

Mary—Mother of the Church

Lesson Focus | The Church refers to Mary as the New Eve, because through her yes she cooperated with Christ in redeeming man from sin and giving new life to the world. As such, she is “mother of all the living,” Christ’s own mother, and Mother of the Church. Because of her yes, God granted Mary special privileges, including her Immaculate Conception, perpetual virginity, and Assumption into Heaven. We too are called to grant her a special privilege by honoring her more than all the other saints and loving her as our own mother.

1 | begin

- Pray the Glory Be with your child.
- Tell your child about your own relationship with Mary, a time you turned to her in need, a time she helped you, or what you’ve learned from her about following Christ.
- Read Luke 1:26–56 aloud.

2 | summarize

Summarize this week’s lesson for your child:

Example: *Because Mary said yes to God, he could send Jesus into the world. For that reason, and for all the ways she loved Christ and now loves us, we honor her more than all the saints.*

3 | review

Review this week’s lesson by asking your child the following questions:

1. What was the Annunciation? (*The event in which Gabriel announced to Mary that she would be the Mother of God and she said yes.*)
2. What is fiat, and when was it said? (*“Let it be done” in Latin; at the Annunciation.*)
3. Define Immaculate Conception. (*Mary’s conception in her mother’s womb free from Original Sin.*)
4. Define perpetual virginity. (*Mary’s being a virgin before, during, and after Jesus’ birth.*)
5. Do Catholics worship Mary? (*No, we worship only God. We venerate Mary because of her role in our salvation and because Jesus asks us to honor and love her.*)
6. What doctrine teaches that Mary is in heaven with her body and soul? (*The Assumption.*)

References

- Student Textbook: Chapter 9, pp. 61–67
- Sacred Scripture: Gen 3; Mt 1:18–24; Lk 1:26–56; Jn 2:1–11; 19:26–27
- *Catechism of the Catholic Church*: 148–149, 484–511, 963–71, 2617–19, 2705–8



4 | apply

Help your child apply this week's lesson by asking the following questions:

1. What is your favorite title of Mary? Why? What does it say about her?
2. What does Mary's example teach you about following Christ? How could you be a better imitator of Mary?
3. How often do you pray to Mary? Ask her for help? When else could you turn to her?

5 | conclude

- With your child, pray the Our Father.

6 | follow up

During the week, do at least one of the following activities with your child:

1. Memorize Luke 1:38a.
2. As a family, pray the Litany of Loreto (see Appendix.)
3. Learn about Our Lady of Fatima and the miracle of the sun. Rent a movie about Fatima and watch it as a family.

*And Mary said,
"Behold, I am the
handmaid of the
Lord; let it be to me
according to your
word."*

—Luke 1:38

notes
