Hello. This Is Jesus. Lesson Plan on Our Relationship with Jesus

In our bustling world filled with distractions, it's time to pause and reflect on the special relationship we have with Jesus Christ. This lesson plan guides us to explore this bond in a thoughtful way. We'll consider how to introduce Jesus to someone new and explore our connection with Him.

Start with a fun activity, the Party Circle Icebreaker, which encourages unity and service. Just like in a game, life calls us to serve God and others. Then, imagine introducing Jesus to a friend through writing, using the Gospel of Matthew. We'll talk about Peter's declaration of Jesus as the Son of God and learn about Church teachings.

Deepen your relationship with Jesus. How do you spend time with Him? This strengthens our faith and understanding. We're challenged to share Jesus with others, like Peter did. The journey ends with a prayer, the Litany of the Names of Jesus, reinforcing our bond with Him.

This lesson plan empowers you to connect more deeply with Jesus, reflect on His teachings, and confidently share His love and message. Through activities, scriptures, discussions, and prayers, "Hello. This Is Jesus" helps us grow in faith and spread His light to others.

Opening Game for Hello. This Is Jesus. Lesson Plan on Our Relationship with Jesus

In this <u>Party Circle Icebreaker</u>, participants take part in a series of handshakes, waves, and introductions, all while moving around the circle. To play, one person acts as "The Host" and starts introductions with a chosen person, creating a chain of introductions and handshakes. But there's more – while moving around the circle, participants stop to exchange greetings again, making the game delightfully silly. To add a twist, change how they move around, like skipping or going backward. Get creative! For full instructions and the laughter-filled icebreaker, <u>click here</u>.

Now, moving from the game to the lesson plan, let's think about the connections we've just made. As we've shaken hands and shared names, think: Just as we've introduced ourselves through handshakes, how would we introduce Jesus to someone? How might we describe His essence and our relationship with Him? Let's bring this introduction and connection spirit into the deep exploration of our relationship with Jesus.

Scripture Reading for Hello. This Is Jesus. Lesson Plan on Our Relationship with Jesus

Give the youth pencils and paper.

https://young-catholics.com/3796/lesson-plan-relationship-with-jesus/

Imagine Jesus is standing next to you and you are introducing Jesus to a friend at school. Take a few minutes and write out an introduction of a paragraph or two. Describe Jesus and his relationship to you.

Have them spread out and give them plenty of time to do this.

Have any youth who are willing stand up and give their introduction of Jesus.

Then read this passage from the Gospel of Matthew:

<u>Matthew 16:13-20</u> (Jesus asks about who people think he is) – the Gospel Reading for the <u>21st Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A</u>

Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi and he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"

They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

Simon Peter said in reply, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Jesus said to him in reply, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

Then he strictly ordered his disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

Matthew 16:13-20

Discussion for the Hello. This Is Jesus. Lesson Plan on Our Relationship with Jesus

Peter did a really good job saying who Jesus is. Anyone talking to him would understand his relationship with Jesus and his confidence in it.

Now imagine your friend's reaction to your introduction of Jesus.

- Would they be surprised?
- Would they be confused?
- Would they say, I knew that about you and Jesus?
- Would they want more information?

Jesus is everything that God would like to tell us. The entire Old Testament prepares for the Incarnation of God's Son. All of God's promises find their fulfillment in Jesus. To be a Christian means to unite oneself ever more deeply with the life of Christ.

YouCat – The Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church (18)

For more background information on this topic and further discussion points, see Who Is Jesus Christ?

God is infinite, and difficult for us to understand. In Jesus, God tells us who he is. That is why we want to know Jesus better. But to get to know somebody, you have to spend some time with them. This is especially important in our relationship with Jesus, because he wants us to understand how much God loves us.

Reflection Questions for the Hello. This Is Jesus. Lesson Plan on Our Relationship with Jesus

After the reflection, young people will be divided into small groups for further discussion about their relationship with Jesus. The following questions will guide their conversation:

- What are your favorite ways to spend time with Jesus?
- How do these help you grow closer to Him?
- What are the most important things you would want somebody else to know about .lesus?
- How can you continue to nurture your relationship with Jesus and inspire others to do the same?

After a few minutes, ask for volunteers to share their thoughts about their relationship with Jesus with the larger group.

Challenge for the Hello. This Is Jesus. Lesson Plan on Our Relationship with Jesus

Your mission this week is to introduce Jesus to someone, either through words or actions. Just as we've introduced ourselves with handshakes and waves, imagine how you could introduce your relationship with Jesus into another person's life. Could it be through a kind gesture, assistance, or by sharing a vital part of your faith journey?

This challenge encourages us to become representatives of Christ, spreading His message of love, kindness, and empathy. Like Peter's resolute declaration of Jesus as the Christ, we can

become conduits of His impactful presence. Embrace this challenge, carrying the introductions' spirit into your interactions, and let the light of Jesus shine through your words and deeds.

Prayer for the Hello. This Is Jesus. Lesson Plan on Our Relationship with Jesus

As we wrap up this lesson plan, let's fully embrace the depth of the Litany of the Names of Jesus. Just as we've explored the many facets of our relationship with Jesus through introductions, reflections, and challenges, this prayer captures the diverse roles that Jesus plays in our lives. From being the Beloved Son of God to the Prince of Peace, from the Bread of Life to the Light of the World, each name signifies a part of His divine nature and boundless love. Through the Litany of the Names of Jesus, let's join our voices in prayer, seeking His guidance, mercy, and peace.

Pray the Litany of the Names of Jesus

Hear our prayer, O Lord, as we bring this lesson plan on our relationship with Jesus to a close. May the abundance of His names remind us of His unwavering grace and the ever-present light He brings into our lives.

Resources

Understand the truth of Jesus

Learn more about Jesus Christ through scripture and prayer

More Themes

Background Material

Music Suggestions

More Youth Ministry Lesson Plans and Reflections

Litany of the Names of Jesus