly grounded and lived in the Church.”<sup>2</sup>
3. To respond to the call of the V General Conference of the Bishops of Latin American and the Caribbean, Aparecida, in 2007, that the Catholic Church in Latin America should remain in an active and permanent *state of mission*.<sup>3</sup>
4. To implement the *Conclusions of the First National Encounter for Hispanic Youth and Young Adult Ministry*, held in the United States,<sup>4</sup> which asked for the creation of pastoral models of evangelization, and formation of leaders among young Latinos, and of *Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry*,<sup>5</sup> which speaks of bringing adolescents to an encounter with Jesus.
5. To respond to the need for unity and diversity within the Church in the United States, with a bilingual missionary effort designed to include young people from all cultural backgrounds.
6. To promote the harmonious collaboration of arch/dioceses, parishes, pastoral institutes, religious congregations, national organizations, and apostolic movements, as promoters and facilitators of the Biblical Missions.

## Biblical Mission motto

The motto of the First Biblical Mission, “God’s Word Comes to Life in Young People,” is the name given by Instituto Fe y Vida to this First Biblical Mission developed as a component of its Biblical Pastoral Initiative. The motto identifies the Biblical Mission system that Instituto Fe y Vida is initiating with this First Biblical Mission, since it reflects the two-fold intention that will remain constant in all subsequent Biblical Missions:

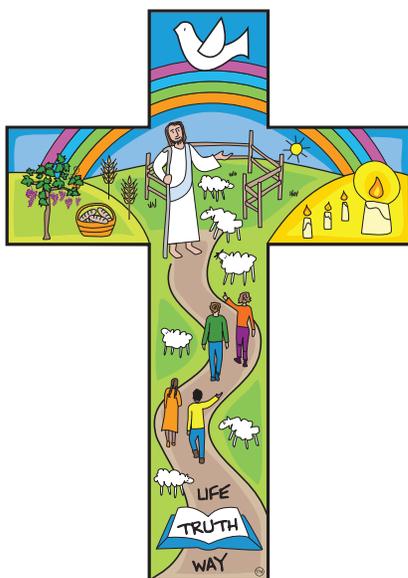
- Young missionaries incarnate the Word of God in their lives, as they live the Biblical Mission and become messengers of the Word among their peers.
- Young missionaries promote the incarnation of the Word of God in the lives of the Biblical Mission participants, so that they, in turn, can share the Word with other young people in their own environment.

## 2. PRESENTATION OF THE FIRST CONTINENTAL BIBLICAL MISSION FOR YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

The theme for the First Continental Biblical Mission for Youth and Young Adults, “God’s Word Comes to Life in Young People,” deals with the meaning of Jesus’ “I am” statements—the symbolic names he gave himself. See the Gospel of John 6:35; 8:12; 10:7; 10:11; 11:25; 14:6; and 15:5. By revealing his identity this way, Jesus affirms that he is God, that in him the promises of the Old Testament are fulfilled. That is how God presented himself to Moses when saying, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob” (Ex 3:6), and that was the name he used when revealing himself to his people through Moses, “I am who am” (v.14).

Introducing Jesus to young people in this way leads to a spiritual encounter that can help them to deepen their friendship with him, experience his liberating love, and open themselves to share the Good News with others. The seven symbolic names of Jesus, presented in the chart on the next page and expressed in the symbols of the Mission Cross, are the foundation of the four sessions in this Biblical Mission, giving form to the specific objectives in each session and inspiring the life-giving messages.

### The Mission Cross: Its symbols and meaning



The Mission Cross has Jesus at its center, inviting participants to embark on a journey to encounter him in the Word of God. This fresh encounter with Jesus motivates them to bring the Living Word to their peers. The rainbow represents God’s covenant with his people, with its foundation in the Old Testament. Through the sacrifice of Jesus, God welcomes all Christians—the new people of God—into a new covenant. The dove is the symbol of the Holy Spirit, who lives within us from the moment of our Baptism, giving us the light and strength to follow Jesus on our journey to the Father, until we achieve perfect union with God in the next life.

These vital teachings of the Christian faith are at the heart of the entire Biblical Mission system, “God’s Word Comes to Life in Young People.”

Through each Biblical Mission, the young missionaries—who are moved by the Holy Spirit to exercise their prophetic calling—bring other young people to an encounter with him, and so they become fountains of life for others, especially their peers.

Scattered throughout the vertical and horizontal beams of the Cross are the symbols that Jesus used to define himself, according to the Gospel of John. Jesus reveals to his followers who he is through these symbols, so they can deepen their understanding of him and his mission, follow in his footsteps, and share the Good News of salvation that Jesus is the Lord, the source of true and everlasting life.

The reading of the Cross starts on the left side of the crossbeam, continues from the foot of the Cross to its center through the vertical beam, and finishes at the right end of the crossbeam. This is the same order followed in the biblical sessions to reflect on the “I am” statements of Jesus. When seeing the symbols, it is possible to “hear” Jesus defining himself, as in the following chart.

	<p><b><i>I am the vine, you are the branches.</i></b> <i>Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. —John 15:5</i></p>
	<p><b><i>I am the bread of life;</i></b> <i>whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst. —John 6:35</i></p>
	<p><b><i>I am the way and the truth and the life.</i></b> <i>No one comes to the Father except through me. —John 14:6</i></p>
	<p><b><i>I am the gate for the sheep...</i></b> <i>Whoever enters... through me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. —John 10:7, 9</i></p>
	<p><b><i>I am the good shepherd.</i></b> <i>A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep... I know [my sheep] and [my sheep] know me. —John 10:11, 14</i></p>
	<p><b><i>I am the light of the world.</i></b> <i>Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. —John 8:12</i></p>
	<p>Matthew projects the symbolic title of Jesus as the light of the world onto his disciples, telling us: <b><i>“You are the light of the world...”</i></b> <i>Your light must shine before others” (Mt 5:14, 16).</i> Only those who are good friends with Jesus, live in union with him, and embody his way of being, living, thinking, and acting, may be the light that illuminates the world in which they live.</p>

## Songbook of the First Biblical Mission

The Biblical Mission theme song, “Go Out and Tell,” by Bobby Fisher and Greg Lee, is biblically inspired, with an evangelizing message that encourages the participants to bring the Word of God to their peers. The lyrics for the song are on p. 94 of this *Guidebook*, and the Biblical Mission website ([www.YouthBiblicalMission.org](http://www.YouthBiblicalMission.org)) gives

registered users access to printable lyrics, an MP3 audio file, and the chord progressions for playing the theme song on the guitar.

In addition to the theme song, the biblical sessions call for the use of pastoral music with a missionary message or themes related to the content of each session. Spirit & Song, a division of Oregon Catholic Press, publishes a wide range of suitable music, and they have compiled a Biblical Mission songbook with a musical selection that complements the biblical sessions. The songbook can be downloaded from the Biblical Mission website. There you will also find links to the resource pages on the Spirit & Song website which will allow you to listen to the recommended songs and purchase MP3s and/or the musical scores of those you will use. A similar selection in Spanish is available to registered users at [www.MisionBiblicaJuvenil.org](http://www.MisionBiblicaJuvenil.org).

## ***The Catholic Youth Bible and its use during the Biblical Mission***

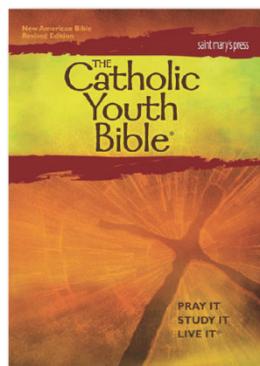
*The Catholic Youth Bible (CYB)* was developed with young people in mind so they can “Pray it, study it, and live it.” The *CYB* provides cultural connections to the Bible, valuable introductions to the major sections and each book of the Bible, as well as a series of pastoral and educational tools. These will enable young people to share the Good News more readily with their peers, in harmony with the Catholic tradition of scriptural interpretation.

### ***The Catholic Youth Bible as an ideal tool for the young missionaries***

The young missionaries must get closer to the Word of God in order to pray with it, share its message, and bring it to life in the Biblical Mission. It would be ideal for all of the young missionaries to have a copy of the *CYB*. This version of the Bible will come in very handy as they grow in response to the call to evangelize their peers.

### ***The text of the New American Bible, Revised Edition or The Catholic Youth Bible: official text of the Biblical Mission***

The *CYB* uses the text of the *New American Bible, Revised Edition*, due to its faithful translation of the original texts and accessible language for young people. In order that the participants in the Biblical Mission may read the same version of the biblical text, the passages that are used for reflection are transcribed in the Biblical Mission publications.



### 3. METHODOLOGICAL INTRODUCTION TO THE *GUIDEBOOK*

This introduction has two sections. The first section explains how the sessions are organized and gives options for studying and mastering them. The second section is a guide to preparing for each of the sessions.

Each session is designed to last for three and a half hours or half a day, either in the morning or in the afternoon. Setting aside enough time for the biblical sessions is very important for three reasons: (a) it allows the message of the Word of God to be probed more deeply, from a biblical and catechetical perspective; (b) it provides greater opportunity for the message to become incarnated in the daily life of the young missionaries and participants; and (c) it permits time for personal and community prayer that strengthen the Christian vocation and nourish the spirituality of the young people. In addition, organizing and carrying out a biblical mission implies special preparation. In order for it to bear fruit, it is important that it be set apart from regular youth or young adult group sessions, which are shorter.

#### Section 1:

#### Organization of the biblical sessions and instructions for their study

All four sessions presented in this *Guidebook* follow the same overall structure and format. The main parts are:

1. **General organization:** Objectives, life-giving messages, session plan, materials for the session, and session process.
2. **Detailed process:** Description of each activity, following the phases of the Pastoral Circle: being—seeing—judging—acting—evaluating—celebrating.

#### Instructions for studying and understanding the sessions

The steps for studying and preparing to facilitate the biblical sessions appear below. While studying them, pay close attention to the instructions for the role you chose, either as host or evangelizer. Find out whether you will serve as evangelizer/host “A” or “B” and underline the tasks associated with your role.

#### 1. Review the general organization of the session

- **The first page of each session** sets the *mística* of the session by:
  - Depicting the *symbolic names of Jesus* with which he presents himself in each session, thereby generating a more personal and complete relationship with Jesus while enabling the participants to discover and understand the greatness of being his disciples.
  - Specifying the *biblical passages* related to the topic, thus focusing the different aspects of the session on Sacred Scripture.
  - Pointing out the *objectives to be fulfilled*, from the young participants’ point of view.

- Expressing the *life-giving messages* that bring the Gospel to life, as the young missionaries conduct the session and the young participants achieve the objectives.
- The **session plan** contains the process for each session, following the six phases of the Pastoral Circle: being—seeing—judging—acting—evaluating—celebrating.
  - Indicates the names of the activities for each phase or step.
  - Provides instructions for conducting each phase and specifies the materials needed for the session.
  - Indicates the approximate time needed to carry out the activities.
  - Works as a “compass” or a “quick reference guide” for the activities to be carried out in each phase of the Pastoral Circle.

When preparing the sessions with your team, write down the adaptations you plan to make and any other important details that need to be remembered.

- The **materials for the session** are grouped as follows:
  - **Altar.** This section lists all the elements needed to set up an altar, remembering that the Mission Bible and the Mission Cross should always take the main place. Included are the biblical symbols for the current session, plus the symbols from previous sessions that should remain on the altar.
  - **Mission trunk.** This section indicates the materials that are needed in all the sessions, including the Mission chest in which the *Journals* are kept between sessions.
  - **Session case.** This section lists the materials that are specific for each session.
  - **Snacks.** This section presents suggestions for food items to share during the social at the end of the session. The snacks should be simple and low-cost, in order to avoid creating a sense of competition among the people who provide them.
- The **session process** presents the procedure to be followed, step by step, through the phases of the Pastoral Circle. When the activities take place, the participants will:
  - Reaffirm their Christian identity (*being*).
  - Reflect on a particular aspect of the reality of their lives (*seeing*).
  - Assess that reality in light of God’s Word (*judging*).
  - Commit to living according to Jesus’ values (*acting*).
  - Identify the fruits of their participation in the session (*evaluating*).

- Conclude the session with a celebration of their faith in prayer, and a celebration of life in the social gathering (*celebrating*).

The session process also includes the time required for each activity, breaks, and a social at the end of the meeting. It is recommended to invite participants to 4-hour sessions in order to allow for extra time in case one of the activities should take longer than expected. In order to facilitate time management, the phases of the Pastoral Circle that require additional time are divided into separate activities with indicators for the duration of each.

- **The responsibilities of the team of young missionaries** are assigned individually to each host and evangelizer, who are identified by the letters “A” or “B,” to clearly distinguish what each person should do during the session.
  - **Text layout.** The numbered paragraphs indicate the main steps needed to carry out a particular activity. Passages indented with a double margin indicate: (a) *a prayer*, if they are in a different font; or (b) *a process that needs to be explained or a text to be read*, if they appear in the same font as the rest of the *Guidebook*.
  - **Explain versus read.** When a missionary needs to explain a concept, it is marked *explain*, meaning that the evangelizer should communicate the concept in his or her own words. Where the instruction says *read*, the text should be read aloud word-for-word, due to the fact that theological concepts can be difficult to express clearly and correctly. Attempting to paraphrase these sections runs the risk of confusing or misleading the participants.

## 2. Read the session process

- Review the phases of the Pastoral Circle: being—seeing—judging—acting—evaluating—celebrating.
- Observe and write down who is responsible for conducting the process and who is the time-keeper for each phase of the Pastoral Circle.
- Read each activity in its entirety, making sure to understand the major steps, components, and time allotted for each.
- Read the whole session once more, underlining words and concepts that you do not fully understand. Clear up your doubts with your team, or ask the adviser.
- Determine whether the activities are to be done in: (a) the large group; (b) small groups; or (c) pairs.

## 3. Make the following comparisons

- Compare each phase of the Pastoral Circle in the session plan with the corresponding phase in the session process. This will give you a general

understanding of the flow of the session and will help you to be effective in your role as evangelizer or host.

- Compare the *Mission Guidebook* with your *Mission Journal*. Call to mind how the life-giving messages made a difference in your life, and try to visualize to what extent the objectives were fulfilled.

## Section 2: Instructions for preparing for each session

The preparation required for the Team of Young Missioners at each Biblical Mission site consists of three stages, as explained below:

### Stage 1: Individual preparation

1. **Start with a prayer.** Pray for a few moments, offering the preparation of the session to our heavenly Father, asking the Holy Spirit to enlighten your mind to understand and keep the Word of God in your heart, and telling Jesus about your desire to become one of his missionary disciples.
2. **Read the entire session.** As you read the session from beginning to end, take note of: (a) the title, objectives, and life-giving messages that give direction and *mística* to the session; and (b) the process activities through which you will achieve the objectives and make the Gospel come to life in the young participants.
3. **Recall your experience of this session.** Review your *Mission Journal* to bring to mind the teachings you received in this session and reflect on how the Word has continued to work in you since that time.
4. **Reread the Scripture passages and the commentaries on them.** Reflect and pray with the Word to discover what God is saying to you now.
5. **Review the session once more, paying attention to your role in each activity.** Identify the steps and activities that will be facilitated by the evangelizers and the materials that the hosts need to prepare. Underline the tasks that are your responsibility, anything that is unclear to you, and what you need to do with your evangelizer or host partner.

### Stage 2: Initial preparation as a team

1. **Start with a prayer.** Sing the Biblical Mission theme song.
2. **Reflect on the main messages of the session.** Share with your fellow young missioners the messages you recalled during the individual preparation, then read the Scripture passages again and discuss them and their commentaries.
3. **Review the entire process.** Go over each activity in order to: (a) make sure that everyone understands the steps to follow; (b) address any uncertainties the team may have and resolve them, or seek assistance from the adviser; and (c) make any adjustments required to meet the particular needs of the group, the site where the session will be held, or time constraints. If the group is very large, some activities will have to be modified so that they do not run too long.



4. **Coordinate tasks with your evangelizer or host partner.** Assign the tasks for evangelizer/host “A” and “B.” Discuss what each of you will prepare by yourself and what you need to do together.
5. **Organize a Mission CD.** When preparing for the first session, it is suggested that you prepare a Mission CD/DVD with the songs for each of the four sessions. If the local community is already familiar with a song that is appropriate for a particular session, you may want to select that one, as it will encourage more young people to sing it.
6. **Identify and coordinate the session songs and the exercises or music for the stretch breaks.** Decide which stretching exercises and songs will be used for the session and who is responsible for leading each one. You may use some of the gathering time to practice new songs with early arrivers.
7. **Finish with a brief prayer and commitment.** End with the “Mission Prayer,” found on page 4 of this *Guidebook*. Hold hands while the young missionaries prayerfully affirm their commitment to become missionary disciples of Jesus and ask for any special assistance or guidance they may need from the Holy Spirit.

### Stage 3: Preparation on the day of the session

It is important for the young missionaries to gather briefly just before each session to make sure they are ready to conduct it, as indicated below:

1. **Arrive on time.** Be sure to arrive at least half an hour early in order to: (a) set up the room; (b) ensure that all materials are ready; and (c) get ready as a team.
2. **Start with a prayer.** Ask the Holy Spirit to enlighten you, help you work well together, and support you at every moment of the session.
3. **Greet the participants.** Welcome the young people, paying special attention to help those who come alone or do not know the rest of the group to feel relaxed.
4. **Facilitate the session.** Conduct all activities, following the process offered in this *Guidebook* and showing the participants how to use the *Journal*.
5. **Involve two participants.** The hosts ask two of the young participants to assist with the social and help with clean-up to leave the Biblical Mission site in order.
6. **Say goodbye to the participants.** As the participants depart, encourage them to live the message Jesus gave them and to return for the next session.
7. **Evaluate the session and organize the next team meeting.** Meet for a few minutes to conduct an evaluation, using the forms provided at the end of the *Guidebook*. Decide on a date for the next meeting—if you have not already done so—to prepare as pairs and as a team for the next session.

# **PART 1**

## **BIBLICAL SESSIONS**

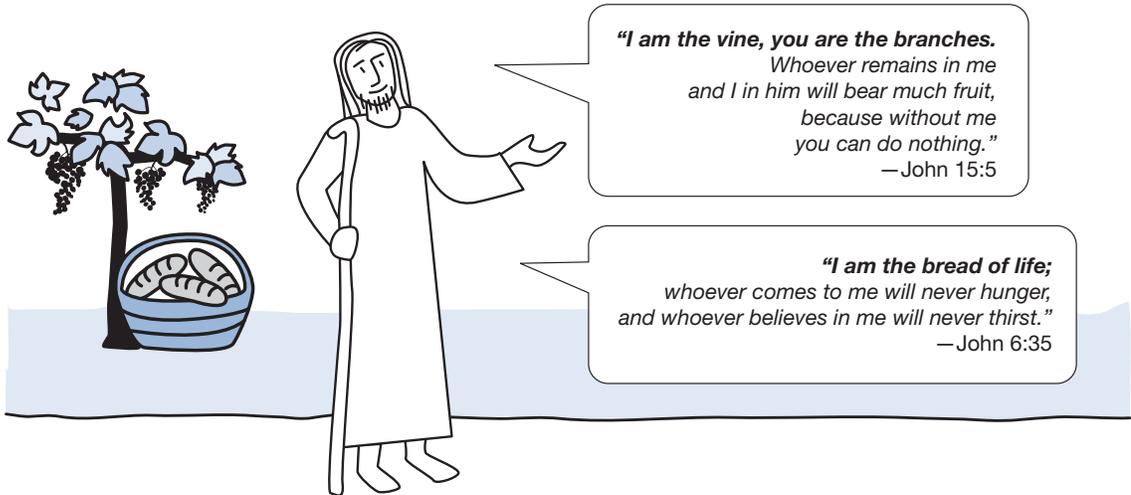
- 1. Jesus gives us his life and empowers us to bear fruit**
- 2. Jesus, the friend who gives life today and always**
- 3. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, loves me, calls me, and gives me life**
- 4. Jesus is the light of the world; I want to be a light for my peers**



PERSONAL NOTES ABOUT THE BIBLICAL MISSION. . .

JESUS GIVES US HIS LIFE  
AND EMPOWERS US TO BEAR FRUIT

# SESSION 1



## OBJECTIVES

- To discover that we belong to Jesus and together we form a community in him.
- To become aware of our hunger for the bread of life.
- To believe that we are capable of bearing the fruits of love and goodness.
- To accept Jesus' invitation to remain united with him.

## LIFE-GIVING MESSAGES

- Through union with Jesus, our life will always have meaning.
- Jesus gives himself to us as nourishment for the journey of life.
- We believe in God the Father, as revealed to us by Jesus.
- As disciples of Jesus, we are called to bear fruit.

# SESSION PLAN

PHASE	ACTIVITY	STEPS	MATERIALS	TIME
BEING	Welcoming and initial prayer	<p><b>Informal welcome</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome the participants individually with the friendly spirit of an informal gathering.</li> </ul> <p><b>Open the session</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Formally welcome the group.</li> <li>Play the theme song.</li> <li>Pray the introductory prayer.</li> </ul>	<p>Mission CD/DVD and equipment</p> <p>Musical instruments</p>	20 Min
	Getting to know each other	<p><b>Introduction of the participants</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explain the activity and give an example of how to carry it out.</li> <li>Conduct the activity.</li> </ul> <p><b>Presentation of the Mission Cross</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduce Jesus and enthrone the Mission Cross.</li> </ul> <p><b>Distribute the Journals and nametags or badges.</b></p>	<p>Mission Cross</p> <p>Nametags or badges</p> <p><i>Mission Journal</i></p>	30 Min
	Strengthening our ties	<p><b>Organize the small groups (SG)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organize the SG and distribute the materials needed.</li> <li>Explain the activity.</li> </ul> <p><b>Conduct the activity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assemble a chain in SG.</li> <li>Dialogue in SG, <i>Journal</i>, p. 8.</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion in the large group</b></p>	<p>Clips, rubber bands</p>	20 Min
Break				15 Min
SEEING	Reflecting on our relational ties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open the <i>Journal</i> to p. 9.</li> <li>Explain and lead the activities on the grapevines, <i>Journal</i>, pp. 9-10.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Mission Journal</i></p> <p>Pencils</p>	20 Min
JUDGING	Listening to the Word of God	<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Listen to the Word of God.</li> <li>Explain the grapevine imagery.</li> </ul> <p><b>Proclaim the Word and commentary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open the <i>Journal</i> to p. 11.</li> <li>Proclaim John 15:1-11.</li> <li>Comment on the Gospel.</li> </ul> <p><b>Reflection in small groups</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dialogue in SG, <i>Journal</i>, p. 12.</li> <li>Explain the biblical meaning of the word <i>to know</i>.</li> <li>Proclaim John 6:35-40.</li> <li>Share in SG, <i>Journal</i>, p. 13.</li> </ul>	<p>Mission Bible</p> <p><i>Mission Journal</i></p>	35 Min

PHASE	ACTIVITY	STEPS	MATERIALS	TIME
ACTING	Making our bonds permanent	<p><b>Initial commentary and invitation to reflect</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relate activities on our relational ties to our permanent bonds.</li> </ul> <p><b>Personal reflection</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lead the activity, <i>Journal</i>, p. 14.</li> </ul> <p><b>Final commentary</b></p>	<p><i>Mission Journal</i></p> <p>Pencils</p>	10 Min
	Stretch break	Sing a song with movements or do a stretching exercise.		5 Min
EVALUATING	Reviewing our life before Jesus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explain the activity and give some examples.</li> <li>Comment on the symbols.</li> <li>Write the main messages in the <i>Journal</i>, p. 15.</li> <li>Draw the symbols, <i>Journal</i>, p. 43.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Mission Journal</i></p> <p>Pencils</p>	15 Min
CELEBRATING	Jesus strengthens us to bear fruit	<p><b>Celebration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Form a circle around the altar, in a prayerful spirit.</li> <li>Kiss the Mission Cross and lift it up.</li> <li>Pass the Cross to each young person and ask him/her the question indicated.</li> <li>Allow enough time to write down a personal prayer to Jesus in the <i>Journal</i>, p. 15.</li> <li>Sing the session song.</li> <li>Store the <i>Journals</i> in the chest and lock it until the next session.</li> </ul>	<p>Altar</p> <p>Mission Cross</p> <p>Mission CD/DVD and equipment</p> <p>Musical instruments</p> <p><i>Mission Journal</i></p> <p>Chest</p>	15 Min
	Announcements and snacks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remind participants of the date of the next session and ask them to invite some friends, if there is room.</li> <li>Invite the participants to help themselves to the snacks.</li> <li>Say goodbye to everyone.</li> <li>Store the nametags or badges for the participants to use again.</li> </ul>	Snacks	25 Min
<b>Total</b>				<b>3:30 hours</b>

# MATERIALS FOR THE SESSION

## Altar

### Basic items

Tablecloth, candles, and flowers

Mission Bible

Mission Cross

Lectern or stand to hold an open Bible

*Note:* At the beginning of the session, the altar should only have the tablecloth, candles, flowers, and a lectern or stand to hold an open Bible. The Mission Cross and Bible will be enthroned during the session.

### Biblical symbols

1. Grapevine or a plant that bears fruit, and a basket of bread

## Mission trunk

LCD projector/laptop, DVD player/TV, or CD player

Mission CD/DVD

Basket with nametags or badges for the participants (with extras for newcomers)

*Mission Journals*

Chest to store the *Mission Journals*

Pens or pencils

Musical instruments

## Session 1 case

Paper clips

Rubber bands

## Snacks

Sodas, fruit punch, cookies, chips, peanuts, or other snacks

Cups and napkins

# SESSION PROCESS



[Facilitation: Hosts and Evangelizer “A”]  
[Timekeeping: Evangelizer “B”]

## ACTIVITY: WELCOMING AND INITIAL PRAYER

[20 minutes]

### Informal welcome

10 minutes

1. The **hosts** welcome the participants as they arrive and invite them to enter the room where the session will be carried out. Once the session has started, if some participants have not yet arrived, the hosts will stay at the door to welcome them. If needed, the hosts will give them a brief explanation of the activity and ask the participants to join in without interrupting the community process.

### Open the session

10 minutes

2. The **evangelizers** start the session on time with a formal welcoming. They play the theme song to foster the *mística* of the Biblical Mission and invite the participants to learn the song and sing along.
3. **Evangelizer “A”** invites the participants to enter into a spirit of prayer and begins the session with the prayer on p. 8 of the *Journal*. He or she makes the sign of the cross and prays:

Jesus, prophet to all nations and our brother, we thank you for gathering us in this Biblical Mission, so that God's Word may come to life in these young people. We want to know and love you more and to bring your love to others.

Send your Spirit upon each one present here. Stay with us and work through us! Give us the words you want us to speak and lead us by the hand to our loving Father, in the company of Mary, your Mother and ours. Amen.

## ACTIVITY: GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER

[30 minutes]

### Introduction of the participants

20 minutes

1. The **evangelizers** gather the participants together and invite them to form a circle, either standing or seated.
2. **Evangelizer “A”**:
  - Invites everyone to learn the names of their fellow participants, since they have all been invited by Jesus to become part of the community of this Biblical Mission. In order to do this, each person will say his or her name aloud and a nice nickname they have from their friends or family, explaining briefly why they have that nickname. For example: “I am *Melanie-dynamite*, because I put a lot of passion and energy into everything I do.”
  - Explains the challenge: each participant, after giving his or her own name and nickname, has to repeat the names and nicknames of everyone to their left, starting with the closest one, until everyone has been introduced.
3. The **participants** introduce each other as follows:
  - **Evangelizer “A”** begins by giving his or her name, nickname, and the reason for that nickname.
  - The person to the right follows, giving his or her name and nickname, telling the reason for the nickname, and then repeating the name and nickname of evangelizer “A.”
  - The next person introduces him or herself and says the name and nickname of both the person to the left and evangelizer “A”, and so on.
  - To finish, **evangelizer “B,”** who is at the end of the circle, repeats the names and nicknames of all the participants.

### Presentation of the Mission Cross

5 minutes

1. **Both hosts** enter the room together. **Host “A”** carries the Mission Cross, holding it high and places it between the two evangelizers.
2. **Host “B”**:
  - Introduces Jesus by reading the following words:

Jesus is our honored guest today; in fact, we are gathered for him. He invited us to be here, and this Biblical Mission is as much his as it is ours. We have all introduced ourselves, but as the guest of honor, Jesus introduces himself at the end. Today he wants to do so with two symbolic names that he gave himself to help us understand who he is.

Jesus calls himself *the vine*—a living plant that produces grapes—and *the bread of life*, our daily food.

Today we will get to know Jesus better by reflecting on these two names.

As a team member, I have the honor of enthroning the Mission Cross on the altar, which we have prepared for Jesus with dedication and love. From now on, Jesus is present among us in this Biblical Mission, in a special manner. I invite you to open your heart to Jesus and give him a round of applause to welcome him.

- Enthrones the Mission Cross on the altar.

### **Distribute the *Journals* and nametags or badges**

5 minutes

#### **3. Host “A”:**

- Invites each participant by name to receive their nametag or badge and their *Journal*.
- Distributes the nametags, *Journals*, and pencils to the participants, with the assistance of Host “B.”

## **ACTIVITY: STRENGTHENING OUR TIES**

**[20 minutes]**

### **Organize the small groups**

5 minutes

#### **1. Evangelizer “A”:**

- Organizes the participants into small groups of three or four young people, where they will remain for this entire session. Gives each participant an ordinary paper clip and a rubber band.
- Invites the participants to assemble a chain with the clips, the rubber bands, and eight other items or accessories of their own. Gives a few minutes so that, applying their creativity, they may carry out the task.

### **Carry out the activity**

10 minutes

2. Each **small group** assembles its own chain, and once finished describes it by answering the questions on p. 8 of the *Mission Journal*:
  - *What makes the chain you just assembled unique?*
  - *Which are the strongest and the weakest links?*
  - *How many different ways did you find to link the pieces in your chain? Describe them.*

## Conclusion in the large group

5 minutes

3. **Evangelizer “A”** opens a dialogue in the large group to deepen the participants’ understanding of this activity, asking the following question: What insights about “community” can you draw out of your experience assembling the chain?

## ACTIVITY: BREAK

[15 minutes]

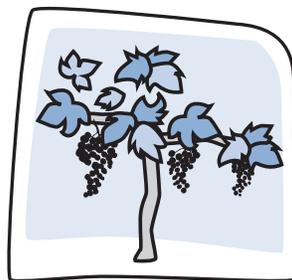


[Facilitation: Evangelizer “A”]  
[Timekeeping: Evangelizer “B”]

## ACTIVITY: REFLECTING ON OUR RELATIONAL TIES

[20 minutes]

1. **Evangelizer “A”** invites the participants to open their *Journal* to p. 9, where a grapevine is illustrated. He or she explains how to carry out the exercise on the grapevines illustrated on pp. 9 and 10.
2. **Each participant** writes the following on the grapevines:
  - On the first grapevine: (a) *on the trunk*, the participants write their own name; (b) *on the branches*, the participants write the names of the five people who are closest to them; and (c) *on the leaves*, they write three things that connect them to each person (for instance, friendship, interesting conversations, reaching goals together, mischief, hobbies, etc.).
  - On the second grapevine: (a) *on the trunk*, the participants write Jesus’ name; (b) *on each of the branches*, the participants write one quality of Jesus that attracts them to him (for instance, his compassion, his courage...); and (c) *on the leaves*, they write something that connects them to Jesus, such as love, friendship, baptism, or something else.



# JUDGING



[Facilitation: Evangelizer “B”]

[Proclamation of the Gospel and timekeeping: Evangelizer “A”]

## ACTIVITY: LISTENING TO THE WORD OF GOD

[35 minutes]

### Introduction

5 minutes

#### 1. Evangelizer “B”:

- Lifts up the Mission Bible, approaches the altar, places the Bible on the lectern or stand, and opens it to John 15:1–11.
- Invites the participants to take a moment of silence and prepare themselves to listen to the Word of God in these or similar words:

Let us take a few moments to prepare ourselves to listen to the Word of God. As you listen to the Gospel, pay close attention to the symbolic name Jesus gives himself. He defines himself as “the vine.” The grapevine was a well-known plant in his time and is still widely cultivated today. This symbolic name helps his followers understand his relationship with God the Father and with us.

Jesus speaks of us as the branches on the vine. Thus, he emphasizes the bonds of unity all Christians have with him, which are established by faith at the time of our Baptism and are nourished especially through the Eucharist.

We Christians believe in God as revealed by Jesus. He knows the Father better than anyone else and he wants us all to enjoy his great love; that is why Jesus wants us to remain united to him. In the following passage we see in our own lives the work of the Father, who Jesus presents to us as the vine grower. Let us pray in silence to prepare our hearts to receive this Good News. [pause]

- Asks the participants to listen carefully to the proclamation of the Gospel by evangelizer “A,” so that they may identify Jesus’ main message.
- Mentions that they can either listen to the proclamation or read along with it on p. 11 of the *Journal*, if this helps them to better understand Jesus’ message.

## Proclaim the Word and commentary

5 minutes

### 2. Evangelizer “A”:

- Invites the participants to let God’s Word penetrate to the bottom of their hearts in order to nourish their lives with Jesus’ teachings. Instructs them to follow the passage in their *Journals*, if they would like to do so.
- Proclaims John 15:1–11.

### 3. Evangelizer “B” explains the following:

Some of you may have received different messages in this reading, because God’s Word comes to each person according to his or her own life experience and to the situation you are in when you hear God’s Word. So if there is agreement among you, the idea will be strengthened; if you have different opinions, your insights will enrich one another.

In this reading, it is important to understand that the branches in the vine represent us, and we are bound to the trunk, which is Jesus, by a special part of the vine, called the nodes. The vine grower—who is God the Father—prunes or cuts off dry parts of the branch as needed, but he never prunes the nodes that bind the branches to the trunk.

New branches spring up from the vine’s nodes and, as long as the nodes are not cut off, pruning or thinning out the branches allows them to grow again and bear more fruit. Dry branches are removed in order to allow new branches to grow from the nodes and bear fruit again. As Jesus promised his disciples, he is always with us. God prunes us so we may grow stronger by following his commands and bear good fruit.

## Reflection in small groups

10 minutes

4. **Evangelizer “B”:** Invites the participants to return to the small group in which they assembled their chain and discuss the questions on p. 12 of the *Journal*.
5. **Each small group** enters into a discussion of the Gospel reading, assisted by the following questions:
  - *What are the fruits of being united to Jesus?*
  - *Why does Jesus want us to be united to him and, through him to be united with one another?*
  - *How does this reading relate to your experience of the relational ties activity?*

### 6. Evangelizer “B”:

- Explains the following:

In this Biblical Mission we will get to know several ways in which Jesus speaks about himself. In Jesus’ language and culture, *to know* means “to experience something with all of our being.” It’s not only a matter of knowing something about God in an intellectual way, but of having a living relationship with him.

*To know* in the biblical sense implies the experience of knowing, feeling, and living with something. In this Biblical Mission we will get to *know* Jesus better through our intelligence, feelings, and shared experience. I invite you to treasure the messages and reflections that go deeper into your heart, so that you may have a closer relationship with Jesus and with the faith community.

In the reading from the Gospel that will be proclaimed in a few moments, Jesus gives himself another symbolic name stating, “I am the bread of life” (Jn 6:35). When Jesus identifies himself as bread, just like when he identified himself with the vine, he is presenting himself to us as a meal.

Jesus nourishes us in many ways, especially in the Eucharist, when the bread and wine become his body and blood, sacrificed on the cross out of love for us. When listening to the Gospel, keep in mind that God has always nourished his people for their journey through life.

Unleavened bread was an important symbol of the Jewish Passover, when the ancient Israelites started their journey from slavery to freedom in the Promised Land. Through the bread we receive in the Eucharist, Jesus feeds us with himself. He always invites us to come to the table and receive the nourishment of his liberating and merciful love, which he is also doing through this Biblical Mission in a different way.

It is up to us to prepare and open our hearts to receive Jesus. When we do, we will enjoy the new life that he gives us to face the challenges we will encounter on our journey through life. We also receive the promise of new life with God forever, which comes from resurrection.

- Invites participants to listen to the Gospel, allowing God’s Word to penetrate their hearts and lives.

## 7. Evangelizer “A”:

- Invites the participants to listen and allow God’s Word to penetrate into their lives and hearts. Reminds them that they can follow the passage on p. 13 of the *Journal*, if they wish to do so.
- Proclaims John 6:35–40.

## Reflection in small groups

10 minutes

8. **Evangelizer “B”:** Indicates that they will have a discussion of the reading in small groups, helped by the questions on p. 13 of the *Journal*.
9. **Each small group** enters into dialogue, assisted by the following questions:
  - *A hungry person looks for food. It is urgent for an undernourished person to obtain food. How is the hunger of young people for God’s love noticeable? To what extent are young people undernourished and ill from a lack of love?*
  - *Jesus wants to nourish today’s young people with his liberating and merciful love. If he asked you how to do it, how would you answer him?*



[Facilitation: Evangelizer “A”]  
[Timekeeping: Evangelizer “B”]

## ACTIVITY: MAKING OUR BONDS PERMANENT

[10 minutes]

### Initial commentary and invitation to reflect

2 minutes

#### 1. Evangelizer “A”:

- Relates the reflection that will take place on the permanent bonds to the activity that took place on relational ties, indicating that for our human love to mature and be life-giving like Jesus’, we need to fortify our relationship with him and receive our nourishment from the Eucharist and from God’s Word. When we do this, we will be able to maintain better relationships with other people, strengthening the relationships when they grow weak, and restoring them when they fall apart.
- Invites the participants to think about how they can enrich or deepen each relationship represented in the grapevines in order to strengthen

and reinforce their relational ties so that they may become permanent bonds, made firm by the Spirit of Jesus.

## Personal reflection

6 minutes

2. **Evangelizer “A”:** Guides the participants step by step in their reflection on p. 14 of the *Journal*, starting with the grapevine of their relationship with Jesus, p. 10
3. **Each participant** writes his or her reflection on the grapevines, guided by the evangelizer who reads:

Jesus wants us to be bound to him, just as the grapevine branches are bound to the trunk, so that we may receive our nourishment from him and bear the fruits of love and goodness in our relationships. We will continue reflecting with the grapevines:

Return to the grapevine that represents your relationship with Jesus on p. 10 of the *Journal*:

- On the four clusters without the falling grapes, write how Jesus enriches or improves your personal life.
- On the three clusters with only the silhouette of grapes, write aspects of your life that need to be nurtured by Jesus’ love.
- On the three clusters with the falling grapes, write three ways by which you can bring the love of Jesus to those who need it.

Keep in mind that you count on Jesus to help you love others in an unselfish way. Return to the grapevine on p. 9 of the *Journal*, which represents your closest human relationships:

- On the cluster with grapes that is attached to each person’s branch, write a word that represents how you enrich that person’s life with your love.
- On the cluster with only the silhouette of grapes on each person’s branch, write a word that indicates what you can do in the future to enrich the life of that person with your love.

## Final commentary

2 minutes

4. **Evangelizer “A”:**

- States the following:

We have identified actions, feelings, or attitudes that unite us to other people and to Jesus. Everything that unites us and gives us the life that God wants for us is the fruit of God’s love. If there are problems in a relationship that cause harm to you or the other person instead of giving life, they should be corrected or removed, just as the vine grower prunes the dry twigs without harming the nodes.

Think for a moment about each person represented on the first grapevine; if there are aspects of your significant relationships that call for a correction, write them down next to the corresponding branches. You will have an opportunity to present them in silence to Jesus, so that he may help you correct them.

- Concludes the activity by inviting everyone to sing a song or do a stretching exercise in order to prepare them for the last reflection of the session.

## ACTIVITY: STRETCH BREAK

[5 minutes]



[Facilitation: Evangelizer "B"]  
[Timekeeping: Evangelizer "A"]

## ACTIVITY: REVIEWING OUR LIFE BEFORE JESUS

[15 MINUTES]

### 1. Evangelizer "B":

- Tells the participants that at the end of each session they will have an opportunity to write on the scrolls in their *Journal* the most important messages they received from Jesus, and they will fill out their personal Mission cross with symbols representing these messages.
- Invites the participants to reflect in silence and write in the first scroll on p. 15 of the *Journal*, the messages from Jesus that touched their hearts in this session or that had an impact on how they want to live their lives.
- Explains the following:

Symbols are vital in religious language, as they allow us to express deep and intense experiences that could not be described otherwise.

Your personal Mission cross on p. 43 of the *Journal* has two important symbols: the rainbow, which represents God's covenant with his people; and the dove, symbol of the presence of the Holy Spirit in and among us. Thus, the Holy Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—is represented on the cross.

- Invites the participants to draw two or three symbols that represent Jesus' messages, faith experiences, encouragements of the Spirit, resolutions, etc., experienced in this session. Tells them that they can be drawings or words with a special meaning, and should be of a size that allows at least eight symbols to fit—two or three symbols per session.
2. In silence, **all of the participants** draw the symbols they each chose on their personal Mission cross, found on p. 43 of the *Journal*.



[Facilitation: Evangelizers and hosts]  
[Timekeeping: Evangelizers]

## ACTIVITY: JESUS STRENGTHENS US TO BEAR FRUIT

[15 MINUTES]

### 1. Evangelizer “B”:

- Invites participants to form a circle around the altar, and to enter into a spirit of prayer.
- Takes the Mission Cross from the altar, kisses it, raises it, and explains that the session will end with a ritual. Tells the participants that they will each receive the Mission Cross in their hands, and they will have a few moments to respond to Jesus in silence, from the bottom of their hearts.
- Approaches evangelizer “A” and tells him or her:
 

Receive the Cross of Jesus, the true vine and the bread of life. Jesus wants to be in a closer union with you to nurture you and give life to you, so that you may bear abundant fruits of love and goodness to the people around you. How do you respond to him?
- Evangelizer “A” takes the Cross in his or her hands, looks at it, and says to Jesus in silence whatever prayer comes from the heart. He or she passes the Mission Cross back to evangelizer “B,” who then repeats the ritual with the next person in the circle.
- After all the participants have received the Mission Cross, evangelizer “B” invites the participants to write on the second scroll, found on p. 15 of the *Journal*, the most meaningful part of their prayer, indicating that on the last page of each session, they will write the most important things they want to tell Jesus as their personal response to God’s Word.

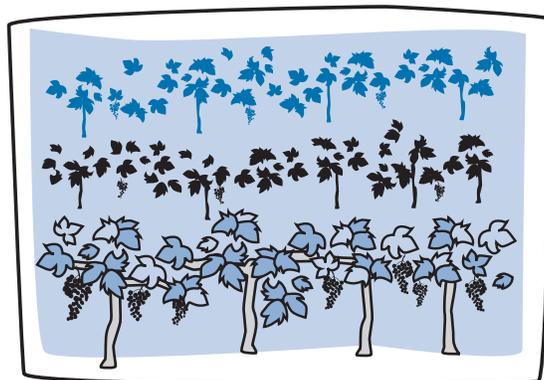
## 2. Evangelizer “A”:

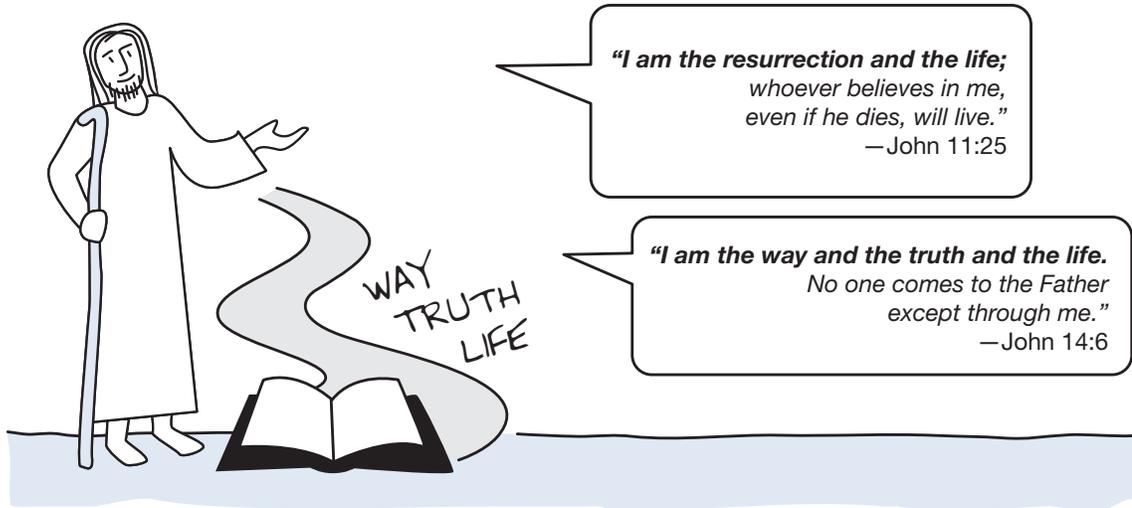
- Prepares the song for this session and invites the participants to listen to it, become familiar with the lyrics and melody, and identify the words that have the most meaning for them personally.
- Invites all of the participants to sing along. If they know the song by heart, they may sing it while holding hands in a circle.
- Asks them to leave their nametags on the altar as a symbol of their willingness to stay close to “Jesus, the true vine and the bread of life,” throughout the week. Instructs them to put their *Journals* in the chest prepared for this purpose.
- Explains that the *Journals* will be stored in the chest so they will not forget to bring them to the next session. To ensure confidentiality, the chest will be locked by the hosts and safeguarded by the evangelizers until the following session. When the Biblical Mission is over, the *Journals* will be given back to them in a special ritual at the Closing Liturgy.

## ACTIVITY: ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SNACKS

[25 MINUTES]

1. **Host “B”** reminds the participants of the date for the next session and invites them to bring one or two friends, if there is still room at the Biblical Mission site. If applicable, reminds them that there are Biblical Missions going on in other places and on different dates, where their friends may also attend.
2. **Host “A”** invites the participants to help themselves to the snacks.
3. At the designated time to end the session, **both hosts** will:
  - Dismiss the participants in a friendly and joyful way, telling them that they look forward to meeting them again at the next session.
  - Store the nametags or badges, which the participants will use again in the next session.





## OBJECTIVES

- To deepen the understanding of Jesus as our Savior.
- To reflect on our need for salvation and new life as offered by the Risen Jesus.
- To recognize that the truths Jesus reveals about God and about us are liberating and life-giving.
- To long for the life that Jesus promised us and to make a choice to follow him, to live close to him, and to try to be like him.

## LIFE-GIVING MESSAGES

- Jesus is the Messiah, the Savior, the only one capable of giving us new life and authentic happiness, by strengthening us when we face challenges.
- We believe in the person, actions, and words of Jesus.
- Jesus shows us the way, tells us the truth, and gives us life.
- Following Jesus brings us to our loving Father, both in this life and the next.

# SESSION PLAN

PHASE	ACTIVITY	STEPS	MATERIALS	TIME
BEING	Welcoming and initial prayer	<p><b>Informal welcome</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome the participants individually with the friendly spirit of an informal gathering.</li> <li>Hand out the nametags or badges and <i>Journals</i>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Open the session</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Formally welcome the group.</li> <li>Play the theme song.</li> <li>Pray the introductory prayer, <i>Journal</i>, p. 18.</li> </ul>	<p>Nametags or badges</p> <p><i>Mission Journal</i></p> <p>Mission CD/DVD and equipment</p> <p>Musical instruments</p>	20 Min
	Telling one truth and two lies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explain the activity and give an example of how to do it, <i>Journal</i>, p. 18.</li> <li>Carry out the activity.</li> <li>Conclude the activity.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Mission Journal</i></p> <p>Pencils</p>	25 Min
SEEING	Thinking about what is real and what is fake in our lives	<p><b>Introduction and personal reflection</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open the <i>Journal</i> to p. 19.</li> <li>Explain and conduct the activity.</li> </ul> <p><b>Reflection in small groups (SG)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dialogue based on the questions in the <i>Journal</i>, p. 20.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Mission Journal</i></p> <p>Pencils</p>	20 Min
Break				15 Min
JUDGING	Listening to the Word of God	<p><b>Commentary, reflection, and proclaim the Word</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invite participants to think about their preferred names for Jesus.</li> <li>Share in pairs.</li> <li>Invite participants to listen to the Word of God, <i>Journal</i>, p. 21.</li> <li>Proclaim John 11:17-27.</li> </ul> <p><b>Catechetical commentaries</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explain the word <i>Messiah</i>.</li> <li>Personal reflection No. 1, <i>Journal</i>, p. 21.</li> <li>Explain the meaning of the <i>resurrection</i> offered by Jesus.</li> </ul> <p><b>Proclaim the Word and reflection</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proclaim once more John 11:17-27.</li> <li>Personal reflection No. 2, <i>Journal</i>, p. 22.</li> <li>Silent reflection, then reflect in SG, <i>Journal</i>, p. 22.</li> </ul> <p><b>Final commentary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conclude the activity.</li> </ul>	<p>Mission Bible</p> <p><i>Mission Journal</i></p>	40 Min

PHASE	ACTIVITY	STEPS	MATERIALS	TIME
ACTING	Dying in order to live	<p><b>Meditation: Part 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain the activity.</li> <li>• Cover the participants with sheets.</li> <li>• Conduct the meditation.</li> </ul> <p><b>Proclaim the Word and reflection</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open the <i>Journal</i> to p. 23.</li> <li>• Proclaim John 14:1–7.</li> <li>• Silent reflection.</li> </ul> <p><b>Meditation: Part 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invite participants to accept the life that Jesus offers us.</li> <li>• Ask the group to form a circle.</li> <li>• Share in pairs.</li> <li>• Conclude the activity.</li> </ul>	Mission Bible Bed sheets to cover each participant	25 Min
	Stretch break	Sing a song with movements or do a stretching exercise.		5 Min
EVALUATING	Reviewing our life before Jesus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare the celebration (Hosts: refer to the activity, “Praying with Jesus”).</li> <li>• Write the main messages in the <i>Journal</i>, p. 24.</li> <li>• Explain what a symbol is and what the activity is about.</li> <li>• Draw the symbols, <i>Journal</i>, p. 43.</li> </ul>	<i>Mission Journal</i> Pencils	15 Min
CELEBRATING	Praying with Jesus	<p><b>Preparation by the hosts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mark a path with seeds, dry leaves, petals, or branches.</li> <li>• Place on the altar the words “Way,” “Truth,” and “Life.”</li> </ul> <p><b>Celebration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invite the participants to form pairs.</li> <li>• Invoke the Holy Spirit.</li> <li>• Explain how to do the personal prayer.</li> <li>• Signal to the first pair to go to the altar.</li> <li>• Pray at the altar.</li> <li>• Write the prayer, <i>Journal</i>, p. 24.</li> <li>• Sing the session song.</li> <li>• Store the <i>Journals</i> in the chest and lock it until the next session.</li> </ul>	Seeds, dried leaves, petals, or branches Words: “Way,” “Truth,” and “Life” Mission CD/DVD and equipment Musical instruments Chest	20 Min
	Announcements and snacks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remind participants of the date of the next session and ask them to invite some friends, if there is room.</li> <li>• Invite the participants to help themselves to the snacks.</li> <li>• Say goodbye to everyone.</li> <li>• Store the nametags or badges for the participants to use again.</li> </ul>	Snacks	20 Min
<b>Total</b>				<b>3:30 hours</b>

# MATERIALS FOR THE SESSION

## Altar

### Basic items

- Tablecloth, candles, and flowers
- Mission Bible
- Mission Cross
- Lectern or stand to hold an open Bible

### Biblical symbols

1. Grapevine or another plant used in Session 1, and a basket of bread
2. A pathway made of seeds, dry leaves, petals or branches with signs that say, "Way," "Truth," and "Life," running from outside the meeting room to the altar

## Mission trunk

- LCD projector/laptop, DVD player/TV, or CD player
- Mission CD/DVD
- Basket with the nametags or badges of the participants (with extras for newcomers)
- Chest with the participants' *Mission Journals*
- Extra copies of the *Mission Journal* for newcomers
- Pens or pencils
- Musical instruments

## Session 2 case

- Bed sheets, blankets, or large pieces of fabric to cover each participant
- Seeds, dry leaves, petals, or branches to mark a long path, running from outside the meeting room to the altar

## Snacks

- Sodas, fruit punch, cookies, chips, peanuts, or other snacks
- Cups and napkins

# SESSION PROCESS



[Facilitation: Hosts and Evangelizer “B”]  
[Timekeeping: Evangelizer “A”]

## ACTIVITY: WELCOMING AND INITIAL PRAYER

[20 MINUTES]

### Informal welcome

10 minutes

1. The **hosts** welcome the participants as they arrive, hand them their badges or nametags, pencils, and their *Journals*, and invite them to enter the room where the session will be carried out. Once the session has started, if some participants have not yet arrived, the hosts will stay at the door to welcome them. If needed, the hosts will give them a brief explanation of the activity and ask the participants to join in without interrupting the community process.

### Open the session

10 minutes

2. The **evangelizers** start the session on time with a formal welcoming. They play the theme song to foster the *mística* of the Biblical Mission and invite the participants to learn the song and sing along.
3. **Evangelizer “B”** begins the session as follows:
  - If there are young people who are attending for the first time, asks them to introduce themselves and encourages them to feel at home.
  - Invites the participants to enter into a spirit of prayer and begins the session with the prayer on p. 18 of the *Journal*. He or she makes the sign of the cross and prays:

*Good and gracious Father, thank you for creating us in your image and likeness. We thank you also for making a covenant of love with your people and for sending your Son Jesus to seal it forever and bring it to completion.*

*We want Jesus to teach us the way to happiness and authentic life with you. Send your Spirit upon us to help walk with Jesus always. We ask you this through*

your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and through the intercession of Mary, our Mother. Amen.

## ACTIVITY: TELLING ONE TRUTH AND TWO LIES

[25 MINUTES]

### 1. Evangelizer “B”:

- Tells the participants that they will be doing an exercise to help them get to know one another better and asks them to open their *Journal* to p. 18.
- Invites the participants to write three short statements about themselves on p. 18 of the *Journal*. *One should be true, and the other two should be lies*. For example: (a) I have fifteen cousins; (b) I play the guitar; and (c) I perform in a dance troupe.
- Explains that all of the statements must be plausible so that the other participants will not easily guess which one is true. Allows time to write.
- Asks evangelizer “A” to give an example of how to do the activity by giving three statements about himself or herself, identifying them by the letters “a,” “b,” and “c,” respectively.
- Invites the participants to raise their hands according to which statement they think is true, allowing some time to count how many hands are raised each time:
  - Raise their hands those who think that statement “a” is true.
  - Those who think that statement “b” is true.
  - Those who think that statement “c” is true.
- Evangelizer “A” reveals the *true* statement.

### 2. Evangelizer “A” invites the participants to come forward, one by one, until all of them have presented their one truth and two lies.

### 3. Evangelizer “B”:

- Asks each participant to read his or her three statements to everyone.
- Invites the group to guess which statement they think is true, following the example given before.
- Concludes the activity after everyone has had a chance to reveal their true statement by explaining:

Oftentimes we get the wrong idea about people—about their personality, character, or other qualities. Also, we sometimes reveal ourselves in incomplete or fake ways, because we have not yet discovered who we truly are, or because we think it will make other people like us more.

For an interpersonal relationship to mature, it must be built upon the truth about ourselves and always be authentic. Today we will reflect upon these issues in light of the symbolic names that Jesus gave himself in two more passages from the Gospel of John.



[Facilitation: Evangelizer “B”]  
[Timekeeping: Evangelizer “A”]

## ACTIVITY: THINKING ABOUT WHAT IS TRUE AND WHAT IS FAKE IN OUR LIVES [20 minutes]

### Introduction and personal reflection 10 minutes

1. **Evangelizer “B”:**
  - Asks the participants to open the *Journal* to p. 19, where the activity is found, and asks them to reflect on what is real and what is fake in their lives.
  - Reminds them that the *Journal* is confidential and that they will not be sharing what they write for this reflection with anyone.
  - Explains how the exercise will be carried out.
2. **Each participant** fills out the chart, thinking about what is real and what is fake in his or her own life.
  - In the column titled “Real,” the participants write: (a) three positive qualities about themselves or virtues they have acquired; and (b) three flaws or shortcomings they have.
  - In the column titled “Fake,” the participants write: (a) two false statements about themselves that they sometimes tell people; and (b) two deceitful acts they have committed or lies they have intentionally told someone recently.

### Reflection in small groups 10 minutes

3. **Evangelizer “B”** invites the participants to reflect in small groups about what they learned in the exercise, following the questions on p. 20 of the *Journal*.

- What motivates you to be authentic?
- What are the positive consequences of being authentic, even about our own flaws?
- What are the negative consequences of being dishonest when relating to others?
- What do you need to do to become more authentic in your relationships?

## ACTIVITY: BREAK

[15 MINUTES]



[Facilitation: Evangelizer “A”]  
[Proclamation of the Gospel and timekeeping: Evangelizer “B”]

## ACTIVITY: LISTENING TO THE WORD OF GOD

[40 MINUTES]

### Commentary, reflection, and proclaim the Word

10 minutes

#### 1. Evangelizer “A”:

- Invites the participants to think about: (a) the three most common names they use when praying to or talking about Jesus, and why; (b) how they would introduce Jesus to a child if they were asked, “Who do you say Jesus is?”
- Asks them to share their reflections in pairs, for five minutes.
- Indicates that the gospel passage that will be proclaimed includes a reference to Jesus as the *Messiah*, and that this title will help them to better understand the two symbolic names Jesus uses to describe himself in today’s session.
- Invites the participants to prepare themselves to listen carefully to God’s Word. Reminds them that they can follow along on p. 21 of the *Journal*.

#### 2. Evangelizer “B” proclaims John 11:17–27.

### Catechetical commentaries

10 minutes

#### 3. Evangelizer “A”:

- Explains the meaning of the word *Messiah* as follows:

In this passage, Martha called Jesus the *Messiah*. The word *messiah* comes from the Hebrew word meaning “anointed.” It refers to a ritual performed during the ceremony to install the kings of Israel, in which the king had oil poured and smeared over his head to symbolize strengthening his mind and body for his royal duties.

In later Old Testament times, the Jews used the word *Messiah* when referring to the person promised by God, who would be anointed as king of Israel. He would be a political savior who would liberate them from their oppressors, and would reign over them by establishing the peace and justice they longed for.

The Christian community began to call Jesus “the Christ,” which is the Greek word for “anointed,” after the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, when they had come to understand that Jesus was the promised Messiah. “Christ” is the most common name given to Jesus of Nazareth after his Resurrection.

Jesus was anointed, not with oil, but with the Holy Spirit at his baptism. He is the Lord, the King of Kings, the Savior of all humankind. We know that Jesus is the Messiah because of our faith, because of his liberating and life-giving acts, and because of the testimony of his disciples.

Today, we come to understand the freedom and life he gives us by listening to the Word of God. I invite you to let Jesus’ works and words reach your hearts and change your lives, so that you may have a loving, liberating, and life-giving relationship with him, as his disciples did.

- Invites the participants to think about how often they address Jesus as *Christ, Messiah, Jesus Christ, or Lord*, and what it means for them to call Jesus by these names. Gives them a few minutes to do Personal Reflection No. 1 on p. 21 of the *Journal*.
- 4. **Each participant** reflects in silence and writes his or her reflection on p. 21 of the *Journal*.
- 5. **Evangelizer “A”** reads the following explanation of the word *resurrection*:

When Jesus came to see Lazarus, it had already been several days since he had died and been put in the tomb. However, Jesus brought him back to life in a temporary way, since Lazarus eventually died again, as we all do. In a later passage, Jesus promises resurrection unto eternal life for those who follow him:

Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it

remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me” (John 12:23-26).

Jesus came into the world to free us from sin and everything that enslaves us and holds back our development as sons and daughters of God. Since childhood and during his youth, Jesus prepared himself for his saving mission, which he fulfilled by giving everything, even dying for us on the cross. Through his Resurrection, Jesus conquered death not only for himself, but also for those who follow him.

Jesus’ death and resurrection are often called the Paschal Mystery, which is the foundation of the Christian faith. The first time we live this mystery is in our Baptism as we die to sin and are born to the grace of living as a son or daughter of God. We relive the Paschal Mystery in the sacrament of the Eucharist, in which we participate in the eternal sacrifice of Jesus on the cross.

I invite you to listen once more to the Gospel, putting yourself in Lazarus’ place. Each one of us is Jesus’ beloved friend. He died in order to give us the gift of life now and forever.



## Proclaim the Word and reflection

15 minutes

6. **Evangelizer “B”** proclaims once more John 11:17–27.

7. **Evangelizer “A”**:

- Invites the participants to reflect in silence about the following question: “What does it mean to you that Jesus said, ‘I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live?’” (John 11:25). Asks them to think about their life here on earth and their eternal life with God, writing their personal reflection in the space on p. 22 of the *Journal*.
- Allows five minutes for Personal Reflection No. 2, *Journal*, p. 22.
- Invites the participants to continue their reflection in small groups, using the questions on p. 22 of the *Journal*. Allows five minutes for conversation.

8. **Each small group** discusses their answers to the following questions:
- *On which occasions have you felt discouraged, hopeless, or burdened with a heavy emotional load?*
  - *How have you felt when you “came back to life” after a very difficult situation?*
  - *When have you felt that your faith in Jesus has given you life?*

## Final commentary

5 minutes

9. **Evangelizer “A”** concludes the activity by explaining the following:

Human nature is strong and powerful, weak and limited, all at the same time. We can do many good things, but we can also fail; sometimes we go the right way, and sometimes we go astray. We may fall into unhealthy habits, but we can rise again after our falls. We may get lost, but later we find the way home. We can pull away from Jesus, but we can also be reconciled with him and walk beside him.

The point for us is to draw support from Jesus to avoid mistakes and to receive new life from him when we fail. With Jesus we can always turn our lives around and walk through life with love and true freedom—the freedom to always do what is right.



*[Facilitation: Evangelizer “B”]  
[Timekeeping: Evangelizer “A”]*

## ACTIVITY: DYING IN ORDER TO LIVE

[25 MINUTES]

### Meditation: Part 1

10 minutes

1. **Evangelizer “B”** invites the participants to engage silently in the following meditation. He or she asks them to lie down on the floor with their eyes closed and to allow themselves to be covered with a bed sheet or a blanket.
2. **Both hosts** cover each participant with a bed sheet or blanket.
3. **Evangelizer “B”** leads the meditation, pausing briefly at the ellipses and after each paragraph, and pausing for a longer time as indicated.

Focus your attention on my voice. Relax your body, starting with your feet... your legs... your stomach... your chest... your arms... your hands... your neck... your head... your face...

Breathe slowly... listen to the air passing from your nose to your lungs and back... Imagine that in a few minutes you will stop breathing... you are about to die.

Your relatives and friends are sad... You have just died and you are standing next to Jesus as you review together your entire life.

Think about the times of great happiness and peace in your life... Relive them and enjoy them again. *[Long pause.]*

Bring to mind your highest ideals and longings... Did you work for them in your lifetime? *[Long pause.]*

Now call to mind your greatest pains and sufferings... the major uncertainties and anguishes... How did you handle them? *[Long pause.]*

Try to visualize your whole life's journey... Identify the times when you were especially close to God... and those other times when you felt far away from God... Think of the things, attitudes, actions, relationships, or other reasons that drew you away from God. *[Long pause.]*

Remember the times when you did what Jesus teaches us... and those times when you did the opposite of what Jesus wants for you. *[Long pause.]*

Allow yourself to feel Jesus' sadness for the times you wasted the beauty and greatness of your life as a son or daughter of God... Let's observe a minute of silence, asking forgiveness for the sins each of us has committed in our lives. *[One-minute pause.]*

At the same time, you know that our Father is loving and merciful... and that Jesus came to save you... to give you life... Put your hands on your heart and feel it beating.

Right now, Jesus wants you to know and believe that you have countless opportunities to overcome the weaknesses that sometimes have caused you to move away from God... He wants you to think about how you can grow as a Christian, a follower of Jesus, the Christ.

Remember that Jesus *is* the resurrection and the life; all who believe in him will live, even if they have died... He *is* the way, the truth, and the life; when we stand with Jesus, his promise that we will receive the fullness of life in God's love forever is within reach. Let us prepare ourselves to listen from the heart as Jesus tells us once again who he is.

## Proclaim the Word and reflection

5 minutes

### 1. Evangelizer "A":

- Proclaims John 14:1–7.

- Invites the participants to reflect for a few minutes on Jesus' message.

## Meditation: Part 2

10 minutes

2. **Both evangelizers** work together to approach every participant one at a time, remove their sheet or blanket, and whisper the following into their ear:

Jesus is always with you. He wants you to have life and he is asking you to believe that he is the Messiah, the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Get up now and sit in a circle with Jesus and your peers.

3. **Each participant** reflects on believing in Jesus as the Messiah and Savior, rises, and sits next to the others in a circle. The atmosphere remains quiet.
4. **Evangelizer "B"** ends the meditation with the following reading:

The first thing Jesus did when he started his mission was to form a community of disciples. During the first session, we saw that the clusters of grapes grow on the vine because they are united to the trunk through the branches. The grapes represent the fruits of the Christian community—when we are bound to Jesus, we are made one with each other in him and we begin to bear fruit.

The community Jesus started is still alive in the Church here and now. When we partake in the Eucharist, we are nourished by Jesus, the Bread of Life, who strengthens us as his community of disciples, his witnesses in the world today.

Jesus wants us to have the fullness of life... He gave his life for us and wants us to cast aside whatever separates us from him... He wants us to follow in his footsteps and be more like him.

Jesus saves us from a meaningless life... He gives us peace at times of stress... strength to handle our suffering... forgiveness from our sins... hope when facing difficult times.

Jesus is the *way*. With him and through him we have peace... we attain true happiness... and we are guaranteed access to the Father on our path to eternal life with God.

Jesus is the *truth*. If we listen to him we will discover the truth about God and about ourselves, and that truth sets us free. Jesus' friends love and embrace the truth.

Jesus is the *life*. Living the same lifestyle as Jesus fills us with happiness; it gives us great vitality to live a life of simplicity and service to others, as Jesus did. A life with Jesus is worth living!

Repeat after me: Amen!... Alleluia!... Alleluia!... Glory to God!

5. **In pairs**, the participants share with one another the experience of the whole meditation, focusing on moments when they felt Jesus renewing their life.
6. **Evangelizer "B"** concludes the activity by inviting everyone to sing a song or do a stretching exercise in order to prepare them for the last reflection of the session.



## ACTIVITY: STRETCH BREAK

[5 MINUTES]



[Facilitation: Evangelizer "A"]  
[Timekeeping: Evangelizer "B"]

## ACTIVITY: REVIEWING OUR LIFE BEFORE JESUS

[15 MINUTES]

1. During the evaluation, **both hosts** work together to mark a path from outside the house or hall to the altar, utilizing seeds, dry leaves, petals, or branches. An open Bible should be placed in the center of the altar, along with signs showing the words: "Way," "Truth," and "Life." These words should be large and visible.
2. **Evangelizer "A":**
  - Reminds the participants that it is time to write down the messages from Jesus that touched their hearts in this session or that had an impact on how they want to live their lives.
  - Allows some time for them to write in the first scroll on p. 24 of the *Journal*.
  - Explains the following commentary:

Symbolic language allows us to penetrate and express the deep experiences of life. We use hearts to express love; the color white to symbolize purity; water to represent life and fruitfulness... To approach the mystery of God and to communicate our experience of him, we need to use symbols, giving them religious meaning. Today we will add new symbols to our personal Mission cross in order to express our encounter with Jesus in this session.
  - Invites the participants to draw two or three symbols that represent Jesus' messages, faith experiences, encouragements of the Spirit, resolutions, etc., experienced in this session. Reminds them that they can be drawings or words with a special meaning and that they should be of a size that allows at least four more symbols to fit in the cross.
  - Allows a period of silence to do this exercise.
3. **Each participant** draws the symbols on his or her personal Mission cross in the *Journal*, p. 43.



[Facilitation: Evangelizer “A”]  
[Timekeeping: Evangelizer “B”]

## ACTIVITY: PRAYING WITH JESUS

[20 MINUTES]

### 1. Evangelizer “A”:

- Asks the participants to form a line, in pairs, at the beginning of the pathway. Once lined up, he or she invites them to be silent, close their eyes, and bow their heads.
- Leads a prayer asking the Holy Spirit to come down upon them:

Come, Holy Spirit, and give us the words for our prayer.  
Help us to express the feelings we carry in our hearts and  
bring forth our words to Jesus, who is the way, the truth,  
and the life.
- Invites the participants to ask the Holy Spirit to help them pray about what they need the most at this moment of their lives, taking into consideration the messages received during this session.
- Indicates that when they feel a tap on their shoulder, it will be their turn to start walking slowly down the pathway. Once they arrive at the altar, they will kneel and make their prayer out loud to Jesus. Each person should finish his or her prayer with the words, “Jesus, listen to my prayer.” The group answers: “Lord, hear our prayer.”
- Instructs the participants that, when they each have finished their prayers, they should place their nametags or badges on the altar as a symbol of their firm desire to remain near Jesus during the week. Then each pair of young people steps to the side of the pathway.

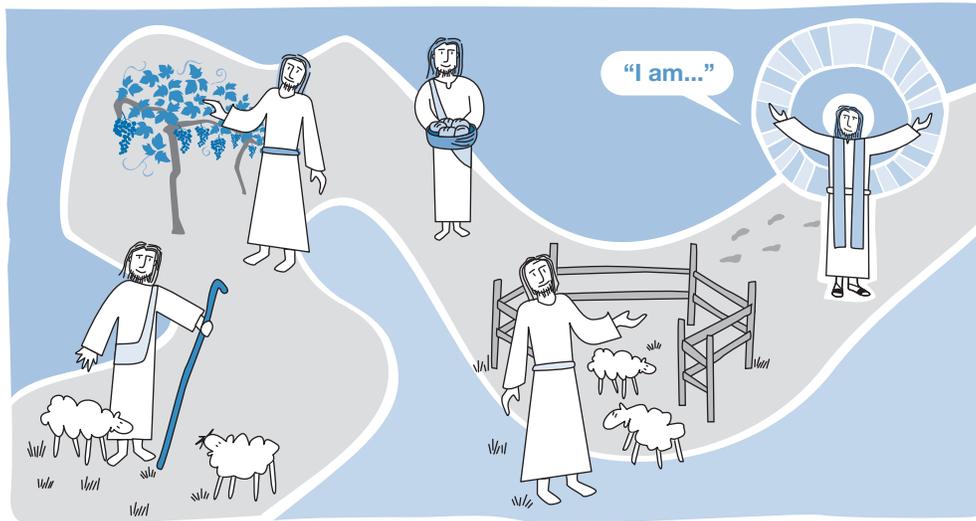
### 2. All the participants:

- Walk in pairs down the pathway to offer their prayer, including the evangelizers and hosts who will also follow the instructions.
- Write down on p. 24 of their *Journal* the prayer they offered to Jesus when they knelt before the altar.
- Sing together the session song.
- Store their *Journals* in the chest, which will be locked by the hosts once all the *Journals* are inside.

## ACTIVITY: ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SNACKS

[25 MINUTES]

1. **Host "A"** reminds the participants of the date for the next session and invites them to bring one or two friends, if there is still room at the Biblical Mission site. If applicable, reminds them that there are Biblical Missions going on in other places and on different dates, where their friends may also attend.
2. **Host "B"** invites the participants to help themselves to the snacks.
3. At the designated time to end the session, **both hosts** will:
  - Dismiss the participants in a friendly and joyful way, telling them that they look forward to meeting them again at the next session.
  - Store the nametags or badges, which the participants will use again in the next session.





## OBJECTIVES

- To feel embraced by the love of Jesus, who is always with us.
- To become aware of our need for Jesus, the Good Shepherd, to guide us.
- To discover that Jesus calls us and entrusts us with a mission.
- To respond to Jesus with all that we are, realizing that following him means trying to be like him.

## LIFE-GIVING MESSAGES

- Jesus is the Good Shepherd. He is my shepherd, I belong to his flock.
- Jesus seeks to be with me always—not only when I am weak, lost, or wounded—to share his life with me.
- Jesus loves me. He knows me better than anyone, calls me by name, and invites me to be part of his community of missionary disciples.
- I respond to him by opening myself up to his love and sharing it with others, following his example as a good shepherd.

# SESSION PLAN

PHASE	ACTIVITY	STEPS	MATERIALS	TIME
BEING	Welcoming and initial prayer	<p><b>Informal welcome</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome the participants individually with the friendly spirit of an informal gathering.</li> <li>Hand out the nametags or badges and <i>Journals</i>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Open the session</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Formally welcome the group.</li> <li>Play the theme song.</li> <li>Pray the introductory prayer, <i>Journal</i>, p. 26.</li> </ul>	<p>Nametags or badges</p> <p><i>Mission Journal</i></p> <p>Mission CD/DVD and equipment</p> <p>Musical instruments</p>	20 Min
	Learning to listen closely	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explain the activity and give an example of how to carry it out, <i>Journal</i>, p. 26.</li> <li>Conduct the activity.</li> <li>Reflect and discuss in the large group.</li> </ul>	<p>Pieces of paper with words, see example in the <i>Mission Guidebook</i>, p. 63</p>	20 Min
SEEING	Relating to Jesus as our Good Shepherd	<p><b>Guided reflection</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open the <i>Journal</i> to pp. 26-27.</li> <li>Explain the tables: “Personal problems or challenges” and “Other people’s problems or challenges.”</li> <li>Lead the activity step-by-step.</li> </ul> <p><b>Reflection in small groups (SG)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dialogue in SG based on the questions in the <i>Journal</i>, p. 27.</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion in the large group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>End the activity with a reflection.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Mission Journal</i></p> <p>Pencils</p>	25 Min
Break				15 Min
JUDGING	Listening to the Word of God	<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invite the participants to listen to the Word of God and to identify the main messages in each text, <i>Journal</i>, p. 28.</li> </ul> <p><b>Proclaim the Word</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proclaim John 10:1–5. Pause.</li> <li>Proclaim John 10:6–10. Pause.</li> <li>Proclaim John 10:11–16. Pause.</li> </ul> <p><b>Reflection in small groups</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dialogue in SG, <i>Journal</i>, p. 29.</li> </ul>	<p>Mission Bible</p> <p><i>Mission Journal</i></p>	25 Min

PHASE	ACTIVITY	STEPS	MATERIALS	TIME
ACTING	Responding to Jesus, who calls us by name	<p><b>Personal reflection</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do the exercise on the profile of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, <i>Journal</i>, p. 30.</li> </ul> <p><b>Preparation by the hosts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set up the paper door with the image of Jesus.</li> <li>Organize the participants.</li> <li>Have cards with the names of the participants ready.</li> </ul> <p><b>Entering through the door that symbolizes Jesus</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduce the activity.</li> <li>Call the participants one by one.</li> </ul> <p><b>Personal reflection</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Personal reflection and prayer.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Mission Journal</i></p> <p>Paper door with image of Jesus</p> <p>Cards of Jesus, the Good Shepherd</p>	40 Min
	Stretch break	Sing a song with movements or do a stretching exercise.		5 Min
EVALUATING	Reviewing our life before Jesus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Write the main messages in the <i>Journal</i>, p. 31.</li> <li>Draw the symbols, <i>Journal</i>, p. 43.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Mission Journal</i></p> <p>Pencils</p>	10 Min
CELEBRATING	Making an offering and a commitment	<p><b>Commentary and instructions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explain the activity and comment on the meaning of making a commitment to Jesus.</li> </ul> <p><b>Offering rite and commitment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Make an offering and sign name on the image of Jesus on the door.</li> <li>Sing the session song.</li> <li>Write a personal prayer on p. 31 of the <i>Journal</i>.</li> <li>Conclude the rite.</li> <li>Store the <i>Journals</i> in the chest and lock it until the next session.</li> </ul>	<p>Mission CD/DVD and equipment</p> <p>Musical instruments</p> <p>Cards</p> <p>Permanent markers</p> <p>Chest</p>	20 Min
	Announcements and snacks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remind participants of the date of the next session. Ask them not to bring new participants, as only the final session remains.</li> <li>Invite the participants to help themselves to the snacks.</li> <li>Say goodbye to everyone.</li> <li>Store the nametags or badges for the participants to use again.</li> </ul>	Snacks	30 Min
<b>Total</b>				<b>3:30 hours</b>

# MATERIALS FOR THE SESSION

## Altar

### Basic items

- Tablecloth, candles, and flowers
- Mission Bible
- Mission Cross
- Lectern or stand to hold an open Bible

### Biblical symbols

1. Grapevine or another plant used in Session 1, and a basket of bread
2. A pathway made of seeds, dry leaves, petals, or branches with signs that say, “Way,” “Truth,” and “Life,” going from outside the meeting room to the altar
3. A sheepfold and a few sheep; these could be taken from a nativity scene or made by hand from small sticks and cotton

## Mission trunk

- LCD projector/laptop, DVD player/TV, or CD player
- Mission CD/DVD
- Basket with the nametags or badges for the participants (with extras for newcomers)
- Chest with the participants’ *Mission Journals*
- Extra copies of the *Mission Journal* for newcomers
- Pens or pencils
- Musical instruments

## Session 3 case

Pieces of paper with a written word for each participant. Papers should be folded to keep the word hidden. There are three pieces of paper that also have the word “Leader” written on them. See example on p. 63 of this *Guidebook*.

A life-size paper door, with the image of Jesus the Good Shepherd drawn on one side. See example in this *Guidebook*, p. 63.

A card (half page) with a drawing of Jesus the Good Shepherd and the name of each participant written on the sheep. See example on p. 64 of this *Guidebook*.

Two permanent markers.

## Snacks

- Sodas, fruit punch, cookies, chips, peanuts or other snacks
- Cups and napkins

# SESSION PROCESS



[Facilitation: Hosts and Evangelizer "A"]  
[Timekeeping: Evangelizer "B"]

## ACTIVITY: WELCOMING AND INITIAL PRAYER

[20 MINUTES]

### Informal welcome

10 minutes

1. The **hosts** welcome the participants as they arrive, hand them their badges or nametags, pencils, and their *Journals*, and invite them to enter the room where the session will be carried out. Once the session has started, if some participants have not yet arrived, the hosts will stay at the door to welcome them. If needed, the hosts will give them a brief explanation of the activity and ask the participants to join in without interrupting the community process.

### Open the session

10 minutes

2. The **evangelizers** start the session on time with a formal welcoming. They play the theme song to foster the *mística* of the Biblical Mission and invite the participants to learn the song and sing along.
3. **Evangelizer "A"** begins the session as follows:
  - If there are young people who are attending for the first time, asks them to introduce themselves and encourages them to feel at home.
  - Invites the participants to enter into a spirit of prayer and begins the session with the prayer on p. 26 of the *Journal*. He or she makes the sign of the cross and prays:

*Good Father, we thank you for making us your sons and daughters in our Baptism. We thank you also because you gather us as sheep into the sheepfold of Jesus.*

*Sometimes we feel lonely or lost; we need your love, support, and direction. We want Jesus to be our Good Shepherd who looks after us, because we know that he always wants what is best for us.*

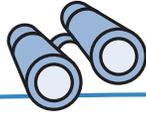
Send us your Spirit, we pray, to help us become your faithful followers. We ask you this through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and through the intercession of Mary, our Mother. Amen.

## ACTIVITY: LEARNING TO LISTEN CLOSELY

[20 MINUTES]

### 1. Evangelizer “A”:

- Explains the activity:
  - This activity consists of forming three teams, identified by three different words: “Bill,” “Mill,” and “Pill.”
  - Each participant will be given a folded paper with a word written on it, which should not be shown to anyone else. The word on the inside of the paper corresponds to the name of their team.
  - Three of the papers also have the word “Leader” written inside. The people who receive these papers must gather their team only by repeating over and over the word assigned to them.
  - At the count of three, all of the participants, including the leaders, must wander around the group while repeating aloud and over and over the word they were given, keeping their arms crossed behind their backs the entire time.
  - The objective is to see which team is formed the fastest by listening to their call amid the chaos.
- Counts to three and, together with evangelizer “B,” makes sure that all of the participants are repeating the word they received while their arms remain crossed behind their backs.
- Once all of the participants are with their respective team leaders, Evangelizer A opens a dialogue in the large group to reflect on the experience, using the following questions as a guide:
  - *How difficult was it to pick out the word that identifies you as a team? Why?*
  - *What do you need in order to hear a message amid so much noise?*
  - *What helped you to identify the voice of the leader?*
  - *Leaders, what strategy did you use to show your role as leaders?*



[Facilitation: Evangelizer "A"]  
[Timekeeping: Evangelizer "B"]

## ACTIVITY: RELATING TO JESUS AS OUR GOOD SHEPHERD

[25 MINUTES]

### Guided reflection

10 minutes

#### 1. Evangelizer "A":

- Starts the activity by reading aloud the following reflection:

In the last activity you had to identify your leader and team members. You might have felt a little anxious because of the confusing signs you were receiving, but once you gathered with your leader and teammates, you may have felt a sense of accomplishment.

Something similar happens to us in real life: we hear a lot of different messages from various sources. Television shows depict infidelity between husband and wife and extramarital relations as normal, or they present violence as a good way to solve problems... The Church teaches the sanctity of marriage, respect toward self and others, the need for dialogue and forgiveness, the urgency of promoting peace... A good friend invites us to join a sports team, to be active at Church, to do service... Today we will reflect on how important it is to listen to Jesus.

- Instructs the participants to open their *Journals* to p. 26 and examine the table referring to personal problems or challenges they had in the past.
- Explains how to carry out the personal reflection:
  - *In the first column*, write two serious problems or challenges you have had to face in your life.
  - *In the second column*, write the weaknesses you felt while trying to face those problems or challenges.
  - *In the third column*, write the names of the people who helped you the most in each case, and a word that reminds you of their advice or help. If no one helped you, write down how you felt and what you did to confront the problem or challenge.

- Referring to p. 27 in the *Journal*, mentions that there is a similar chart for other people's problems or challenges:
    - *In the first column*, write the names of two people you have supported or helped when they were facing a problem or a challenge.
    - *In the second column*, write a few words that summarize the problem or challenge of each of those individuals.
    - *In the third column*, write the gifts and/or strengths you had, which allowed you to help each person.
2. **Each participant** reflects on his or her life by filling out both tables, while the evangelizer leads the exercise.

### Reflection in small groups

10 minutes

3. **Evangelizer "A"** invites the participants to reflect in small groups, aided by the following guide questions, which may also be found on p. 27 of their *Journals*:
- *In your personal challenges, to whom did you go for help: friends your own age, your parents, adult friends, a teacher, a priest, someone else?*
  - *When facing a problem, did you ever call upon Jesus? What did you ask of him?*
  - *Why did you decide to support someone who had a problem?*

### Conclusion in the large group

5 minutes

4. **Evangelizer "A"** concludes the activity by addressing the whole group with the following reflection:

Sometimes we forget that God has created us with the gifts we need to live in community and support each other. It is one of the reasons Jesus formed a community of disciples and taught us to live in solidarity with others, as brothers and sisters.

Jesus spoke often about this way of life and gave us many examples of how to put it into practice. Then he left us his Spirit to help us live always as a part of his community, helping each other with a generous heart.

After the break we will hear how Jesus defines himself to communicate to us that we are a vital part of his community. It does not matter how bad our problems might seem at times; with Jesus we will always find a positive answer and we will feel cared for and supported with his love. Jesus calls us and gives us what we need; when we are close to him, we are no longer lost or wandering aimlessly.

## ACTIVITY: BREAK

[15 MINUTES]



[Facilitation: Evangelizer “B”]  
[Proclamation of the Gospel and timekeeping: Evangelizer “A”]

## ACTIVITY: LISTENING TO THE WORD OF GOD

[25 MINUTES]

### Introduction and proclaim the Word

10 Minutes

#### 1. Evangelizer “B”:

- Invites the participants to quiet their minds and hearts and prepare themselves to listen to the Word of God.
- Asks them to let God’s Word penetrate to the bottom of their hearts in order to nourish their lives with Jesus’ teachings, identifying the main messages given by Jesus in this reading from the Gospel.
- Reminds them that they can either listen to the proclamation or follow the reading on p. 28 of their *Journals*, whichever helps them the most to understand Jesus’ message.

#### 2. Evangelizer “A”:

- Proclaims John 10: 1–5.
- Pauses and invites the participants to meditate on this passage.
- Proclaims John 10: 6–10.
- Pauses and invites them to reflect on what she/he just read.
- Proclaims John 10: 11–16.
- Pauses and invites them to reflect on the final part of the Gospel.

### Reflection in small groups

15 minutes

3. Evangelizer “B” tells the participants that they will be sharing their reflection in small groups of three or four.
4. Each small group shares as they answer the following guide questions in their *Journal*, p. 29.
  - What symbols does Jesus use to explain to his disciples who he is?



- *What life-giving messages does Jesus communicate when using these symbols?*
- *In this Gospel, what touched your heart the most, giving you a reason to embrace Jesus' gift of new life as his disciple?*
- *What symbols would Jesus have used had he lived in today's culture?*



*[Facilitation: Evangelizer "B"]*  
*[Timekeeping: Evangelizer "A"]*

## **ACTIVITY: RESPONDING TO JESUS, WHO CALLS US BY NAME**

**[45 MINUTES]**

### **Personal reflection**

15 minutes

#### **1. Evangelizer "B":**

- Asks the participants to open their *Journal* to p. 30 and invites them to develop a profile of Jesus as the Good Shepherd by reading each passage in the column on the left of the chart; identifying three characteristics of Jesus in this text; and writing them in the column on the right.
  - John 10:1–5
  - John 10:7–10
  - John 10:11–16
- Instructs the participants to review in silence the nine characteristics of Jesus they found in this Gospel, and then identify the two features that they think would help them the most to be more like Jesus the Good Shepherd in their own environment. Asks them to write down the two chosen features at the bottom of the chart.

### **Preparation by the hosts**

#### **2. Both hosts:**

- While the first step above is taking place, the paper door with Jesus drawn on it should be placed in a suitable area to carry out the remainder of the activity.

- Organize the assistants: the evangelizers should be on one side of the door and the participants on the other side.
- Give the evangelizers the cards of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, with each participant's name written on the sheep on the front of his or her card; a sample card can be found on p. 64 of this *Guidebook*.

### Entering through the door that symbolizes Jesus

15 minutes

3. **Evangelizer “B”** gives the following explanation:

None of us is here by accident. Jesus has invited each of you individually, to give you his message and to invite you to get to know him better.

We have arrived at a very special moment. In the name of the Good Shepherd, [name of evangelizer “A”], will call you one by one, so that each of you may accept being a part of Jesus’ flock and, as his disciples, seek to become good shepherds yourselves. After hearing your name, you will pass through the door, which symbolizes Jesus, the gate for the sheep.

- Tells the participants that for this prayer they will need to bring a pencil with them.
4. **Evangelizer “A”** calls the participants one by one from the other side of the door. Once each participant has passed through the door, evangelizer “A” says to him or her in a low voice:

Thank you, [name], for coming. Jesus has this invitation for you. Kneel before the altar, read it and meditate on it in your heart. What is Jesus telling you? What is your answer to him? Write your response in the blank space on the back and save the card for later.

### Personal reflection

10 minutes

5. **Each participant** does the following upon hearing his or her name:

- Goes through the door and receives a card with Jesus’ invitation.
- Kneels in silence for a few moments in front of the altar to meditate on the invitation written on the card, then returns to his or her seat and writes an answer to Jesus on the back of the card. Keeps the card.
- The **evangelizers** also take a card and pray before the altar.

## ACTIVITY: STRETCH BREAK

[5 MINUTES]



## EVALUATING



[Facilitation: Evangelizer "A"]  
[Timekeeping: Evangelizer "B"]

### ACTIVITY: REVIEWING OUR LIFE BEFORE JESUS

[10 MINUTES]

1. **Evangelizer "A,"** in the prayerful and reflective spirit created by the previous activity, does the following:
  - Invites the participants to open the *Journal* to page 31. Reminds them that it is time to write the messages from Jesus that touched their hearts in this session or that had an impact on how they want to live their lives.
  - Allows a period of silence to complete the exercise.
  - Invites the participants to draw two or three symbols that represent Jesus' messages, faith experiences, encouragements of the Spirit, resolutions, etc., experienced in this session. Reminds them that they can be drawings or words with a special meaning, making sure to leave enough space for the two symbols of the last session.
  - Allows a period of silence to complete the exercise.
2. **Each participant** draws the symbols on his or her personal Mission cross in the *Journal*, p. 43.

## CELEBRATING



[Facilitation: Evangelizer "A"]  
[Timekeeping: Evangelizer "B"]

### ACTIVITY: MAKING AN OFFERING AND A COMMITMENT

[20 MINUTES]

#### Commentary and instructions

5 minutes

1. **Evangelizer "A"** closes the session by saying:

Each one of us received a card personalized with our name on the sheep in conversation with Jesus. On the card we wrote our

answer to Jesus' invitation to follow him as missionary disciples. In a few moments we will place our cards on the altar, as a sign of our love for Jesus, the Good Shepherd. We will place our cards with the written side facing down to keep it confidential.

Jesus invites us to be good shepherds like him for young people who need God's life and love. What an honor and responsibility it is to be called by Jesus as one of his disciples! How can we be transformed into followers of Jesus and become good shepherds like him?

Remember that God always respects our freedom. He talks to us, calls us, questions us... and allows us to freely decide what our answer will be.

Those who wish to follow Jesus the Good Shepherd and accept his invitation to become good shepherds in his likeness will sign their names on the image of the Good Shepherd as a sign of their commitment. If you are not ready to make that commitment, you may still step up and sign your name—just quietly tell Jesus whatever comes from the bottom of your heart.

Making a commitment means much more than following through on an obligation. It entails putting our gifts and skills into action, consciously and freely, in order to accomplish what has been entrusted to us. A committed person goes beyond what is expected and surprises us, because that person lives, thinks, and dreams of accomplishing what he or she has pledged to do. Thus, a commitment is always a source of life and happiness, even if it means work, sacrifice, or even suffering.

## Offering rite and commitment

15 minutes

2. **Each participant** comes forward to offer his or her card to Jesus and to sign the door with the image of Jesus, silently expressing the meaning of his or her signature.
3. Everyone sings the session song as the participants come forward to offer their card to Jesus and to sign the image. It is recommended that a version of "The Lord Is My Shepherd" (Psalm 23) be utilized.
4. Upon concluding the song, **evangelizer "A"** continues with the rite:
  - Invites the participants to write in their *Journal*, p. 31, what they told Jesus when signing their name on the door with the image of the Good Shepherd.
  - Picks up all the cards that are on the altar and starts calling the participants one by one from the names written on the sheep.
  - Hands them their card and makes the Sign of the Cross on the participant's forehead while saying the following:

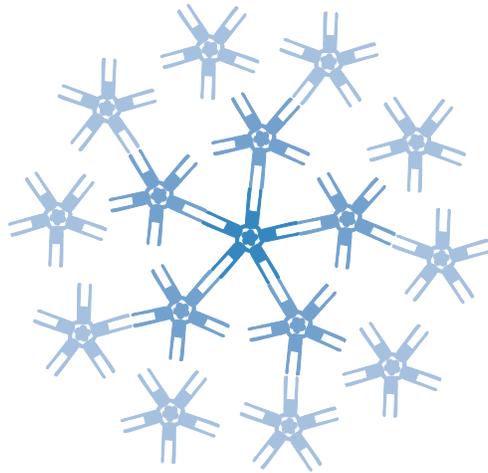
May the Holy Spirit help you to give your answer to Jesus,  
and to be a good shepherd to those who need you.

- The participant answers “Amen” and stores his or her *Journal* in the chest, which will be locked by the hosts and kept by one of the evangelizers until the next session.

## ACTIVITY: ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SNACKS

[30 MINUTES]

1. **Host “B”** reminds the participants of the date for the last session, but no longer invites them to bring new participants, as only the final session remains. If applicable, reminds them that there are Biblical Missions going on in other places and on different dates, should they have friends who would like to attend.
2. **Host “A”** invites the participants to help themselves to the snacks.
3. At the designated time to end the session, **both hosts** will:
  - Dismiss the participant in a friendly and joyful way, telling them that they look forward to meeting them again at the next session.
  - Store the nametags or badges, which the participants will use again in the next session.



# Session 3 Appendix

## Examples

### 1. Papers for the activity: “Learning to listen closely.”

Bill	Bill	Bill	Bill Leader
Mill	Mill	Mill	Mill Leader
Pill	Pill	Pill	Pill Leader

### 2. Door with Jesus for the activity, “Responding to Jesus, who calls us by name,” to be reproduced as a life-size door.



3. Card for the activity: "Responding to Jesus, who calls us by name."

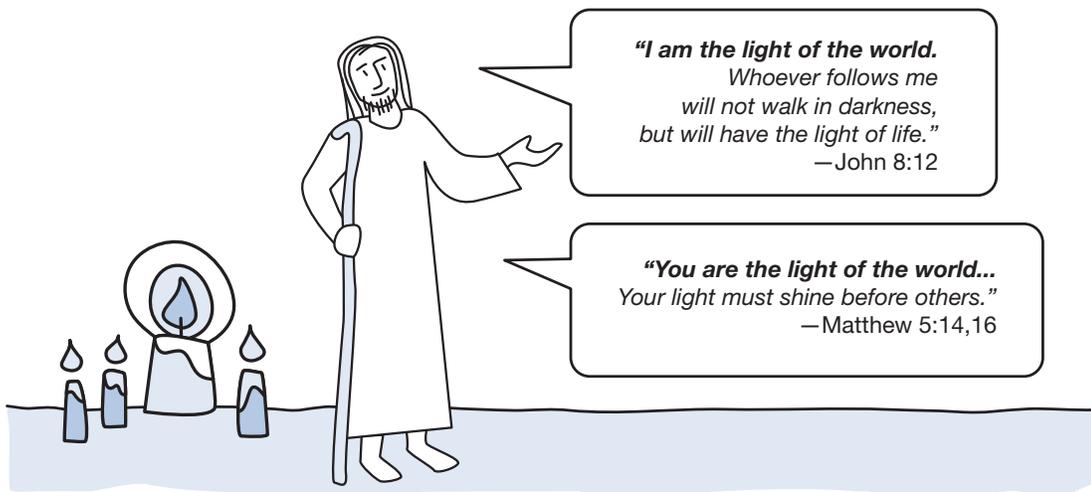


COME! FOLLOW ME!  
I WANT TO SHOW YOU MY LOVE  
AND ALWAYS CARE FOR YOU.  
I INVITE YOU TO BE  
MY MISSIONARY DISCIPLE.  
I NEED SHEPHERDS AMONG  
THE YOUNG PEOPLE TODAY.



JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD;  
I WANT TO BE A LIGHT FOR MY PEERS

## SESSION 4



### OBJECTIVES

- To recognize our need for God's Word to enlighten our lives.
- To accept Jesus as the light that illuminates our life and our personal story.
- To see Jesus as the greatest example of reaching the full potential of human personhood, a model for us to follow.
- To make a commitment to be a light for others.

### LIFE-GIVING MESSAGES

- The light of Jesus' life and teaching helps us to see ourselves and the world around us from God's perspective.
- I want to be like Jesus, a light for the world.
- I will strive to allow Jesus' light to shine through me before others.
- Jesus wants nothing more from me than to be fully myself, carrying out my Christian mission and personal vocation.

# SESSION PLAN

PHASE	ACTIVITY	STEPS	MATERIALS	TIME
BEING	Welcoming and initial prayer	<p><b>Informal welcome</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome the participants individually with the friendly spirit of an informal gathering.</li> <li>• Hand out the nametags or badges and <i>Journals</i>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Open the session</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formally welcome the group.</li> <li>• Play the theme song.</li> <li>• Pray the introductory prayer, <i>Journal</i>, p. 34.</li> </ul>	<p>Nametags or badges</p> <p><i>Mission Journal</i></p> <p>Mission CD/DVD and equipment</p> <p>Pencils</p> <p>Musical instruments</p>	20 Min
	Searching blindly	<p><b>Prepare for the activity</b></p> <p><b>Explain the activity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organize the participants into two groups; explain the activity and ask observers to write what the other group does in their <i>Journal</i>, p. 34.</li> </ul> <p><b>Carry out the activity</b></p> <p><b>Reflection in the large group</b></p>	<p>Roadblocks</p> <p>Four pieces of candy per participant</p> <p><i>Mission Journal</i></p>	25 Min
SEEING	Seeing reality in a new light	<p><b>Explain and conduct the activity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Observe the collage and share in pairs, <i>Journal</i>, p. 35.</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion in the large group</b></p>	<i>Mission Journal</i>	25 Min
Break				15 Min
JUDGING	Listening to the Word of God	<p><b>Meditation on the meaning of light</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Underline the main ideas in the text about light in the <i>Journal</i>, p. 36.</li> <li>• Share in pairs.</li> </ul> <p><b>Orientation and proclaim the Word</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invite participants to listen to the Word of God, <i>Journal</i>, p. 37.</li> <li>• Proclaim John 8:12 twice.</li> </ul>	<p>Mission Bible</p> <p><i>Mission Journal</i></p>	20 Min
	Naming the lights received during the Biblical Mission	<p><b>Guided personal reflection</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write the main lights received during the Biblical Mission, <i>Journal</i>, p. 37.</li> </ul> <p><b>Commentary and proclaim the Word</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain the word mission.</li> <li>• Invite participants to listen to the Word of God, <i>Journal</i>, p. 38.</li> <li>• Proclaim Matthew 5:14–16.</li> </ul> <p><b>Personal reflection</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reflect on how to become Christ's light in daily life, <i>Journal</i>, p. 38.</li> </ul>	<p>Mission Bible</p> <p><i>Mission Journal</i></p>	25 Min

PHASE	ACTIVITY	STEPS	MATERIALS	TIME
<b>EVALUATING</b>	Reviewing our life before Jesus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mention that the order of the “evaluating” and “acting” steps has been switched.</li> <li>Write the main messages in the <i>Journal</i>, p. 39.</li> <li>Complete the personal Mission cross, <i>Journal</i>, p. 43.</li> </ul>	<i>Mission Journal</i>	10 Min
<b>ACTING</b>	Preparing the Closing Liturgy and the Biblical Mission follow-up	<p><b>Comment on follow-up to the Biblical Mission</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Talk about the different options for the Biblical Mission’s follow-up.</li> </ul> <p><b>Make a banner for the Biblical Mission site</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organize the group to make a banner or a pennant.</li> <li>Select two participants to carry the banner or pennant at the Closing Liturgy.</li> </ul>	White material for banner or pennant Pastel colored materials for triangles Glue Markers or crayons Pencils	25 Min
	Stretch break	Sing a song with movements or do a stretching exercise.		5 Min
<b>CELEBRATING</b>	Deepening our experience of the light	<p><b>Celebration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invite the participants to enter into a spirit of prayer.</li> <li>Solemn entrance of the light.</li> <li>Lead the ceremony.</li> <li>Come forward to the altar one by one in order to light a candle.</li> <li>Extinguish the candles with a snuffer.</li> <li>Light the participants’ candles again as a sign of their wish to become light for the world.</li> <li>Sing the theme song, <i>Journal</i>, p. 40, or a song related to Jesus’ light.</li> </ul>	Large candle Votive or small candles Matches Snuffer Water jug or pitcher Mission CD/DVD and equipment Musical instruments	20 Min
	Announcements and snacks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remind the participants about the Closing Liturgy and the social afterwards.</li> <li>Invite the participants to help themselves to the snacks.</li> <li>Store the <i>Journals</i> in the chest, which will be brought forward in the offertory at the Closing Liturgy.</li> </ul>	Snacks	20 Min
<b>Total</b>				<b>3:30 hours</b>

# MATERIALS FOR THE SESSION

## Altar

### Basic items

Tablecloth, candles, and flowers  
Mission Bible  
Mission Cross  
Lectern or stand to hold an open Bible

### Biblical symbols

1. Grapevine or another plant used in Session 1, and a basket of bread
2. A pathway made of seeds, dry leaves, petals, or branches with signs that say, “Way,” “Truth,” and “Life,” running from outside the meeting room to the altar
3. A sheepfold and a few sheep; these could be taken from a nativity scene or made by hand from small sticks and cotton
4. A large candle and several votive or small candles, one for each participant, including the evangelizers and hosts

## Mission trunk

LCD projector/laptop, DVD player/TV, or CD player  
Mission CD/DVD  
Basket with the nametags or badges for the participants  
Chest with the participants’ *Mission Journals*  
Pens or pencils  
Musical instruments

## Session 4 case

Candies, four per participant  
Roadblocks: chairs, cushions, garbage bins, other items  
Enough blindfolds for half of the group  
A large candle  
One small candle and holder for each participant, labeled with the person’s name  
A candle snuffer to blow out the small candles  
A jug or pitcher of water, to put out any sparks  
White material and pastel colored materials for triangles to make a banner or a pennant; refer to the instructions in this *Guidebook*, p. 82.  
Glue and felt pens or markers

## Snacks

Sodas, fruit punch, cookies, chips, peanuts, or other snacks  
Cups and napkins

# SESSION PROCESS



[Facilitation: Hosts and Evangelizer “B”]  
[Timekeeping: Evangelizer “A”]

## ACTIVITY: WELCOMING AND INITIAL PRAYER

[20 MINUTES]

### Informal welcome

10 minutes

1. The **hosts** welcome the participants as they arrive; hand them their badges or nametags, pencils, and their *Journals*, and invite them to enter the room where the session will be carried out. Once the session has started, if some participants have not yet arrived, the hosts will stay at the door to welcome them. If needed, the hosts will give them a brief explanation of the activity and ask the participants to join in without interrupting the community process.

### Open the session

10 minutes

2. The **evangelizers** start the session on time with a formal welcoming. They play the theme song to foster the *mística* of the Biblical Mission and invite the participants to learn the song and sing along.
3. **Evangelizer “A”** invites the participants to enter into a spirit of prayer and begins the session with the prayer on p. 34 of the *Journal*. He or she makes the sign of the cross and prays:

Good and mighty Father, we thank you for giving us eyes to see the greatness of your creation and the needs of your people. We also thank you for the gifts of your Spirit, which allow us to see life through the eyes of Jesus.

Today we thank you especially for having sent us Jesus, the Light of the World who illuminates our lives. He is the greatest example of what it means to be fully human; help us to be like him. We ask this through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and through the intercession of Mary, our Mother. Amen.

## ACTIVITY: SEARCHING BLINDLY

[25 MINUTES]

### Prepare for the activity

1. **Evangelizers and hosts** decide beforehand on an appropriate location for this activity, separate from the main gathering room.
2. **Both hosts** prepare the area while the evangelizers explain the activity to the participants:
  - Place the candies throughout the room. The blindfolded participants will not know where the candies are located, but they should be accessible and most should be clearly visible to the observers.
  - Place some harmless roadblocks to hinder the search: cushions, chairs, garbage bins, or other items.

### Explain the activity

5 minutes

#### 3. **Evangelizer “B”:**

- Organizes the participants into two groups, in a different place from where the hosts are placing the candies.
- Explains that one group will be blindfolded and will try to find candies that are hidden in [mentions the place]. There are four candies per blindfolded participant; some candies are hidden and others are visible. When the blindfolded participants have found one or two candies, they hand them over to the evangelizers.
- The young people in the other group will be “the observers” and will take notes about what their blindfolded peers do.
- With the help of **evangelizer “A,” evangelizer “B”** distributes among the “observer group” the materials to blindfold their peers. He or she instructs each observer to blindfold one other person and guide her or him to the place where the candies are, leaving the blindfolded person there alone and clueless.

### Carry out the activity

10 minutes

#### 4. **Each group** plays its role:

- The “observer group” guides their blindfolded peers to the place where the candies are hidden.
- **Both evangelizers** indicate as clearly as possible, using only verbal instructions, in what part of the room the candies are located.
- The “blindfolded group” searches for the candies and hands them over to the evangelizers.

- The “observer group” takes notes in their *Journals*, p. 34, about everything the blindfolded participants do.

## Reflection in the large group

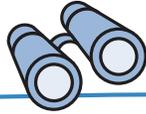
10 minutes

5. **Evangelizer “B”** opens the dialog to reflect on the experience with the following questions:

- To the group that searched for the candies:
  - *How did you feel being blind during the 10 minutes that the activity lasted?*
  - *What obstacles did you have to overcome to find the candies?*
  - *What was harder, finding the candies or handing them over to the evangelizers?*
  - *What would have made your task easier?*
- To the group of observers:
  - *How did you feel about only being allowed to observe people with a visual impairment?*
  - *What drew your attention in the blindfolded participants’ behavior?*
  - *What strategies did they use when searching for the candies?*
  - *What is the role of the light in this activity?*
  - *Why is light so important for human beings? How do blind people compensate for the lack of light?*



# SEEING



[Facilitation: Evangelizer “B”]  
[Timekeeping: Evangelizer “A”]

## ACTIVITY: SEEING REALITY IN A NEW LIGHT

[25 MINUTES]

### Explain the activity

5 minutes

#### 1. Evangelizer “B”:

- Asks the participants to organize themselves in pairs in order to carry out this activity and to open their *Journals* to p. 35.
- Explains how to carry out the activity, as follows:

You will find a collage or a group of pictures in your *Journals*, which you will analyze by following the instructions I give you. When I say it’s time for the next step, it is important to move on, even if you haven’t yet finished the previous step; otherwise, the objective of the activity won’t be accomplished.

### Conduct the activity

15 minutes

#### 2. Evangelizer “B” conducts the activity, step by step, with the help of evangelizer “A,” who is in charge of timekeeping:

- Asks the participants to examine the collage for one minute in order to get a general idea of its content.
- Instructs them to discuss with their partner for three minutes what they saw while looking at the collage.
- Asks them to look again at the collage and discuss for three minutes what they see presented there in the light of gospel values, regarding the *lives of young people today*.
- Requests that they discuss the collage in light of the Gospel for three more minutes, focusing on the *human relationships* of the young people.
- Gives them another three minutes to discuss *participation in culture and society* as represented in the collage, in light of Jesus’ values.
- Lastly, gives them three more minutes to discuss *living our faith in the world*, as perceived in the collage.

## Conclusion in the large group

5 minutes

3. **Evangelizer “B”** invites the participants to share in the large group what they learned from doing the analysis of the reality presented in the collage, in light of the five different perspectives: general; personal lives; human relationships; participation in culture and society; and faith life.

## ACTIVITY: BREAK

[15 MINUTES]



[Facilitation: Evangelizer “A”]  
[Proclamation of the Gospel and timekeeping: Evangelizer “B”]

## ACTIVITY: LISTENING TO THE WORD OF GOD

[20 MINUTES]

### Meditation on the meaning of light

10 minutes

#### 1. **Evangelizer “B”:**

- Invites the participants to open their *Journals* to p. 36, where they will find a meditation on the biblical meaning of light.
- Asks them to read the meditation in silence while she or he reads it aloud, and to underline the ideas they feel are most important.
- Explains that he or she will guide the meditation slowly so that they can follow along and absorb the meaning, pausing after each paragraph in order to allow time for them to underline what they found important.

In biblical language, light is used to symbolize all the good and beautiful things in the world: life, love, authentic happiness, fullness of salvation, moral integrity, loving protection... The light is everything that illuminates our path toward God, thereby overcoming the darkness, which in the Bible represents misguided, selfish, or evil acts.

Furthermore, in the Bible light is a symbol of God and the person of Jesus. God is Light and Jesus is the Light himself, whose words and actions reflect God’s qualities, as we profess in the Creed:

I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, *Light from Light*, true God from true God, begotten, not made.

Light was the first thing God created in Genesis 1:3. Only with light can we see and walk safely. To enlighten our path, he sent great leaders such as Moses and the prophets to help the people of Israel to keep the Covenant, until Jesus' coming.

Jesus is the light that shines amid the spiritual darkness of the world, and his light never goes out. He came to dispel the darkness, to bring us the fullness of salvation, and to reveal the Father to us.

The light of the Gospel helps us to see life from God's perspective: to recognize our true dignity as God's children; to identify what is most important in life; and to distinguish what gives life from what causes death. The light of God's Word allows us to welcome Jesus—God made man, out of love for us—with faith and hope.

Jesus communicates his light through faith; he infuses it in our heart in Baptism, and he keeps it burning in us through the Eucharist. That is why we use candles as a sign of Jesus' presence in our lives at Baptisms, First Communions, and every time we celebrate the Eucharist.

In the darkness, it is hard to see the opportunities we are given every day to do good: to be thankful to the people who support and help us; to acknowledge our blessings and gifts received; to find ways to help those in need... To walk as Jesus' disciples and accomplish our mission, we need to see life in the light of the Gospel.

That is why each of the sessions in this Biblical Mission speaks of *seeing* and *judging* as Jesus does. His message about himself enlightens our lives and reveals the truth about God, about human beings and the rest of creation, and about the mystery of salvation. This light enables us to receive the happiness and love that God desires for each and every one of us, and in the end to attain the promise of eternal life.



## Share in pairs

5 minutes

2. **Evangelizer “B”** invites the participants to share with the person next to them the passages they underlined in the reading and to discuss why they are important insights for young people today.

## Orientation and proclaim the Word

5 minutes

### 3. Evangelizer “A”:

- Introduces the activity with the following explanation:

We are going to listen to the Word of God in order to deepen our knowledge of Jesus, who in this case introduces himself as the light. Let us remember that in the biblical sense *to know* means “to have an experience with the whole of one’s being.” Knowing Jesus this closely implies that you should “love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength” (Mk 12:30).

This comes from an intimate relationship with Jesus, which leads to the desire to follow his teachings. It means not only understanding what he taught, but trying to live it with all our heart. Let us pay close attention to Jesus’ words in the reading so that we can begin to live his short, but profound message.

- Invites the participants to take a moment of silence and prepare their hearts to listen to the Word of God. Reminds them that they can also follow along on p. 37 of their *Journal*, if they prefer.

### 4. Evangelizer “B”:

- Proclaims John 8:12.
- Invites the participants to meditate quietly on what was proclaimed, so that Jesus’ words find an echo in their hearts and lives.
- Proclaims again John 8:12.

## ACTIVITY: NAMING THE LIGHTS RECEIVED DURING THE BIBLICAL MISSION

[25 MINUTES]

### Guided personal reflection

15 minutes

#### 1. Evangelizer “A”:

- Asks the participants to open their *Journals* to p. 37, where the activity “Naming the lights received during the Biblical Mission,” is located.



- Indicates that the biblical quotes containing the symbolic names of Jesus highlighted during this Biblical Mission are in the column on the left side of the page, and there is space in the column on the right to write the lights they received while listening to and reflecting on the biblical passages.
- Reads the biblical quotes aloud one by one, giving the participants about two minutes for each quote to write their reflection in the column on the right side of the page.

## Commentary and proclaim the Word

5 minutes

### 2. Evangelizer “B”:

- Reads the following explanation of the word *mission*:

The word mission means “task,” “assignment,” or “work.” Biblically, the mission is always initiated by God’s call to collaborate with him in the history of salvation.

Jesus came into the world with the mission to establish a lasting covenant between God and us; to save us from sin and give us eternal life; to show us the truth about ourselves and the way to the Father; to be our Good Shepherd, who gives his life for his sheep; and to share with us the same divine life he shares with the Father. All of this we have experienced as an encounter with Jesus during the sessions of this Biblical Mission.

- Invites the participant to quiet their minds and hearts and prepare to listen to the mission Jesus entrusts to them in Matthew’s Gospel. Reminds them that they can follow along on p. 38 of the *Journal*.
- Proclaims Matthew 5:14–16.

## Personal reflection

5 minutes

3. Evangelizer “B” invites the participants to reflect personally on their call to be light for the world, keeping in mind the kind of spiritual lights they have received during the Biblical Mission, which they just wrote on p. 37 of the *Journal*. To help them in this reflection, they will respond to the questions found on p. 38 of the *Journal*:

- *What does it mean to bring Jesus’ light to others in your own environment?*
- *How can Jesus illuminate your family’s life through you?*
- *What actions could you take to become Jesus’ light for your friends, in your school, at work, or in your neighborhood? Give specific examples.*
- *Is Jesus inviting you to do something special among needy people so they can see their lives in the light of the Gospel?*

## EVALUATING



[Facilitation: Evangelizer "B"]  
[Timekeeping: Evangelizer "A"]

### ACTIVITY: REVIEWING OUR LIFE BEFORE JESUS

[10 MINUTES]

#### 1. Evangelizer "B":

- Indicates that in this session the participants will reflect first on the "Evaluating" phase of the Pastoral Circle, and then will do an exercise for the "Acting" phase, which brings together the whole Biblical Mission experience.
- Invites the participants to open their *Journal* to p. 39 and instructs them that to write down the messages from Jesus that touched their hearts in this session or that had an impact on how they want to live their lives.
- Asks them to open their *Journal* to p. 43 and look at their personal Mission cross with the symbols of the messages received in the previous sessions. Invites them to draw two final symbols that summarize the lights they received throughout the Biblical Mission: (a) one symbol represents the lights or insights that help them in the journey of their own lives; (b) the other symbol represents the mission to which they feel called by Jesus.

2. **Each participant** draws the symbols on his or her personal Mission cross in the *Journal*, p. 43.

## ACTING



[Facilitation: Evangelizer "B"]  
[Timekeeping: Evangelizer "A"]

### ACTIVITY: PREPARING THE CLOSING LITURGY AND THE BIBLICAL MISSION FOLLOW-UP

[25 MINUTES]

#### Comment on follow-up to the Biblical Mission

10 minutes

#### 1. Evangelizer "B":



- Invites the whole group to brainstorm about how they can keep getting to know Jesus better, and become a stronger and more effective light for the people they know, as well as the society where they live.
- If the participants do not belong to a youth or young adult group, the evangelizer invites them to join one or to start one. He or she can encourage them with personal experience, telling them about the people, processes and materials available to help them. One example of materials available is *YES! Youth Engaging Scripture*. This is a resource with reflections based on the Sunday Gospel readings that help young people to deepen their relationship with Jesus.
- Mentions local options for social action, such as helping in a public library, participating in vaccination campaigns, visiting the sick or orphans, feeding the hungry, etc. Other ministries in the parish or diocese can also be mentioned, such as apostolic movements with a particular charism or spirituality, or the parish youth and young adult ministries. Hands out brochures and fliers for the different options.
- If appropriate, sets a date for a meeting to plan what to do after the closing of the Biblical Mission.

### Make a banner for the Biblical Mission site

15 minutes

2. **Evangelizer “B”** invites the participants to create a banner or pennant to bring to the Closing Ceremony, according to the following instructions. See the sample on p. 82 of this *Guidebook*.
3. **Each participant:**
  - Receives a triangle made out of fabric so he or she can draw one of the symbols from the personal Mission cross on it, choosing the one with the most personal significance. A banner or a pennant similar to a stained-glass window will be created utilizing all of the triangles. Each triangle is clearly marked at its base or apex to indicate the direction in which the symbol must be drawn to ensure that, once the symbols are put together, none of the pieces will be placed upside down.
  - Draws the symbol following the instructions above.
  - The participants attach their triangle to the banner or pennant with glue.
4. **Both hosts** place the banner or pennant close to the altar for the final celebration of this session, while the **evangelizers** draw lots among the participants to choose two young people who will bring the banner to the Closing Liturgy as an offering from the host venue of their Biblical Mission.

### ACTIVITY: STRETCH BREAK

[5 MINUTES]



[Facilitation: Evangelizer “B”]  
[Timekeeping: Evangelizer “A”]

## ACTIVITY: DEEPENING OUR EXPERIENCE OF THE LIGHT [20 MINUTES]

1. **Evangelizer “B”** invites the participants to enter into a spirit of prayer in order to start the faith celebration. Together with **evangelizer “A,”** he or she hands an unlit candle to each participant as well as to the hosts. The candles should be in a glass enclosure or some kind of candleholder, having the names of the participants as a label. The evangelizers should keep their own candles.
2. **Both hosts:**
  - Initiate the celebration by carrying a large lighted candle in procession and placing it on the altar.
  - Solemnly proclaim, “This candle is a sign of Jesus, the light of the world.”
3. **Evangelizer “B”:**
  - Continues the ceremony by saying:

Each one of us has the mission to bring the light of Christ into the world. Take a moment to think about what you need from Jesus so that you can become more like him, allowing his light to shine in your life, and thereby becoming a light for the world yourself.
  - Invites both of the **hosts** and **evangelizer “A”** to start the ritual, demonstrating how it will be carried out:
    - Approaches the altar and says, “Jesus, light from light, help me to be a light and a good shepherd to those around me.”
    - Lights his or her candle with the flame from the large candle, and places it on the altar.
4. The **participants** approach the altar one by one, make their petition aloud, light their candle, place it on the altar, and form a circle around the altar.
5. **Evangelizer “B”:**
  - Continues the ritual by saying the following:

As individuals, great joy has been given to us by God because we bear the light of Jesus to others. Together, our light is magnified and becomes a beacon to the world around us. Here in this Biblical Mission, it might seem easy

to make commitments about following Jesus. However, out in the world it can be a lot harder to keep our light shining.

- Mentions actions that can dim the light of Jesus in our lives. Meanwhile, **evangelizer “A”** blows out the candles one by one. For example:
  - We forget to practice what we learned during the Biblical Mission [*blows out a candle*]
  - We criticize our neighbors without recognizing the harmful things we ourselves do [*blows out another candle*]
  - We do not appreciate the gifts that God has given us [*blows out another candle*]
  - We think only of ourselves [*blows out another candle*]
  - We hesitate to follow Jesus and do what he asks of us [*blows out another candle*]
  - We lose faith when facing difficulties [*blows out another candle*]
  - We close our hearts to Jesus' voice [*blows out another candle*]
  - We place more value on “having” than on “being” [*blows out another candle*]
  - We feel lost and do not realize that Jesus walks beside us [*blows out another candle*]
  - We take revenge on others, without even trying “to conquer evil with good” (Rom 12:21) [*blows out another candle*]
  - We are envious of another’s property [*blows out another candle*]

He or she continues until only the candle representing Jesus remains lit.

- Invites the participants observe a moment of solemn silence, then says:

God—in his goodness and endless love—constantly illuminates our lives with his light. He guides us with his Word that allows us to discern the true meaning of our lives, and he teaches us how Jesus’ light can shine through us to make the world a better place.

I invite all of you to make a commitment now, in front of your peers, to allow the light of Jesus to shine in your life. Jesus is always ready to forgive our trespasses and failures to return his love, and in the sacrament of reconciliation he renews in us the power of his Spirit, who gives us strength to start over and stay on the right path.

6. The **evangelizers, hosts, and participants** go one by one to the altar, find their candles, and relight them from the large candle that represents Jesus, saying:

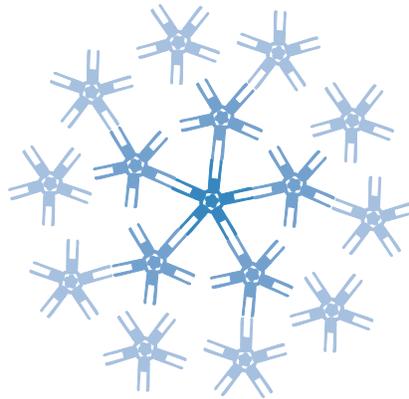
*Lord Jesus, I need your light. So that it will always shine brightly in my life, please help me to...*

7. **All** sing the theme song or another song related to the light of Jesus.

## ACTIVITY: ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SNACKS

[20 MINUTES]

1. **Host “A”** reminds the participants of the date, time, and place for the Biblical Mission Closing Liturgy and for the social gathering to celebrate their newness of life and the friendships formed during the Biblical Mission.
2. **Host “B”** invites the participants to help themselves to the snacks.
3. At the designated time to end the session, **both hosts** will:
  - Dismiss the participants in a friendly and joyful way.
  - Store the nametags or badges in the chest, together with the *Journals*, which will be returned to the participants at the Closing Liturgy.



## SESSION 4 APPENDIX

### INSTRUCTIONS TO PREPARE AND ASSEMBLE THE BANNER

1. White fabric approximately 1.5 yards long and 1 yard wide is required to form the base on which the banner will be made by adding colored triangles to make it look like stained glass.
2. Cut pastel colored fabric into triangles, one for each participant, including the evangelizers, hosts, and advisors, if any.
3. The triangles need to be equilateral (equal length on all three sides) and all the same size. The triangles should be big enough so that together they will cover the entire surface of the white piece of fabric.
4. On half of the participants' triangles, write the word "base" on one side of the triangle. On the other half, write the word "base" at the apex of the triangle. Thus, half of the symbols will have the triangle facing up (see figure 1) and the other half will have the triangle upside-down (see figure 2). This will ensure that all of the symbols will be drawn in the right direction when they are placed on the banner.

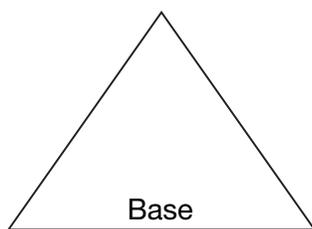


Figure 1

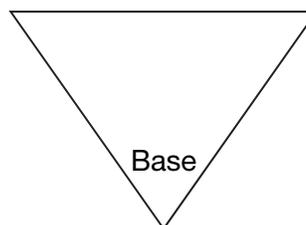
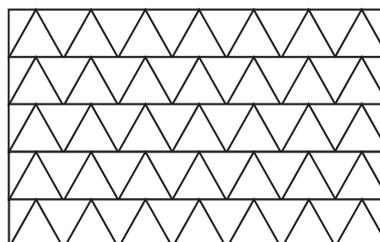
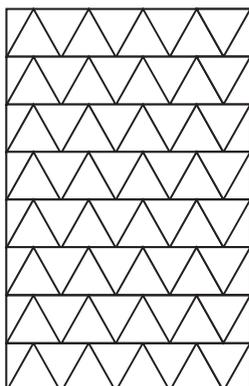


Figure 2

5. It is recommended to lightly draw the triangles on the white piece of fabric so it will be easier to place them, either vertically or horizontally.



# PART 2

## SESSION EVALUATIONS

### FOR THE TEAM OF YOUNG MISSIONERS AND THEIR ADVISERS

#### Introduction

The evaluation of the sessions is an essential part of the Biblical Mission process. It is one of the phases of the Pastoral Circle, whose goal is to reflect on the evangelizing action of the young missionaries. Thus, evaluation is a formation-in-action tool that helps us to develop the gifts that God has given each one of us to improve our shared leadership, and to develop a capacity for critical reflection on personal and community actions.

The session evaluations will focus on the participants' needs, the process of conducting the sessions, and the young missionaries' performance. Also, the adult advisers who accompany the young people at the Biblical Mission site must fill out the evaluation from their own perspective. This exercise serves to:

- Help the young missionaries get to know the participants better and reflect on their response to the Word of God and the Biblical Mission processes.
- Discern whether the objectives of each session were accomplished and if the life-giving messages were clearly and powerfully communicated.
- Assess the team's ability to fulfill its role for the sake of continual improvement.
- Determine the effectiveness of the overall process and specific activities.

#### Instructions for the evaluations and their summary

The evaluation of each session has three steps:

1. **Personal evaluation.** This evaluation should be done immediately at the end of the session, so that it may be as objective as possible.
2. **Team Reflection.** This reflection is based on a discussion of the personal evaluations, and it can take place immediately after filling out the evaluation forms or as the first activity in the preparation meeting for the next session.
3. **Summary of the evaluations for each Biblical Mission site.** A summary of the evaluations of the four young missionaries and their adviser should be done. One or two members of the team can carry it out; it should be given to the Core Team by the agreed date. It may be written on the evaluation form for each session, as follows: (a) for the *closed questions*, indicate how many people responded with each option; and (b) for the *open-ended questions*, make a list of the most relevant, important and/or frequent responses.

To facilitate the evaluations and record the summary, the forms are available in Microsoft Word format on the Biblical Mission website: [www.YouthBiblicalMission.org](http://www.YouthBiblicalMission.org).





PERSONAL NOTES ABOUT THE BIBLICAL MISSION. . .

# EVALUATION OF SESSION 1

## JESUS GIVES US HIS LIFE AND EMPOWERS US TO BEAR FRUIT

**1. How effective was the process of welcoming the participants, from their arrival at the Biblical Mission site to the closing celebration of faith and social gathering?**

- A. Poor \_\_\_\_ Fair \_\_\_\_ Good \_\_\_\_ Excellent \_\_\_\_
- B. What most helped to make the participants feel comfortable and welcome?
- C. Were there any problems building a sense of community? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_
- D. If yes, what was the cause?

**2. To answer the following questions, review your *Mission Guidebook* and find the pages with the objectives, life-giving messages, and session plan (pp. 17-19):**

- A. Check the phases of the Pastoral Circle that produced strong interest and involvement from the participants:

Being \_\_\_\_ Seeing \_\_\_\_ Judging \_\_\_\_ Acting \_\_\_\_ Evaluating \_\_\_\_ Celebrating \_\_\_\_

- B. Write two attitudes or reactions of the participants that showed they were absorbing the *life-giving messages* of the session.

1.

2.

- C. From your observation, were there any *objectives* that were not fulfilled?

Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

If your answer was yes, which objective(s) were not fulfilled and why?

**3. How would you characterize the group's openness to prayer and reflection on the Word of God?**

- A. Poor \_\_\_\_ Fair \_\_\_\_ Good \_\_\_\_ Excellent \_\_\_\_

- B. What most helped the participants to enter into a spirit of prayer and reflection?

C. Was there any action or a specific attitude that made prayer or reflection difficult?

Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

D. If there was, what was it?

**4. Do you feel this session helped the participants improve their relationship with Jesus?**

A. Not at all \_\_\_\_ A little \_\_\_\_ Quite a bit \_\_\_\_ A lot \_\_\_\_

B. Helped a few \_\_\_\_ Helped a good number \_\_\_\_ Helped most of them \_\_\_\_

C. How can you tell? Give two examples:

1.

2.

**5. Share one or two comments from the participants that you found interesting or valuable.**

A.

B.

**6. As a member of the Team of Young Missioners:**

A. How well-prepared were you to carry out your role during this session? Could you have prepared yourself better? How?

B. What was the most enriching experience of this session for you?

C. How did this session help you to form a closer relationship with Jesus?

D. What gifts, knowledge, or personal qualities helped you the most to fulfill your role in this session?

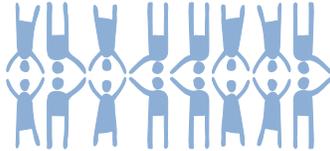
E. On a personal level, what was the greatest challenge you faced in this session?

F. What was the greatest accomplishment your team had during this session?

G. If you faced a special challenge as a team, state:

- What was the challenge?
- How did you resolve it?
- Could you have resolved it better? How?

H. What did you learn from this session that could help you improve the next session?



# EVALUATION OF SESSION 2

## JESUS, THE FRIEND WHO GIVES LIFE TODAY AND ALWAYS

1. How did the activity “Telling One Truth and Two Lies,” help to promote the cohesiveness of the group and awareness of the value of being authentic?

A. Group cohesiveness

Poor \_\_\_\_ Fair \_\_\_\_ Good \_\_\_\_ Excellent \_\_\_\_

B. Awareness of the value of being authentic

Poor \_\_\_\_ Fair \_\_\_\_ Good \_\_\_\_ Excellent \_\_\_\_

2. To answer the following questions, review your *Mission Guidebook* and find the pages with the objectives, life-giving messages, and session plan (pp. 33-35):

A. Check the phases of the Pastoral Circle that produced strong interest and involvement from the participants:

Being \_\_\_\_ Seeing \_\_\_\_ Judging \_\_\_\_ Acting \_\_\_\_ Evaluating \_\_\_\_ Celebrating \_\_\_\_

B. Write two attitudes or reactions of the participants that showed they were absorbing the *life-giving messages* of the session.

1.

2.

C. From your observation, were there any *objectives* that were not fulfilled?

Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

If your answer was yes, which objective(s) were not fulfilled and why?

3. Based on the conversations and prayers of most of the participants, during this and the previous session:

A. What is their level of knowledge about Jesus?

Poor \_\_\_\_ Fair \_\_\_\_ Good \_\_\_\_ Excellent \_\_\_\_ Not sure \_\_\_\_

B. How well did they demonstrate a living friendship with Jesus?

Poor \_\_\_\_ Fair \_\_\_\_ Good \_\_\_\_ Excellent \_\_\_\_

C. How strong is their desire to know Jesus and improve their relationship with him?

Poor \_\_\_\_ Fair \_\_\_\_ Good \_\_\_\_ Excellent \_\_\_\_

**4. Based on what you saw and heard during the session, how much do you think the participants value Jesus as “the way, the truth, and the life” who guides and gives meaning to their lives?**

A. Not at all \_\_\_\_ A little \_\_\_\_ Quite a bit \_\_\_\_ A lot \_\_\_\_

B. Which activities were crucial to getting this message across to the participants?

C. Describe two attitudes or comments from the participants that show they understood this message.

1.

2.

**5. This session offered several moments for reflection and prayer; which one would you describe as the most profound? Why?**

**6. As a member of the Team of Young Missioners:**

A. How well-prepared were you to carry out your role during this session? Could you have prepared yourself better? How?

B. What was the most enriching experience of this session for you?

C. How did this session help you to form a closer relationship with Jesus?

D. What gifts, knowledge, or personal qualities helped you the most to fulfill your role in this session?

E. On a personal level, what was the greatest challenge you faced in this session?

F. What was the greatest accomplishment your team had during this session?

G. If you faced a special challenge as a team, state:

- What was the challenge?
- How did you resolve it?
- Could you have resolved it better? How?

H. What did you learn from this session that could help you improve the next session?



# EVALUATION OF SESSION 3

## JESUS, THE GOOD SHEPHERD, LOVES ME, CALLS ME, AND GIVES ME LIFE

**1. Indicate how you perceive the level of cohesion and trust in the group:**

As friends and companions:      Poor \_\_\_\_ Fair \_\_\_\_ Good \_\_\_\_ Excellent \_\_\_\_

As a group with common interests:      Poor \_\_\_\_ Fair \_\_\_\_ Good \_\_\_\_ Excellent \_\_\_\_

As a community of shared faith:      Poor \_\_\_\_ Fair \_\_\_\_ Good \_\_\_\_ Excellent \_\_\_\_

**2. To answer the following questions, review your *Mission Guidebook* and find the pages with the objectives, life-giving messages, and session plan (pp. 49-51):**

A. Check the phases of the Pastoral Circle that produced strong interest and involvement from the participants:

Being \_\_\_\_ Seeing \_\_\_\_ Judging \_\_\_\_ Acting \_\_\_\_ Evaluating \_\_\_\_ Celebrating \_\_\_\_

B. Write two attitudes or reactions of the participants that showed they were absorbing the *life-giving messages* of the session.

1.

2.

C. From your observation, were there any *objectives* that were not fulfilled?

Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

If your answer was yes, which objective(s) were not fulfilled and why?

**3. Write two comments from the participants that you considered relevant in helping the group to understand that Jesus is the Good Shepherd.**

A.

B.

**4. The session began with a physical activity that gradually moved into a reflection. What was the group's reaction to this process?**

It was hard to enter into the reflection \_\_\_\_ The transition was easily achieved \_\_\_\_

**5. In the activities designed for the “Judging Phase,” participants listened to the Word of God and identified important messages. Was there a change in the participants’ involvement and responses between the first session and this one?**

Yes, a big change \_\_\_\_ Yes, a slight change \_\_\_\_ I did not notice a change \_\_\_\_

What do you think was the main reason for this?

**6. What was the group’s response when each person was called to go through the door?**

Most of the group made a commitment from the heart \_\_\_\_

Most of the group just obeyed and did as they were told \_\_\_\_

The activity was too advanced for most of the participants \_\_\_\_

**7. As a member of the Team of Young Missioners:**

A. How well-prepared were you to carry out your role during this session? Could you have prepared yourself better? How?

B. What was the most enriching experience of this session for you?

C. How did this session help you to form a closer relationship with Jesus?

D. What gifts, knowledge, or personal qualities helped you the most to fulfill your role in this session?

E. On a personal level, what was the greatest challenge you faced in this session?

F. What was the greatest accomplishment your team had during this session?

G. If you faced a special challenge as a team, state:

- What was the challenge?
- How did you resolve it?
- Could you have resolved it better? How?

H. What did you learn from this session that could help you improve the next session?



# EVALUATION OF SESSION 4

## JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD; I WANT TO BE A LIGHT FOR MY PEERS

1. How did you see the general group interaction and trust among participants change over the four sessions of the Biblical Mission? Check all the options that apply.

They remained stable \_\_\_\_

The participants grew together as a group and in mutual trust \_\_\_\_

Interpersonal relationships were formed and deepened \_\_\_\_

Participants conducted themselves as a faith community \_\_\_\_

It was not a cohesive group, but they want to continue meeting \_\_\_\_

Some participants are considering joining an existing group after the Biblical Mission \_\_\_\_

2. To answer the following questions, review your *Mission Guidebook* and find the pages with the objectives, life-giving messages, and session plan (pp. 65-67):

- A. Check the phases of the Pastoral Circle that produced strong interest and involvement from the participants:

Being \_\_\_\_ Seeing \_\_\_\_ Judging \_\_\_\_ Acting \_\_\_\_ Evaluating \_\_\_\_ Celebrating \_\_\_\_

- B. Write two attitudes or reactions of the participants that showed they were absorbing the *life-giving messages* of the session.

1.

2.

- C. From your observation, were there any *objectives* that were not fulfilled?

Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

If your answer was yes, write which objective(s) were not fulfilled and why?

3. Write two important comments from the participants' reflection on the light vs. darkness:

A.

B.

**4. In your experience, how meaningful was the activity “Reviewing our life before Jesus” while making a personal Mission cross, for most of the participants?**

It was a rich exercise for most \_\_\_\_

Most did it obediently but lacked depth \_\_\_\_

It was boring for most \_\_\_\_

**5. Throughout the Biblical Mission, which phases of the Pastoral Circle and/or which activities were most relevant to the lives of the participants?**

**6. How did the participants respond to your role as a Team of Young Missioners?**

In Session 1:

In Session 2:

In Session 3:

In Session 4:

**7. How was the role of the advisers carried out? Do you have any recommendations to improve that role?**

**8. Did you identify possible young leaders during the Biblical Mission?**

A. Write their names:

B. Do you see potential for them to serve as evangelizers or hosts in future Biblical Missions?

**9. As a Team of Young Missioners:**

- What was the most enriching experience of *this session* for you?
- What were the most enriching experiences as a member of the Team of Young Missioners *throughout the Biblical Mission*?
- Would you like to serve again on the team for another Biblical Mission? In what role?
- From your experience, what recommendations can you offer to improve future Biblical Missions?



THEME SONG OF THE FIRST CONTINENTAL BIBLICAL  
MISSION FOR YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

"GO OUT AND TELL"

*Bobby Fisher/Greg Lee*

**Refrain**

Go out and tell, make disciples of nations.  
Go out and tell the Good News.  
Sing from your heart, sing to all of creation.  
Go out and tell the Good News.

Go out and tell! (God's love is everlasting.)  
Go out and tell! (He is a loving friend.)  
Go out and tell! (He'll never leave you orphaned.)  
Shout it from the mountains,  
let the Word be alive in you.

Go out and tell! (Give food to the hungry.)  
Go out and tell! (Be compassion to the poor.)  
Go out and tell! (Be a friend to the lonely.)  
Come down from the mountain,  
let the Word be alive in you.

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PERSONAL NOTES ABOUT THE BIBLICAL MISSION. . .

