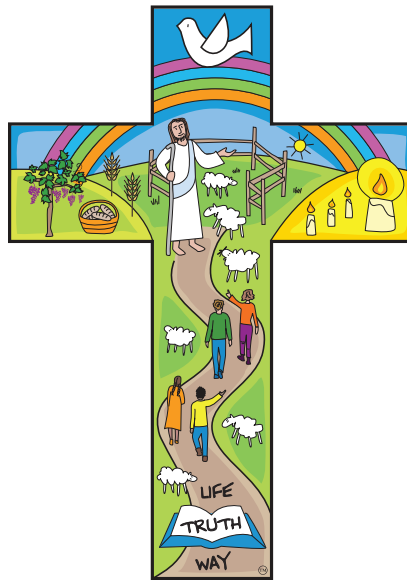


BIBLICAL MISSION FOR YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

GOD'S WORD COMES TO LIFE
IN YOUNG PEOPLE

Mission Journal



Instituto Fe y Vida
Biblical Team



www.YouthBiblicalMission.org (English version)
www.MisionBiblicaJuvenil.org (Spanish version)

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Dear Young People,

Welcome to the Biblical Mission for Youth and Young Adults! Today is a day of great joy for the Church, because many young people like you are gathering to hear, share, and celebrate the fact that *God's Word comes to life in young people.*

Participating in the biblical sessions is like starting a pleasant journey to meet Jesus, in order to get to know him and strengthen your relationship with him. Peers your own age will journey along with you in an adventure of self-discovery and encounter with God, through group activities, deep reflections, and meaningful prayers.

Your experience of this Biblical Mission will be unique and unrepeatable. By listening to Jesus' invitation and answering it, the richness of the Word of God will make a great difference in your life. It will communicate the merciful love of God, free you from past mistakes, and guide you to authentic happiness.

May you receive this *Journal* reverently; in it you will record your experiences and reflections throughout the Biblical Mission. It is a record of your personal and private journey that will be stored in a chest, in strict confidentiality between the sessions. At the end of the Biblical Mission, it will be returned to you with a special blessing, so that you may continue growing in your relationship with Jesus and take his Word to many other young people.

Pope Benedict XVI encourages us to do all we can so that "the Word of God may be increasingly listened to, contemplated, loved and lived." In God's Word, you will find love when you feel alone, comfort in moments of sadness, peace when facing anxiety, forgiveness for trespasses, wisdom to make decisions... and you will spend your days on this earth accompanied and guided always by Jesus.

Congratulations for saying "yes" to God with generosity! May you receive Jesus in your life, as Mary his Mother and ours did,

Instituto Fe y Vida Biblical Team

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.

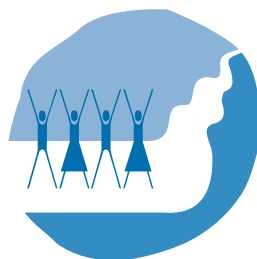


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INTRODUCTION

The *Mission Journal* is designed for writing the personal reflections and prayers of the young people participating in the First Biblical Mission for Youth and Young Adults, “God’s Word Comes to Life in Young People.” It includes the full text of the biblical passages utilized in each session, taken from *The Catholic Youth Bible*, so that all of the participants will be able to follow the reading with the same version of Sacred Scripture.

We hope and trust in God that participation in this Biblical Mission will bear much fruit in the life of each person involved. We pray that all may be touched by the words of Jesus, may absorb them in an intimate encounter with him, and may be moved to action in service to others, as the first disciples of Jesus did.

The Pastoral Circle in the Biblical Mission and in the life of Christians

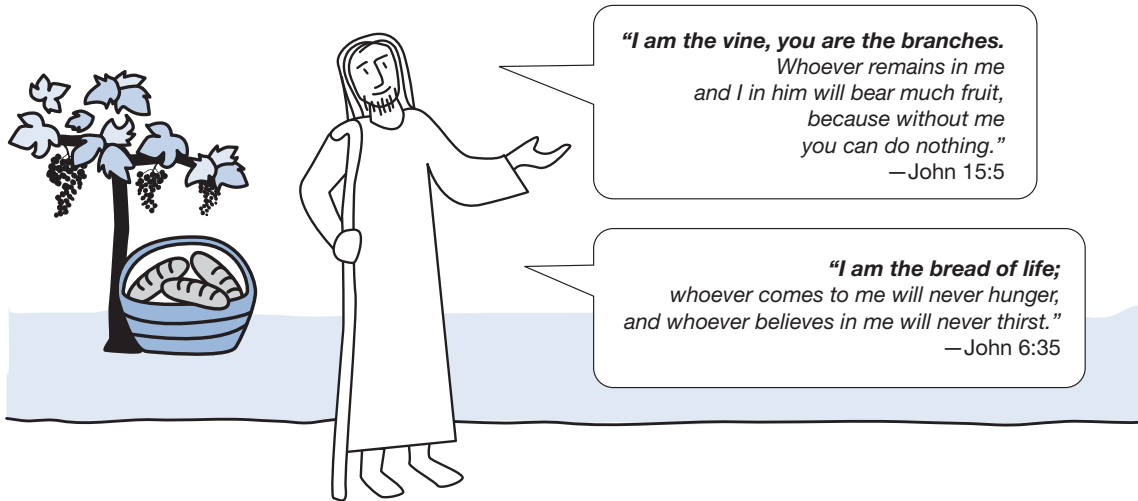
The Biblical Mission for Youth and Young Adults springs from the lived experience of young people; it enlightens their lives with God’s Word and fosters their Christian development. The biblical sessions are organized utilizing the Pastoral Circle, a method like that used by Jesus when he proclaimed the arrival of the Kingdom of God on earth:

1. **Being.** Reaffirms the essence of each young person with his/her uniqueness, gifts, and belonging as a member of the faith community; this is accomplished through a prayer, followed by activities that help the participants to accept themselves and to recognize their dignity as a son or daughter of God.
2. **Seeing.** Helps the young participants to see life from different perspectives through personal and community reflection exercises.
3. **Judging.** Illuminates the young people’s lives with God’s Word, so that by getting to know Jesus better and opening their hearts to his love, they may become his disciples, willing to follow his teachings.
4. **Acting.** Moves the participants to live as Christians by responding with enthusiasm to God’s Word, which is always life-giving.
5. **Evaluating.** Engages the young people in a review of the whole biblical session in order to identify the most relevant messages for their present situation in life.
6. **Celebrating.** Revitalizes and strengthens young people and the community to continue living as Jesus’ disciples, with a fraternal spirit and Christian solidarity.



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.

BEING



INTRODUCTORY PRAYER

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: STRENGTHENING OUR TIES

Listen carefully to the instructions for this activity. Together with your small group you will assemble a chain. Once you are finished, answer the following questions in the space below and then discuss your answers with your fellow participants:



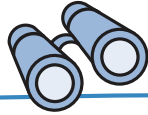
What makes the chain you just assembled unique?



Which are the strongest and the weakest links?



How many different ways did you find to link the pieces in your chain? Describe them.

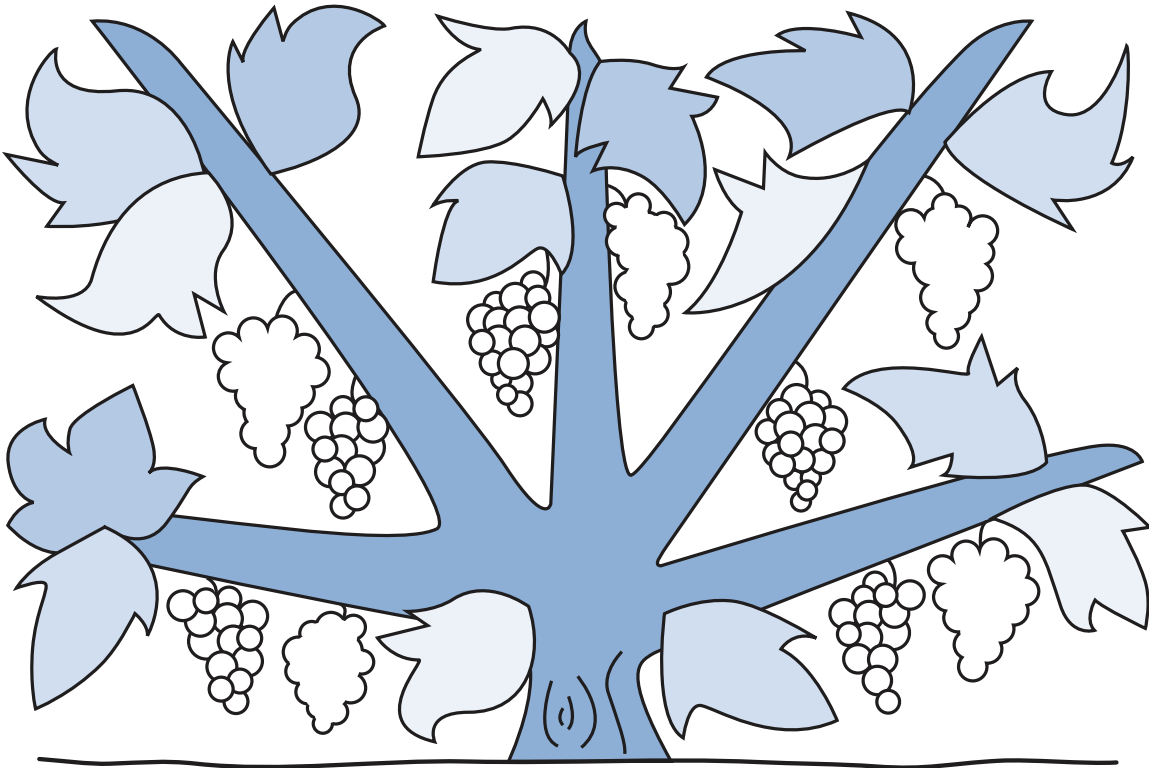


ACTIVITY: REFLECTING ON OUR RELATIONAL TIES

A. Regarding your human relationships

This grapevine represents you and the human relationships you have built so far in your life. One of the Biblical Mission evangelizers will instruct you to write on it:

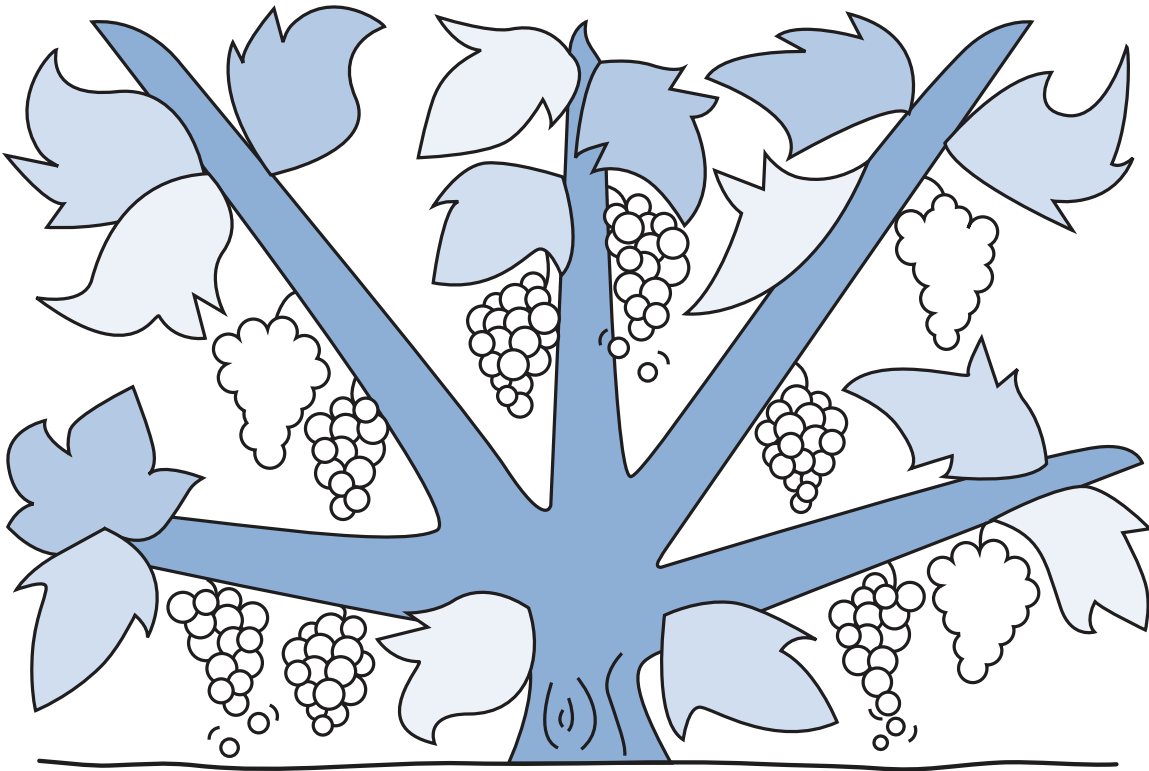
1. On the **trunk**, write your name.
2. On the **branches**, write the names of the five people who are closest to you.
3. On the **leaves**, write three things that connect you to the person named on that branch. For instance, you might mention friendship, interesting conversations, reaching goals together, mischief, hobbies, etc.



B. Regarding your relationship with Jesus

This grapevine represents Jesus and your relationship with him. Write on it:

1. On the **trunk**, write Jesus' name.
2. On **each of the five branches**, write one quality of Jesus that attracts you to him. For instance, you might mention his compassion, his courage...
3. On the **leaves**, write something that connects you to Jesus, such as love, friendship, baptism, or something else.





ACTIVITY: LISTENING TO THE WORD OF GOD

One of the evangelizers will proclaim the Word of God. Prepare your heart and listen carefully to the Gospel message.

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and everyone that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit. You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you. Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me.

I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me will be thrown out like a branch and wither; people will gather them and throw them into a fire and they will be burned.

If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you. By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy might be in you and your joy might be complete.

—John 15:1-11

REFLECTION IN SMALL GROUPS

Share your reflection in your small group, utilizing the following questions as a guide:



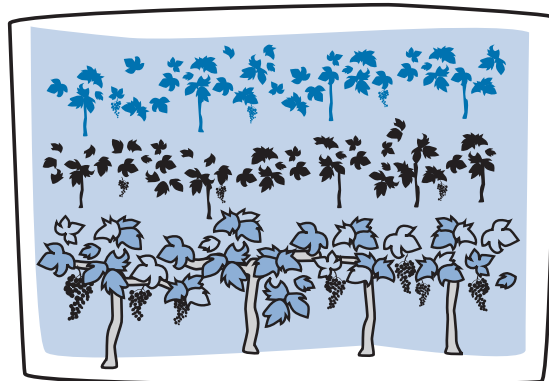
What are the fruits of being united to Jesus?



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?



PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

The evangelizer proclaims another passage from the Word of God. Prepare your heart and listen to the message carefully.

I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst. But I told you that although you have seen [me], you do not believe. Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and I will not reject anyone who comes to me, because I came down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of the one who sent me. And this is the will of the one who sent me, that I should not lose anything of what he gave me, but that I should raise it [on] the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life, and I shall raise him [on] the last day.

—John 6:35-40

REFLECTION IN SMALL GROUPS

Share your reflection in your small group, utilizing the following questions as a guide:



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?



ACTIVITY: MAKING OUR BONDS PERMANENT

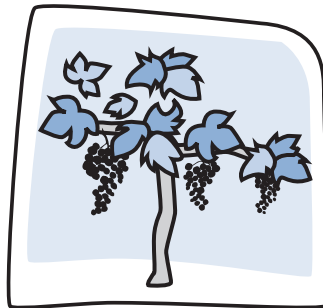
Jesus wants us to be bound to him, just as the grapevine branches are bound to the trunk, so that we may receive our nourishment from him and bear the fruits of love and goodness in our relationships. Complete the exercise by following these steps:

Return to the grapevine that represents your relationship with Jesus, p. 10:

1. On the four clusters without the falling grapes, write how Jesus enriches or improves your personal life.
2. On the three clusters with only the silhouette of the grapes, write aspects of your life that need to be nurtured by Jesus' love.
3. 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, which represents your closest human relationships:

1. 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.
2. 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.



EVALUATING



ACTIVITY: REVIEWING OUR LIFE BEFORE JESUS

1. Reflect in silence and write on the scroll the messages from Jesus that touched your heart or that had an impact on how you want to live your life, while listening to his Gospel.

2. Draw on your personal Mission cross, found on the last page of your *Journal*, p. 43, two or three symbols representing those messages.

CELEBRATING

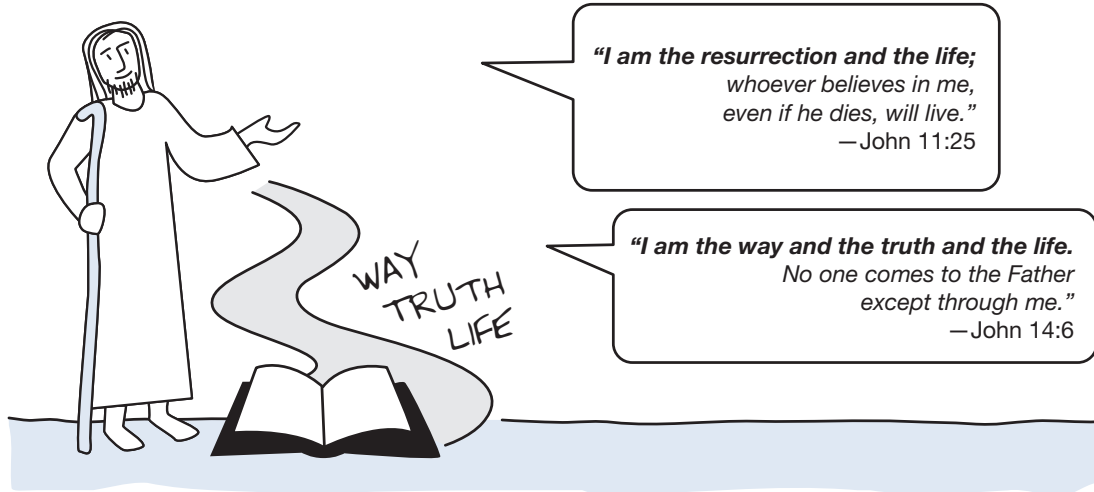


WRITING MY PRAYER TO JESUS

Write on the scroll below what you want to tell Jesus at this time, after listening to the Word that gives new life.



PERSONAL NOTES ABOUT THE BIBLICAL MISSION. . .



OBJECTIVES

- To deepen our 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.



INTRODUCTORY PRAYER

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 us 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

Write three short statements about yourself; *one should be true*, and *the other two should be lies*. For example: (a) I have four sisters; (b) I play the guitar; and (c) I perform in a dance troupe. All of the statements must be plausible, since the objective is to prevent your fellow participants from easily guessing which one is true. You may write the true statement on any of the lines marked as (a), (b), or (c):



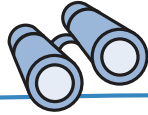
(a)



(b)



(c)



ACTIVITY: THINKING ABOUT WHAT IS REAL AND WHAT IS FAKE IN OUR LIVES

Take a moment for personal reflection about what you will write on the chart below. Be completely honest with yourself—no one else will read what you have written.

REAL	FAKE
<p>Write three positive qualities about yourself or virtues you have acquired:</p> <p>1.</p> <p>2.</p> <p>3.</p>	<p>Write two false statements about yourself that you sometimes tell people:</p> <p>1.</p> <p>2.</p>
<p>Write three flaws or shortcomings you have:</p> <p>1.</p> <p>2.</p> <p>3.</p>	<p>Write two deceitful acts you have committed or lies you have intentionally told someone recently:</p> <p>1.</p> <p>2.</p>

REFLECTION IN SMALL GROUPS

Share your reflection in your small group, utilizing the following questions as a guide:



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: LISTENING TO THE WORD OF GOD

One of the evangelizers will proclaim the Word of God. Prepare your heart and listen carefully to the Gospel message.

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, only about two miles away. And many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him; but Mary sat at home. Martha said to Jesus,

— Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. [But] even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you.

Jesus said to her,

— Your brother will rise.

Martha said to him,

— I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day.

Jesus told her,

— I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?

She said to him,

— Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world.

—John 11:17-27

PERSONAL REFLECTION NO. 1



Which title do you usually use for Jesus: *Christ*, *Messiah*, *Jesus Christ*, or *Lord*, and what meaning does it have for you when you address him that way?

PERSONAL REFLECTION NO. 2



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?”

REFLECTION IN SMALL GROUPS

Reflect in silence using the following questions as a guide. Then share your reflection in your small group.



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?

ACTING



PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

The evangelizer proclaims another passage from the Word of God. Prepare your heart and listen to the message carefully.

Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be. Where [I] am going you know the way.

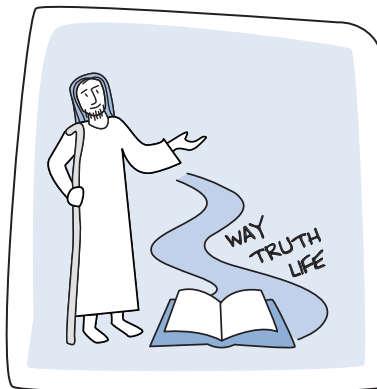
Thomas said to him,

— Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?

Jesus said to him,

— I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, then you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him.

—John 14:1-7



EVALUATING



ACTIVITY: REVIEWING OUR LIFE BEFORE JESUS

1. Reflect in silence and write on the scroll the messages from Jesus that touched your heart or that had an impact on how you want to live your life, while listening to his Gospel.

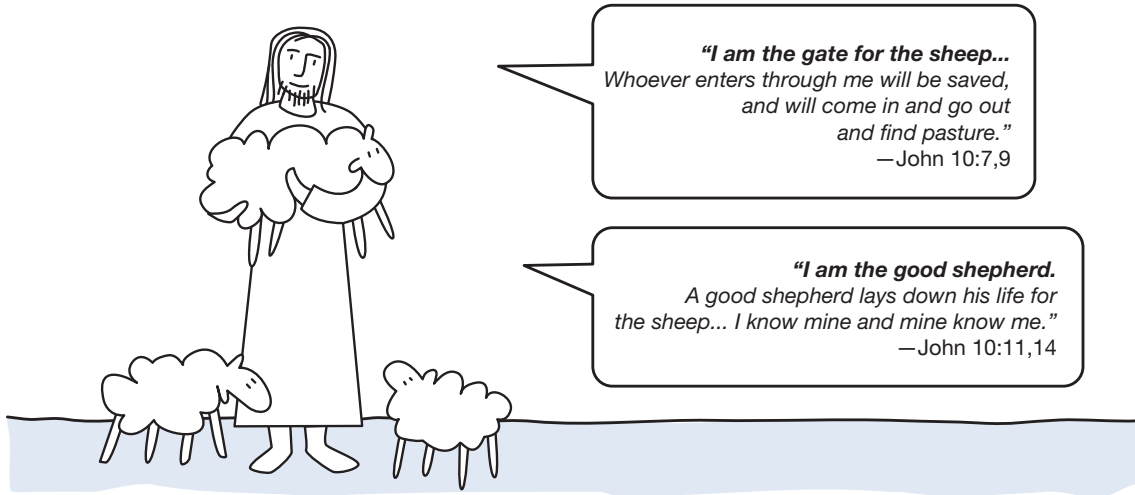
2. Draw on your personal Mission cross, found on the last page of your *Journal*, p. 43, two or three symbols representing those messages.

CELEBRATING



WRITING MY PRAYER TO JESUS

Write on the scroll below the prayer you offered to Jesus at the altar, after listening to the Word that gives new life.



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.

BEING



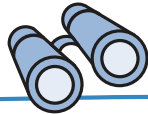
INTRODUCTORY PRAYER

Good and loving 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 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.

SEEING



ACTIVITY: RELATING TO JESUS AS OUR GOOD SHEPHERD

Reflect in silence on some personal problems or challenges you have faced. Be honest with yourself. No one else will read what you wrote.

Table 1: Personal problems or challenges		
Serious problems or challenges you have faced in your life	Weaknesses you felt while facing those problems or challenges	Names of the people who helped you the most, and a word that reminds you of their advice or help
1.		
2.		

Table 2: Other people's problems or challenges		
Names of two people you have supported or helped when they were facing a problem or a challenge	Words that summarize the problem or challenge of each person	Gifts and/or strengths you had, which allowed you to help each person
1.		
2.		

REFLECTION IN SMALL GROUPS

Share your reflection in your small group, utilizing the following questions as a guide:



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?



ACTIVITY: LISTENING TO THE WORD OF GOD

One of the evangelizers will proclaim the Word of God. Prepare your heart and listen carefully to the Gospel message.

— Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever does not enter a sheepfold through the gate but climbs over elsewhere is a thief and a robber. But whoever enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice, as he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has driven out all his own, he walks ahead of them, and the sheep follow him, because they recognize his voice. But they will not follow a stranger; they will run away from him, because they do not recognize the voice of strangers [vv. 1-5].

Although Jesus used this figure of speech, they did not realize what he was trying to tell them. So Jesus said again,

— Amen, amen, I say to you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came [before me] are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. A thief comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy; I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly [vv. 6-10].

— I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. A hired man, who is not a shepherd and whose sheep are not his own, sees a wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf catches and scatters them. This is because he works for pay and has no concern for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I will lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice, and there will be one flock, one shepherd [vv. 11-16].

—John 10:1-16

REFLECTION IN SMALL GROUPS

Share your reflection in your small group, utilizing the following questions as a guide:



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?



ACTIVITY: RESPONDING TO JESUS, WHO CALLS US BY NAME

Profile of Jesus, the Good Shepherd	
Reading	Characteristics of Jesus
<p>“Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever does not enter a sheepfold through the gate but climbs over elsewhere is a thief and a robber. But whoever enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice, as he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has driven out all his own, he walks ahead of them, and the sheep follow him, because they recognize his voice. But they will not follow a stranger; they will run away from him, because they do not recognize the voice of strangers.” —<i>John 10:1-5</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3.
<p>So Jesus said again, "Amen, amen, I say to you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came [before me] are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. A thief comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy; I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly.” —<i>John 10:7-10</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3.
<p>“I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. A hired man, who is not a shepherd and whose sheep are not his own, sees a wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf catches and scatters them. This is because he works for pay and has no concern for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I will lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice, and there will be one flock, one shepherd.” —<i>John 10:11-16</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3.
<p>The two characteristics that would help me the most to be more like Jesus the Good Shepherd in my own environment are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 	

EVALUATING



ACTIVITY: REVIEWING OUR LIFE BEFORE JESUS

1. Reflect in silence and write on the scroll the messages from Jesus that touched your heart or that had an impact on how you want to live your life, while listening to his Gospel.

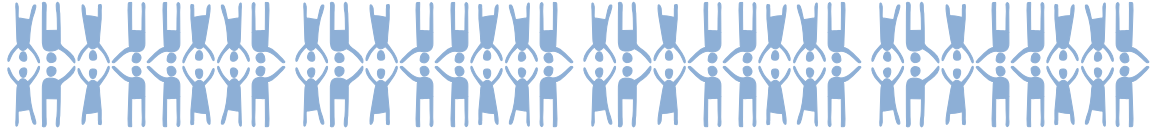
2. Draw on your personal Mission cross, found on the last page of your *Journal*, p. 43, two or three symbols representing those messages.

CELEBRATING



WRITING MY PRAYER TO JESUS

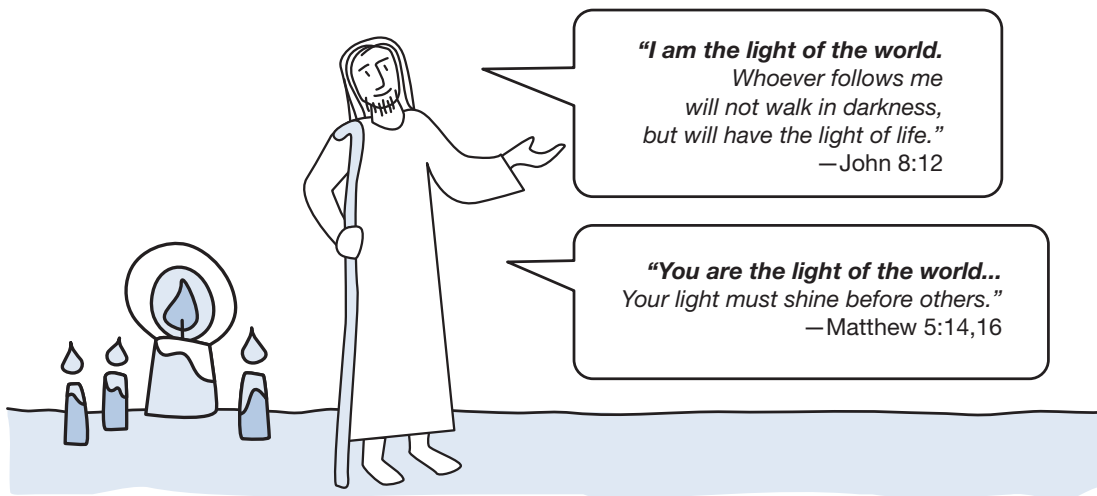
Write on the scroll what you told Jesus when you signed your name on the door with the image of the Good Shepherd.



PERSONAL NOTES ABOUT THE BIBLICAL MISSION. . .

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.



INTRODUCTORY PRAYER

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

If you were chosen to be an observer, use this space to write down your observations:



ACTIVITY: LISTENING TO THE WORD OF GOD

1. MEDITATION ON THE MEANING OF LIGHT

Read quietly the following text and underline the ideas you feel are most 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.

2. SHARE IN PAIRS

PROCLAMATION FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

One of the evangelizers will proclaim the Word of God. Prepare your heart and listen carefully to the Gospel message.

Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

—John 8:12

ACTIVITY: NAMING THE LIGHTS RECEIVED DURING THE BIBLICAL MISSION

The Gospel of Jesus	Important lights I received during this Biblical Mission
<p>"I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing." —John 15:5</p>	
<p>"I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst." —John 6:35</p>	
<p>"I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live." —John 11:25</p>	
<p>"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father, except through me." —John 14:6</p>	
<p>"I am the gate for the sheep... Whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture." —John 10:7, 9</p>	
<p>"I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep... I know mine and mine know me." —John 10:11, 14</p>	
<p>"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." —John 8:12</p>	

PROCLAMATION FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATHEW

The evangelizer proclaims another passage from the Word of God. Prepare your heart and listen to the message carefully.

You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.

—Matthew 5:14-16

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Reflect on the following questions now that you have gotten to know Jesus better:



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 that they can see their lives in the light of the Gospel?

EVALUATING



ACTIVITY: REVIEWING OUR LIFE BEFORE JESUS

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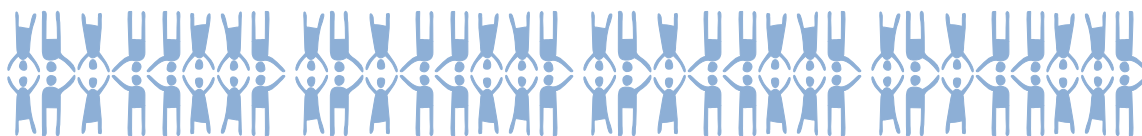
2. Draw on your personal Mission cross, found on the last page of your *Journal*, p. 43, two or three symbols representing those messages.

CELEBRATING



WRITING MY PRAYER TO JESUS

Write on the scroll below what you want to tell Jesus at this time, after listening to the Word that gives new life.



PERSONAL NOTES ABOUT THE BIBLICAL MISSION. . .



PERSONAL NOTES ABOUT THE BIBLICAL MISSION. . .

