



Becoming a Disciple

Step 1

Leader's Manual

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Becoming a Disciple Step 1 Leader's Manual

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Introduction

Young Disciples is designed to guide students in navigating the foundational teachings of Jesus and the apostles in order to further establish them in their faith as disciples of Christ.

Designed for students age nine and older, this study can be adapted to a variety of cultures and types of gatherings including various size groups of children of different ages in the following settings: student and mentor, individual families, multiple family gatherings where parents, grandparents, or caregivers participate in the class with their children, VBS, Sunday School, or multiple family gatherings where an adult leads the children in this study while parents engage in similar topics.

Suggested Preparation of Leader's Manual and Student and Mentor Journals:

- **Leader's Guide (binder for each leader)**
 - ❖ 1-inch binder
 - ❖ Include a copy of the Leader's Guide.
 - ❖ Include a copy of the Student Journal and the Mentor Journal.
 - ❖ Review the available resources for each week and print those that are needed.
- **Student Journals (binder for each student)**
 - ❖ ½-inch or 1-inch binder
 - ❖ Include a copy of the Student Journal.
 - ❖ Add paper for drawing in the front pocket.
 - ❖ Optional: Include a CD of Bible Memory Verse Songs.
- **Mentor Journals (binder for each mentor)**
 - ❖ ½-inch or 1-inch binder
 - ❖ Include a copy of the Mentor Journal.

Planning Tips:

- Have an in-class helper to assist the leader as needed.
- A minimum of 90 minutes is suggested for each lesson. The Got Time activities are optional.
- Although we want to encourage the students and mentors to be comfortable with finding Bible verses, you may not have enough time in class for participants to look up every verse. You may choose to give each person a copy of the Bible verses provided for each lesson at the end of these resources.
- Look for opportunities during class when students are working on a craft or project to talk with mentors separately about their experience in the class and at home. Use this time to encourage them in mentoring their young disciple(s).
- Baptism: Plan a baptism ceremony at the end of Step 1. Several resources are provided in this manual to help you plan.



Step 1 Classroom Resources

(available at ResourceWell.org)

Session 1: Seeing the Light

Opening Activity: A Light in the Darkness Sample

Challenge: God and Me

*Baptism: Celebration Information

Session 2: Choosing the Way

A.B.C. Prayer

New Believer's Guide for Children

Session 3: Becoming a New Creation

Illustration: Metamorphosis of a Butterfly Coloring Pages

Illustration: Metamorphosis of a Butterfly Visuals

Session 4: Celebrating a New Identity

Opening Activity: Who Am I? Nametags (Print on paper or 2" x 4" labels.)

Illustration: Properties of Water Visuals

Share Your Story: "Why I Wanted to Be Baptized" Water Drops Visual

*Baptism: "Do You Want to Be Baptized?" Information

*Baptism: Celebration Invitation

*Baptism: Celebration Guests RSVP

*Baptism: My Baptism Bookmark

Session 5: Belonging to God's Family

Opening Activity: Fingerprint Faces Sample

Apostles' Creed Activity: Apostles' Creed Shuffle Visuals

*Baptism: Preparing for Baptism for Mentors

*These baptism resources are available at ResourceWell.org in Word Document form so you can personalize them for your situation.



Scope and Sequence

Step 1: Becoming a Disciple			
	Session	Aim	Scripture References
1	Seeing the Light	To understand spiritual darkness and God's kingdom of light.	Isaiah 60:19; John 1:4-5, 12:46; 2 Corinthians 4:6
2	Choosing the Way	To understand that only through choosing to follow Jesus do we have eternal fellowship with God.	Genesis 3:1-6; 1 John 1:5; Romans 5:12; Psalm 86:15; 1 Peter 3:18; John 3:16, 14:6
3	Becoming a New Creation	To know what it means to be born again as a disciple belonging to Christ.	Romans 10:13; John 5:24; 2 Corinthians 5:17; John 3:3-5, 16-17; Ephesians 2:4-10
4	Celebrating a New Identity	To understand the symbolism of baptism.	Mark 1:9-11; 2 Corinthians 5:15, 17; John 1:12; 1 Corinthians 12:13
5	Belonging to God's Family	To know what it means to be a member of the body of Christ.	1 John 3:1a; Matthew 12:48-50; John 14:2-3; Colossians 3:14-15; Ephesians 4:14-16
Baptism Celebration John 14:6; Romans 10:9			

Step 2: Living as a Disciple			
	Session	Aim	Scripture References
1	Reading the Bible	To understand the value of studying God's Word.	Psalms 119:105; Deuteronomy 6:5-9; 2 Peter 1:16-21; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12
2	Praying*	To learn how to use the Lord's Prayer as a guide for daily prayer.	Matthew 6:5-15; 1 Chronicles 29:11; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; 1 John 1:9
3	Living Generously	To understand the importance of generosity.	2 Corinthians 9:6-8, 12-15; Malachi 3:10; Acts 2:32-35; 1 Timothy 6:17-19; Matthew 6:20-21
4	Serving Others	To learn how God has gifted us to serve others.	Matthew 4:18-20; 22:35-40; Luke 10:41-42; John 8:7-11; 11:32-35; 2 Corinthians 8:9; Philippians 2:6-8
5	Being in Community	To learn key components of a thriving Christian community.	John 13:34-35; Acts 2:42-47; 1 Corinthians 13:4-7; Colossians 3:12-17
6	Worshiping	To understand what it means to live a life of worship and to partake in Holy Communion together.	Psalms 100; Luke 10:27; Matthew 26:26-28; Hebrews 9:15; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26



Dictionary

Baptism: The sprinkling or immersion of a believer in water. Going under the water and coming up stands for the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. It also stands for the way new believers have died to their old ways and have a new identity as a follower of Christ.

Notes: _____

Body of Christ: The entire group (past, present and future) of all who follow Christ. Each member of the body of Christ is different, yet important to the whole body.

Notes: _____

Born again: The transformation that occurs when we choose to follow Jesus. We are given a second birth as a new creation - changed from a person who lives and dies apart from God, to a child of God who will live forever close with God.

Notes: _____

The Church: The entire group (past, present and future) of all who follow Christ. The Church is also known as the body of Christ, the Bride of Christ, and God's family.

Notes: _____

Christian: A follower of Christ, also known as a disciple, believer, or saint.

Notes: _____

Disciple: A follower of Christ also known as a Christian, believer, or saint.

Notes: _____

God's family: The entire group (past, present, and future) of all who follow Christ. All who follow Christ are adopted by God as His own children.

Notes: _____

Holy: Perfect and without sin.

Notes: _____

Redeemed: Purchased. Jesus is our Redeemer because He fully paid for our sins. All who believe in Him belong to Him and are free from the punishment of sin.

Notes: _____

Saved: Rescued. Jesus is the Savior who rescues us from a life without God by taking the punishment for our sins. Without Him, our souls would not live forever. When Jesus saves us, our souls live forever close with God.

Notes: _____

Sin: Doing wrong in God's eyes.

Notes: _____



The Apostles' Creed

"I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. On the third day He rose again; He ascended into heaven, He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen."

In the first four sessions of Step 1 for Young Disciples, we will explore each statement of faith as we study The Apostles' Creed in one section per session. In session five, we will memorize the creed together. In Session 6, we will confess the creed together at the Celebration of Holy Baptism.

Section 1: Identity of God the Father

"I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth."

Section 2: Identity of God the Son

"I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. On the third day He rose again; He ascended into heaven, He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and He will come again to judge the living and the dead."

Section 3: Identity of God the Holy Spirit

"I believe in the Holy Spirit,"

Section 4: Identity of God's Family

(I believe in) "...the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen."

Step 1: Becoming a Disciple



The Lord's Prayer and Bible Memory Verses

The Lord's Prayer*

Matthew 6:9-13 with the doxology

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be Your name,
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.
For Yours is the kingdom
and the power
and the glory forever.
Amen.

Bible Memory Verses*

"I am the way and the truth and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through Me."
John 14:6

"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,'
and believe in your heart that God
raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."
Romans 10:9

* Choose the Bible version that is most familiar to your group.



Song Lyrics

I Am the Way (John 14:6; Romans 10:9)

(Sheet music, song & track available at ResourceWell.org)

I am the way. I am the truth. I am the life.
No one comes to the Father except through Me.
I am the way. I am the truth. I am the life.
 (I am the way and the truth and the life.)
No one comes to the Father except through Me.

If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord,"
Believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead,
You will be saved. You will be saved.

For He said, I am the way. I am the truth. I am the life.
 (I am the way and the truth and the life.)
No one comes to the Father except through Me.
I am the way (Way!). I am the truth (Truth!). I am the life.
 (I am the way and the truth and the life.)
No one comes to the Father except through Me.

If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord,"
Believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead,
You will be saved. You will be saved.

For He said, I am the way (Way!). I am the truth (Truth!). I am the life.
 (I am the way and the truth and the life.)
No one comes to the Father except through Me.
I am the way (Way!), I am the truth (Truth!), I am the life.
 (I am the way and the truth and the life.)
No one comes to the Father except through Me.
I am the way and the truth and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through Me, through Me, through Me.

Song Lyrics continued ...

For God So Loved the World (John 3:16)

(Sheet music, song & track available at ResourceWell.org)

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son
That whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

I believe. Yo creo.
For God so loved the world, He gave His only Son.
Tanto amo Dios al mundo,
Que dio a su Hijo unigenito,
Para que todo el cree en El,
No se pierda, si no que tenga vida eterna.
I believe. You creo.
For God so loved the world, He gave His only Son.

*Reading: Tanto amo Dios al mundo, que dio a su Hijo unigenito,
Para que todo el cree en El, no se pierda, si no que tenga vida eterna.*

Tanto amo Dios al mundo. God so loved the world.
Que dio a su Hijo unigenito. He gave His only Son.
Para que todo el cree en El. That whoever believes in Him.
No se pierda, si no que tenga vida eterna. Shall not perish, but have eternal life.

This Little Light of Mine

(traditional hymn)

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. (3x)
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Hide it under a bushel, no, I'm gonna let it shine. (3x)
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Let it shine all over the world, I'm gonna let it shine. (3x)
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Let it shine, let it shine. (3x)
I'm gonna let it shine.

Song Lyrics continued ...

This I Believe (Album: No Other Name)

Words And Music By Matt Crocker & Ben Fielding © 2014 Hillsong Music Publishing

VERSE 1

Our Father everlasting
The all creating One
God Almighty
Through Your Holy Spirit
Conceiving Christ the Son
Jesus our Saviour

CHORUS

I believe in God our Father
I believe in Christ the Son
I believe in the Holy Spirit
Our God is three in One
I believe in the resurrection
That we will rise again
For I believe
In the Name of Jesus

VERSE 2

Our Judge and our Defender
Suffered and crucified
Forgiveness is in You
Descended into darkness
You rose in glorious life
Forever seated high

BRIDGE

I believe in You
I believe You rose again
I believe that Jesus Christ is Lord

CHORUS 2:

I believe in life eternal
I believe in the virgin birth
I believe in the saints' communion
And in Your holy Church
I believe in the resurrection
When Jesus comes again
For I believe in the Name of Jesus



Leader's Guide
Young Disciples Step 1
Becoming a Disciple
Session 1

Seeing the Light

**Session Aim: To understand spiritual darkness
and God's kingdom of light.**

Step 1: Becoming a Disciple			
	Session	Aim	Scripture References
1	Seeing the Light	To understand spiritual darkness and God's kingdom of light.	Isaiah 60:19; John 1:4-5, 12:46; 2 Corinthians 4:6
2	Choosing the Way	To understand that only through choosing to follow Jesus do we have eternal fellowship with God.	Genesis 3:1-6; 1 John 1:5; Romans 5:12; Psalm 86:15; 1 Peter 3:18; John 3:16, 14:6
3	Becoming a New Creation	To know what it means to be born again as a disciple belonging to Christ.	Romans 10:13; John 5:24; 2 Corinthians 5:17; John 3:3-5, 16-17; Ephesians 2:4-10
4	Celebrating a New Identity	To understand the symbolism of baptism.	Mark 1:9-11; 2 Corinthians 5:15, 17; John 1:12; 1 Corinthians 12:13
5	Belonging to God's Family	To know what it means to be a member of the body of Christ.	1 John 3:1a; Matthew 12:48-50; John 14:2-3; Colossians 3:14-15; Ephesians 4:14-16
Baptism Celebration John 14:6; Romans 10:9			

Step 1 Terms: Baptism, body of Christ, born again, the church, Christian, disciple, God's family, holy, redeemed, saved, sin (For definitions, see the dictionary in the Leader's Manual, Mentor's Journal, and Young Disciple's Journal.)

Step 1 Bible Memory Verses: John 14:6; Romans 10:9

How to Use This Guide: Young Disciples is designed to guide students in navigating the foundational teachings of Jesus and the apostles in order to further establish them in their faith as disciples of Christ. Designed for students age nine and older, this study can be adapted to a variety of cultures and types of gatherings including various size groups of children of different ages in the following settings: student and mentor, individual families, multiple family gatherings where parents, grandparents, or caregivers participate in the class with their children, VBS, Sunday School, or multiple family gatherings where an adult leads the children in this study while parents engage in similar topics.



Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Opening Game: The Name Game	None
		Introduction to Young Disciples: Step 1	<i>Student Journals, Mentor Journals, Baptism: Celebration Information</i> (available in Leader's Guide Resources)
		Opening Activity: A Light in the Darkness	Black sturdy paper or fabric, or paper painted black, glue, variety of white or yellow craft supplies (ex. paper, fabric, glitter, stickers, etc.)
THE WORSHIP	Up to 10	Worship Sheet music and recordings for the Bible Memory Verse Songs are available at ResourceWell.org.	Lyrics are found in the <i>Leader's Guide and Student & Mentor Journals</i> , Bible Bible Memory Verse Songs: "I Am the Way" (John 14:6; Romans 10:9) "For God So Loved the World" (John 3:16) "Chosen People" (1 Peter 2:9) Additional Song Suggestions: "This Little Light of Mine" (traditional) "This I Believe" by Hillsong
THE WORD	Up to 10	Read the Word: Isaiah 60:19; John 1:4-5; John 12:46; Challenge Scripture: 2 Corinthians 4:6	Bible(s)
THE WAY	Up to 45	Illustration: Light and Darkness	Flashlight or blindfolds, one object (e.g. book, picture in a frame, shoe) per student
		Discussion: His Light in Our Darkness	Bible(s)
		Share Your Story: Stepping into the Light	See the supplies from the OPENING ACTIVITY: A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS.
		Challenge: God and Me	Pencils, <i>God and Me</i> page in Student and Mentor Journals (also in Leader's Guide Resources)
	Final 5	Final Five: Prayer and Daily Steps	<i>Daily Steps</i> Session 1 take-home devotional for students and mentors
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: The Wave	Bible Memory Verse poster or Bible
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Walking on the Word	2 Bibles or poster with the Bible Memory Verse, sturdy paper, Bible Memory Verse Song "I Am the Way," large cross cut from poster board
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Apostles' Creed Activity: Circle Your Questions	<i>The Apostles' Creed</i> located in the Leaders' Guide as well as the Student and Mentor Journals, pencils, "This I Believe" by Hillsong

Session 1: Seeing the Light Scriptures

Step 1 Bible Memory Verses

"I am the way and the truth and the life.

No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6

"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9

Isaiah 60:19

"The sun will no more be your light by day, nor will the brightness of the moon shine on you, for the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory."

John 1:4-5

"In Him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

John 12:46

"I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in Me should stay in darkness."

2 Corinthians 4:6 (Challenge Scripture)

"For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ."

John 8:12

"When Jesus spoke again to the people, He said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'"



Seeing the light

THE WELCOME

OPENING GAME: THE NAME GAME

Purpose: To help people get to know one another.

Supplies: None

Welcome to Young Disciples Step One! We will be learning what it means to become a disciple of Christ. I will explain more about this class in a moment, but first, let's begin by getting to know one another. In this game, we will learn everyone's name and then introduce one another, so listen carefully to what others say.

Directions:

1. Students are seated in a circle.
2. Each student states his or her name and one fact about himself or herself. To increase difficulty, add a snapping/clapping rhythm so students must speak in time with the beat.
3. Each student now introduces the student on his or her right and says the fact about that student.
4. Each student now introduces the student on his or her left and says the fact about that student.

INTRODUCTION TO YOUNG DISCIPLES: STEP 1

Purpose: To introduce the class and the Student and Mentor Journals.

Supplies: *Student Journals, Mentor Journals, Baptism: Celebration Information* (available in Leader's Guide Resources)

Distribute Student Journals and Mentor Journals. Take time to look at them with the participants.

In your journals, you will see an introduction and a list of your responsibilities in committing to taking this class. Right now, let's turn to the Student Responsibilities page in your journals and read it together. The leader reads the Student's Responsibilities page aloud and asks students to sign at the bottom of their page. If you have time, review the Mentor's Responsibilities page in class. Otherwise, ask them to take time at home to read and sign the page.

At the end of Step 1, we will have a baptism for those who are ready to take this step. Hand out the *Baptism Celebration Information*. **Whether you attend as an observer or choose to be baptized, your friends and families are all invited to come.**

Both the student and mentor journals contain a dictionary of terms of the faith, the Apostles' Creed and its' history, the Lord's Prayer, Step 1 Bible Memory Verses, song lyrics for worship, and ideas on the next steps you can take to grow in your faith after this class has ended.

Next, you will see the daily devotional to be completed for each session. Student Journals include some blank paper in case you prefer to answer some of the questions by drawing a picture. Mentors, you will also see that each week the Mentor's Journal includes a Moving Forward page for you to consider and take notes on ways you can support your young disciple.

THE WELCOME *continued...*

OPENING ACTIVITY: A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

Purpose: To create pictures or collages that introduce the contrast between light and darkness.

Supplies: Black sturdy paper or fabric, or paper painted black, glue, variety of white or yellow craft supplies (ex. paper, fabric, glitter, stickers, etc.)

Directions:

1. Give each student* a sheet of black paper or fabric. Explain that this represents darkness.
2. Students use glue and white or yellow craft supplies to cover the black paper.
3. While students complete their project, discuss light and darkness. **Describe a time you were in the dark and needed a light to help you?** (Students respond.) **How do you feel when you are in a dark room and can't see anything around you?** (Students respond.) **How do you feel when there is a light to help you see?** (Students respond.)

*You may choose to let the mentors do their own craft or to encourage them to assist their child(ren).



Worship God as the Everlasting Light

THE WORSHIP



God created light and He separated it from darkness. We worship God as the Everlasting Light. Read 1 John 1:5.

What do the words "God is light" mean to you? (Students respond.) **Jesus is like a light that points us to God the Father. All who believe in Jesus have life forever close with God the Father. He is the Everlasting Light.**



Sing Bible Memory Verse Songs: "I Am the Way" (John 14:6; Romans 10:9).

Sing "Words of Faith," "This Little Light of Mine," and/or other songs about God's light.

God gives us spiritual light which is an understanding of who God is and what He has done. One way we can worship Him is to learn the truths and promises about these things in His Word. The Apostles' Creed is a list of those truths and promises that disciples over the centuries have believed to be true. Let's open to the Apostles' Creed in your journals and read it aloud together. Read The Apostles' Creed together.



Let's take a moment to thank God for the sun, moon, and stars He created and for the spiritual light He gives us that leads us to Him.



God gives us light

THE WORD

Purpose: To recognize that sin separates us from God and that we need a way to reunite with Him.

Leader Tip: Have a different student read each Scripture passage aloud.



God has always had a plan for bringing us out of darkness and into His kingdom of light. Let's read God's promise spoken by the prophet Isaiah nearly 800 years before God sent His Son Jesus into the world to be the Light of the world. Read Isaiah 60:19.

Let's see what Jesus' disciple John tells us about Jesus. Read John 1:4-5.

Now, let's read what Jesus says about Himself. Read John 12:46.

Challenge Scripture: For more advanced students, read and discuss 2 Corinthians 4:6.



Spiritual light and darkness

THE WAY

ILLUSTRATION: LIGHT AND DARKNESS

Purpose: To help students experience the power of light.

Supplies: Flashlight or blindfolds, one object (e.g. book, picture in a frame, shoe) per student

What would the world be like without light? (Students respond.) **So many simple things we do every day would become challenging or impossible without light!**

Directions:

1. Turn out all lights or blindfold students and sit in dark for a moment. **How does it feel to sit in darkness?** (Students respond.)
2. Place an object in front of each student. Invite them to pick up the object in front of them and try to guess what it is.
3. Encourage students to give as many details about the object as possible.
4. Ask students questions about their object that they would only be able to answer if they could see the object. (Ex. Yes, it is a book, but what book is it?)
5. Turn on a flashlight or remove the blindfolds, revealing the true nature of the objects held by each student.

DISCUSSION: HIS LIGHT IN OUR DARKNESS

Purpose: To help students understand that Jesus is the Light of the world.

Supplies: Bible(s)

Leader's Note: This discussion is based on ILLUSTRATION: LIGHT AND DARKNESS.

Directions:

1. **How did you feel when you were asked questions about your object that were impossible to answer without light?** (Students respond.)
2. **What did you discover about your object when you could finally see it?** (Students respond.)
3. **The Bible uses darkness to describe life separated from God. Sin separates us from God. When we live apart from God, it is as if we are walking in darkness.** Read Isaiah 9:2.
4. **Light is so powerful! The Bible uses light as a picture of God's power.** Read John 8:12.
5. **What do you think Jesus means when He says He is "the Light of the world"?** (That He is powerful, that He can show us the way to go, that He can do impossible things.)

THE WAY *continued...*

SHARE YOUR STORY: STEPPING INTO THE LIGHT

Purpose: For a leader or helper to share and illustrate a personal testimony (in age-appropriate terms) of how God brought him or her out of darkness and into His kingdom of light.

Supplies: See the supplies from the OPENING ACTIVITY: A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS.

The leader or a helper shares a brief personal testimony while visually illustrating their transformation of moving from darkness into God's light using the dark and light supplies from the opening activity. Be sure to include the following points:

- **Darkness:** In age-appropriate terms, give a brief description of how you made choices according to your own desires and how it felt to live in darkness separated from God.
Visual: While you are speaking, show students the black paper or fabric to represent darkness.
- **God's light shines:** Explain how God showed Himself to you and how His light shone into your darkness and showed you the truth about your darkness and His light.
Visual: Start adding white or yellow paper and fabric scraps to the dark background. Explain that this is like God shining His light into your life and piercing through the darkness.
- **Jesus as Savior:** Description of the circumstances in which you chose to ask Jesus to be your Savior who would rescue you from being separated from God, such as praying alone, with a friend, in a class, etc.
Visual: Continue adding white or yellow craft supplies to the dark paper.
- **Light:** Describe the difference in your life now that you live in the kingdom of light.
Visual: Continue adding white or yellow craft supplies to the black paper until the darkness is completely covered by the light objects.

CHALLENGE: GOD AND ME

Purpose: To help students and mentors evaluate their relationship with God.

Supplies: Pencils, *God and Me* page in *Student and Mentor Journals* (also in Leader's Guide Resources)

Everyone has a relationship or connection with God or an opinion about God. Open your journals to the page marked *God and Me*. This activity is meant to help you describe your relationship with God and your thoughts about Him.

Directions:

1. Discuss the meaning of each sentence on the GOD AND ME page.
2. Give students and mentors time to follow the directions.
3. Students can turn to their mentors to discuss their answers.
4. If more time is needed, encourage students and mentors to complete this activity at home.
5. **Next week, we will talk more about this.**

THE WAY *continued...*



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

CLOSING PRAYER

Invite everyone to pray (aloud) sentence prayers of praise and requests. Conclude with praying the Lord's Prayer together (Matthew 6:9-13).

Have students share their prayer requests and praises. The leader prays for the prayer requests and praises.

In closing, let's pray the prayer that Jesus Himself taught us to pray. Lead students and mentors in The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13)*:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name,
Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.
For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

* Choose the Bible version that is most familiar to your group.

DAILY STEPS

Be sure students and mentors know where to find *Daily Steps: Step 1* Session 1 in their journals.

Each day this week, use *Daily Steps* to guide you in your personal devotional time with God. Bring your journal with you next time we meet. We will begin by sharing what you learned during your devotional times.

Dismiss students or enjoy a relationship-building activity such as a meal or a game.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"I am the way and the truth and the life.

No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6

"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9

ACTIVITY: THE WAVE

Purpose: Students memorize the Bible Memory Verses.

Supplies: Bible Memory Verse poster or Bible

God created everything in heaven and on the earth. As we say our Bible Memory Verse together, think about something amazing you have seen. Remember, God created everything and He created you, too!

Directions:

1. Assign one word or phrase from John 14:6 and Romans 10:9 to each student or group.
2. Direct each student/group to quickly stand and say the assigned word or phrase while raising both hands up to the sky, then down to the thighs, and finally sitting down.
3. Repeat three times, going faster each time.

ACTIVITY: WALKING ON THE WORD

Purpose: Students will memorize the Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: 2 Bibles or poster with the Bible Memory Verse, sturdy paper, Bible Memory Verse Song "I Am the Way," large cross cut from poster board

Prepare: From sturdy paper, cut 40 paper footprints. Create two sets of 20 paper footprints, each with one of the following 20 phrases: I am/the way/and the truth/and the life./No one/comes to/the Father/except/through Me./If you/confess/with your mouth/"Jesus is Lord"/and believe/in your heart/that God/raised Him/from the dead/you will/be saved.

You may choose to print each verse (John 14:6 and Romans 10:9) on a different color paper.

Optional: Laminate the paper footprints to protect them from tearing or substitute scrap linoleum flooring for the sturdy paper. To simplify for beginning readers, add symbols or pictures on the footprints. To increase degree of difficulty, create a footprint for each word instead of each phrase.

We have two Bible Memory Verses. John 14:6 quotes Jesus' exact words promising He is the only way to come to God the Father. Romans 10:9 explains the promise concerning what we must do to be saved. In this game, team members will work together to place the footprints in the right order. You may use a Bible. Then, each member will say step on the footprints while saying the phrases until he or she has reached the cross.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

Directions:

1. Mix up each set of 20 footprints.
2. Designate a starting line for each team at one end of the play area.
3. Place the cross at the other end of the play area.
4. Divide students into 2 teams.
5. Play the Bible Memory Verse Song as background music.
6. Have teams line up behind their starting line. Give each team a set of 20 footprints.
7. On your signal, teams race to place the footprints in the correct order in a path from their starting line to the cross.
8. When the footprints are in the correct order, each team member steps on the footprints, saying each phrase aloud, until they reach the cross.
9. The first team to have all its members reach the cross is the winner.



APOSTLES' CREED ACTIVITY

GAME: CIRCLE YOUR QUESTIONS

Purpose: Students and mentors consider which statements they question in the Apostles' Creed.

Supplies: *The Apostles' Creed* located in the Leaders' Guide as well as the Student and Mentor Journals, pencils, "This I Believe" by Hillsong

Option: You may substitute your own favorite song, write a song or chant about the Apostles' Creed, or simply read the Apostles' Creed together aloud, and then adapt the directions accordingly.

The Apostles' Creed is a statement of what we believe as Christians. It is important to know what we believe so that we can grow in our faith and share our beliefs with others, as well as more clearly answer their questions. Since faith involves believing in what we cannot yet see, it is understandable that even though we may already be following Jesus, we may each have questions or doubts about some of the statements in the Apostles' Creed. God wants us to search the Bible, search out hearts, and seek wise counsel to find the answers to our question, or to learn to trust God with our doubts.

Directions:

1. Distribute pencils to students and mentors
2. Students and mentors open their journals to the lyrics to "This I Believe".
3. As the leader plays the recording, the student and mentors follow along with the lyrics, circling any statement that they question, doubt, or want to study further.
4. If time allows, ask the student to share their questions and doubts. If possible, do not attempt to answer their questions at this moment. **These are all excellent questions and understandable doubts. Let's pray that over the next few weeks, God will reveal to each of us the answers to our questions, and that he will help us trust Him with our doubts.** Ask a volunteer to lead the group in that prayer.
5. **Each day, read over the words you have circled. Whenever you feel that God has given you understanding concerning one of your questions or the ability to trust Him with your doubts, then erase that pencil marking!**



Leader's Guide
Young Disciples Step 1
Becoming a Disciple
Session 2

Choosing the Way

**Session Aim: To understand that only through Jesus
do we have eternal fellowship with God.**

Step 1: Becoming a Disciple			
	Session	Aim	Scripture References
1	Seeing the Light	To understand spiritual darkness and God's kingdom of light.	Isaiah 60:19; John 1:4-5, 12:46; 2 Corinthians 4:6
2	Choosing the Way	To understand that only through choosing to follow Jesus do we have eternal fellowship with God.	Genesis 3:1-6; 1 John 1:5; Romans 5:12; Psalm 86:15; 1 Peter 3:18; John 3:16, 14:6
3	Becoming a New Creation	To know what it means to be born again as a disciple belonging to Christ.	Romans 10:13; John 5:24; 2 Corinthians 5:17; John 3:3-5, 16-17; Ephesians 2:4-10
4	Celebrating a New Identity	To understand the symbolism of baptism.	Mark 1:9-11; 2 Corinthians 5:15, 17; John 1:12; 1 Corinthians 12:13
5	Belonging to God's Family	To know what it means to be a member of the body of Christ.	1 John 3:1a; Matthew 12:48-50; John 14:2-3; Colossians 3:14-15; Ephesians 4:14-16
Baptism Celebration John 14:6; Romans 10:9			

Step 1 Terms: Baptism, body of Christ, born again, the church, Christian, disciple, God's family, holy, redeemed, saved, sin (For definitions, see the dictionary in the Leader's Manual, Mentor's Journal, and Young Disciple's Journal.)

Step 1 Bible Memory Verses: John 14:6; Romans 10:9

How to Use This Guide: Young Disciples is designed to guide students in navigating the foundational teachings of Jesus and the apostles in order to further establish them in their faith as disciples of Christ. Designed for students age nine and older, this study can be adapted to a variety of cultures and types of gatherings including various size groups of children of different ages in the following settings: student and mentor, individual families, multiple family gatherings where parents, grandparents, or caregivers participate in the class with their children, VBS, Sunday School, or multiple family gatherings where an adult leads the children in this study while parents engage in similar topics.



Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Review: Seeing the Light	Students and mentors will need their <i>Daily Steps: Step 1</i> Session 1
		Opening Activity Option 1: Lost and Found Hearts	Wrapped candy hearts or heart-shaped cookies (one per student)
		Opening Activity Option 2: Making A Way	Two chairs or tables, newspaper, tape, thread, pebbles or marbles
THE WORSHIP	Up to 10	Worship Sheet music and recordings for the Bible Memory Verse Songs are available at ResourceWell.org.	Lyrics are found in the <i>Leader's Guide and Student & Mentor Journals</i> , Bible Bible Memory Verse Songs: "I Am the Way" (John 14:6; Romans 10:9) "For God So Loved the World" (John 3:16) "Chosen People" (1 Peter 2:9) Additional Song Suggestions: "This Little Light of Mine" (traditional) "This I Believe" by Hillsong
THE WORD	Up to 10	Read the Word: Genesis 3:1-6; 1 John 1:5; Romans 5:12; Psalm 86:15	Bible(s)
THE WAY	Up to 50	Illustration Option 1: The Lost Cup	1 cup (paper or plastic) and 1 permanent marker per student, Bible
		Illustration Option 2: The Bridge	6-foot tall wooden or paper cross, masking tape, Bible
		Discussion: Understanding The Lost Cup/The Bridge	None
		Share Your Story: Crossing the Bridge	See ILLUSTRATION OPTION 2: THE BRIDGE.
		Challenge: A.B.C. Prayer	Copies of <i>A.B.C. Prayer</i> for leaders and mentors, <i>New Believer's Guide for Children</i> (available in Leader's Guide Resources)
	Final 5	Final Five: Prayer and Daily Steps	<i>Daily Steps: Step 1</i> Session 2 take-home devotional for students and mentors
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: The Wave	Bible Memory Verse poster or Bible
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Walking on the Word	2 Bibles or poster with the Bible Memory Verse, sturdy paper, Bible Memory Verse Song "I Am the Way," large cross cut from poster board
	Up to 15	Apostles' Creed Activity: Find It in the Bible	<i>The Apostles' Creed</i> (located in the Leaders' Guide and Student and Mentor Journals), Bibles

Session 2: Choosing the Way Scriptures

Step 1 Bible Memory Verses

"I am the way and the truth and the life.

No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6

"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9

Genesis 3:1-6

"Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God really say, "You must not eat from any tree in the garden"?' The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, "You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die."' 'You will not certainly die,' the serpent said to the woman. 'For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it."

1 John 1:5

"This is the message we have heard from Him and declare to you: God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all."

Romans 5:12

"Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned—"

Psalms 86:15

"But You, Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness."

1 Peter 3:18

"For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit."

John 3:16

"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."

John 14:6

"Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'"



Choosing the way

THE WELCOME

REVIEW: SEEING THE LIGHT

Purpose: To remind students of the content of the previous session.

Supplies: Students and mentors will need their *Daily Steps: Step 1* Session 1 take-home devotionals.

Last week, we talked about God's kingdom of light and how we have been separated from that kingdom because of the darkness of our sin nature. Divide students in groups of two or three to discuss their answers to the following question from last session's Daily Steps: **What can we learn about who God is from Daniel 2:22?**

This week, we will learn about the way God provided for us so that no one would have to be separated from Him.

OPENING ACTIVITY OPTION 1: LOST AND FOUND HEARTS

Purpose: To help students consider the experience of losing and finding a treasured item

Supplies: Wrapped candy hearts or heart-shaped cookies (one per student)

Prepare: Before class, hide the hearts throughout the room.

Have you ever lost something that was important to you? (Students respond.) **How did you feel when you could not find it?** (Students respond.) **Did you ever find it?** (Students respond.) **Let's search this room and find a tasty treasure for everyone!** Students search for hearts. As they eat their candy heart or cookie, discuss how it feels to find something special.

OPENING ACTIVITY OPTION 2: MAKING A WAY

Purpose: To help students consider the purpose of a bridge

Supplies: Two chairs or tables, newspaper, tape, thread, pebbles or marbles

Directions:

1. Place chairs or tables with at least four feet between them.
2. Students work together using the newspaper, tape, and thread to build a bridge spanning the distance between the two chairs.
3. As students build the bridge, leader helps them think about the purpose of a bridge. **Why do people build bridges?** (Students respond.) **When was a time you needed a bridge to help you get where you were going?** (Students respond.)
4. Test the strength of the bridge by placing pebbles or marbles along the bridge. See how much weight the bridge can hold before it breaks.



Worship Jesus as the Way

THE WORSHIP



Today, we worship Jesus as the Way to God the Father. We talked about how sin is like darkness, and today we will see how God made a way to bring us out of that darkness and into His light, where we can live forever close with Him. Let's worship Jesus as the Way to life forever close with God.



Sing Bible Memory Verse Song "I Am the Way" (John 14:6; Romans 10:9).



Read John 3:16. **God the Father loved the world so much that He gave His Son to save us from our sins. He did this so that we would have eternal life—that's life forever close with God, here on earth and later in heaven. To fully worship Jesus, it is important to know who He is and what He has done. The Apostles' Creed includes a list of truths and promises from the Bible about Jesus that disciples over the centuries have believed to be true. Section 1 of the Apostles' Creed is about God the Father as the Creator of heaven and earth. Section 2 is about His Son Jesus. Let's open to the Apostles' Creed in your journals and read Section 2 aloud together.** Read Section 2 of The Apostles' Creed together.



Sing "This I Believe" or another favorite song confirming the statements about Jesus found in The Apostles' Creed.

In your Daily Steps this week, you will have the opportunity to explore the Bible verses that support these statements about Jesus. If time allows, lead the APOSTLES' CREED ACTIVITY: FIND IT IN THE BIBLE in GOT TIME?.



God made a way **THE WORD**

Purpose: To recognize that sin separates us from God and we need a way to reunite with Him.

Supplies: Bible(s)

Leader Tip: Have a different student read each Scripture passage aloud.

The Bible is the story of God and His people. It begins when God created the world. We can read about this in the first book of the Bible, Genesis. The first people God made were named Adam and Eve and they lived in a place called the Garden of Eden. The garden was a perfect place where they lived close with God.



Read Genesis 3:1-6. **What one rule did God give Adam and Eve?** (They could not eat from the tree in the middle of the garden.) **A serpent is a snake. The serpent told Eve a lie to tempt her to disobey God. Adam and Eve could decide whether or not they would listen to the serpent. Which choice did they make?** (They disobeyed God and ate the fruit.)

Read 1 John 1:5. **In our last session, we said God is light and our sin is like the darkness. What does this verse say about God and darkness?** (There is no darkness in Him.) **After Adam and Eve chose to sin, God sent them away from the Garden of Eden. They were separated from Him because of their sin.**

Read Romans 5:12. **Sin is doing wrong in God's eyes. What does this verse say comes to people through sin?** (Death.) **Who sins?** (All people.) **Just as it did with Adam and Eve, our sin separates us from God.**

Read Psalm 86:15. **Even though we sin, God still loves us very much. What does this verse tell us about God?** (He is compassionate, gracious, slow to anger, loving, and faithful.) **Faithfulness is like loyalty. To be faithful is to never leave or stop caring for someone, no matter what. By choosing to sin, God's people were unfaithful to Him, but He would always be faithful to them. Because God loved His people so much, He created a way for them to get back to Him.**



Jesus is the way **THE WAY**

ILLUSTRATION OPTION 1: THE LOST CUP

Purpose: To illustrate how we can't get back to God by ourselves.

Supplies: 1 cup (paper or plastic) and 1 permanent marker per student, Bible

God loves us and wants us to be close with Him. But, our sin separates us from God. There is no way for us to get back to Him by our own power, so God made a way for us to get back to Him so we can be close with Him forever.

Directions:

1. Give each student a cup and marker. Each student draws a face on his or her cup and a cross on his or her right palm. **Your right hand represents Jesus. Stand up and hold out your left hand with palm facing up while I tell this story. Your open left palm represents God the Father. Your cup represents Adam or Eve. In the beginning, God the Father had a very close relationship with Adam and Eve. God provided them with everything they needed in the Garden of Eden.** Each student places cup on their open left palm.
2. **One day, the serpent in the Garden of Eden tempted Eve to eat the fruit God had forbidden her to eat. She gave some fruit to Adam. They both disobeyed God by eating the forbidden fruit. They had to leave the garden because their sin separated them from God. In the same way, our sin has separated each of us from God. Tip your left hand so the cup falls on the floor.** Each student tips his or her left hand and the cup falls to the floor. **Hold out your left hand again with the palm facing up.** Each student holds his or her left hand in the open palm position. Ask a volunteer to read Isaiah 59:2.
3. **Your cup on the floor cannot bounce or leap up into your left hand. The only way it can return to your hand is with help. In the same way, people like Adam and Eve and you and me cannot get ourselves back into a right relationship with God on our own.**
4. **What are some differences between the cup on the floor and you or me?** (Students respond.) **One big difference is that you and I can make choices. When Jesus comes to us to reunite us with God, we must choose to say yes or no. Hold out your right hand, which represents Jesus. Reach down and pick up the cup and place it back in the palm of your left hand.** Each student uses his or her right hand to reach down, pick up the cup, and place it in his or her left hand.
5. **By saying yes to Jesus, we are trusting Him to reunite us with God, and He will do it! You can be seated now. Keep your cup so you can use it to show others how Jesus is the way to be reunited with God.**

THE WAY *continued...*

ILLUSTRATION OPTION 2: THE BRIDGE

Purpose: To illustrate how Jesus creates a way for us to no longer be separated from God.

Supplies: 6-foot tall wooden or paper cross, masking tape, Bible

Preparation: Before class, use masking tape or paper to create two squares six feet apart on the ground.

Leader Tip: A video demonstration of this object lesson can be found at

www.youtube.com/watch?v=SeuosiXiUqw. A more extensive script of this object lesson can be found at resourcewell.s3.amazonaws.com/children/otherresources/Ages6-12_SalvationInvitationBridge.pdf

To understand more of what it means to trust Jesus, picture Jesus building a bridge between God the Father and us. God loves us and wants us to be close with Him, but our sin separates us from Him. So, God made a way for us to get back to Him.

Directions:

1. Choose a boy to represent Adam and all the boys and men in the world. Choose a girl to represent Eve and all the girls and women in the world. Choose a helper or parent to represent God and a second parent or helper to represent Jesus. All three stand together on one of the squares. **God's plan has always been for us to be close with Him. Adam and Eve were together with God in the Garden of Eden.**
2. **When Adam and Eve decided to disobey God, the darkness of their sin separated them from God's kingdom of light.** Adam and Eve leave to stand on the square opposite God. **Ever since they sinned, we have been separated from God by our sin. It is as if we are standing on one cliff and God is on another. There is no way for us to reach God by ourselves.**
3. **Because God loves His people so much, He made a way for us to be with Him again.** Choose a parent or helper to represent Jesus. This person positions a wooden or paper cross between God and Adam and Eve to create a bridge.
4. **God sent His only Son Jesus to live as a human on earth and to die on a cross to pay for our sins.** Read 1 Peter 3:18.
5. **Jesus' cross is like a bridge. He is offering us His hand. If we take it, He will help us into God's kingdom of light.** Jesus offers His hand to Adam and Eve and helps them cross the bridge to stand with God. Read John 14:6.
6. **When we take Jesus' hand and choose to follow Him, God forgives us of all our sins. This means we can live forever close with God in His kingdom of light, here on earth and later in heaven.** Read John 3:16.

THE WAY *continued...*

DISCUSSION: UNDERSTANDING THE LOST CUP/THE BRIDGE

Purpose: To help students grasp how their own lives correspond with the illustration you chose (The Lost Cup or The Bridge).

Supplies: None

Discussion:

- **Have you ever tried to be perfect and do nothing wrong, even just for a day?** (Students respond.) **What happened or what do you think would happen if you tried?** (Students respond.) **No matter how hard we try, we cannot be perfect on our own.**
- **Because of sin, what has happened to every person's relationship with God?** (It is broken. We are separated from Him.)
- **Why did God send Jesus to pay for our sins on the cross?** (He loves us. He doesn't want us to be separated from Him. He knows we cannot pay for our sins.)
- **What do we have to do to get past all the sin that separates us from God?** (Take Jesus' hand. Follow Him.)
- **How does it make you feel to know that God loves us all enough to make a way for us to get back to Him?** (Students respond.)

SHARE YOUR STORY: CROSSING THE BRIDGE

Purpose: Students hear a leader's personal testimony (in age-appropriate terms) of how Jesus made a way for him or her to be close with God forever.

Supplies: See Illustration Option 2: The Bridge.

Prepare: Before class, ask a leader, mentor, or helper to share their testimony. Give him or her the information below to prepare.

Dear leader, mentor, or helper,

Thank you for sharing your personal testimony in class. Briefly share your testimony using the instructions below. You may choose to visually demonstrate your decision to follow Jesus by moving between the corresponding locations from ILLUSTRATION OPTION 2: THE BRIDGE. Ask your class leader about the illustration.

Be sure to include the following three points:

1. In age-appropriate terms, briefly describe how you made choices according to your desires and how it felt to live in darkness separated from God. (Stand on the square where Adam and Eve stood when they were separated from God.)
 2. Explain how God showed Himself and offered His hand to help you across the bridge to His kingdom.
 3. Describe the circumstances in which you chose to ask Jesus to be the Savior who would rescue you from being separated from God, such as praying alone, with a friend, in a class, etc. (Walk across the "bridge" created by the cross.)
 4. Describe the difference in your life now that comes from living in the kingdom of Light. (Stand in the spot where Adam and Eve stood with God after they crossed the bridge.)
-

THE WAY *continued...*

Share Your Story: Crossing the Bridge *continued...*

For the class leader: After the leader, mentor, or helper share his or her story and if time allows, invite mentors to turn to their young disciples and, using simplified age-appropriate terms, briefly share their story of how Jesus made a way for him or her to be close with God.* Then, encourage the young disciples to share about their relationship with God with their mentors. If there is not enough time to complete this activity, encourage the mentors to find time during the week with their young disciples to share their stories.

* Remind everyone that we all have something to share about our relationship with God. Those who have not yet decided to follow Jesus can share their thoughts about Jesus and the reasons they are not yet ready to follow Him.

CHALLENGE: A.B.C. PRAYER

Purpose: To present the opportunity to respond to God's invitation to accept Jesus as Savior and Lord.

Supplies: Copies of *A.B.C. Prayer* for leaders and mentors, *New Believer's Guide for Children* (available in Leader's Guide Resources)

Jesus wants everyone to follow Him so they can be together with God again. You can choose to follow Jesus today. It's as if He is offering you His hand to help you across the bridge to God. The first step you can take with Jesus is to pray the A.B.C prayer. If you would like to pray that prayer today, your leaders and mentors would love to help you. Give students who would like to pray the A.B.C. prayer time to talk with a leader or mentor and to pray the prayer below.

Lord Jesus, I **A**dmit that I'm a sinner.
I **B**elieve You are the Lord who died to take my sins away.
Please **C**ome into my heart and I'll follow You forever.
In Jesus name, I pray, AMEN!

If you just prayed that prayer, you are now a part of God's family in His kingdom of light forever! As a part of God's family, we are called to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength and to follow Jesus by loving other people. We'll keep learning about how to do that in this class, but you can also learn by reading His Word. Your *Daily Steps* devotionals can help you do that this week!

Optional: Supply any child who prayed the A.B.C. prayer of salvation with a *New Believer's Guide for Children* for next steps in nurturing their spiritual growth.

THE WAY *continued...*



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

CLOSING PRAYER

Invite everyone to pray (aloud) sentence prayers of praise and requests. Conclude with praying the Lord's Prayer together (Matthew 6:9-13).

DAILY STEPS

Be sure students and mentors know where to find *Daily Steps: Step 1 Session 2* in their journals. **Each day this week, use *Daily Steps* to guide you in your personal devotional time with God. You will have the opportunity to write out your story or draw a picture of how Jesus made a way for you to be close with God. Even if you have not yet decided to follow Jesus, you can write your thoughts about Jesus and the reasons you are not yet ready to follow Him. Be sure to bring your journal with you next time we meet. We will begin by sharing what you learned during your devotional times.**

Dismiss students or enjoy a relationship-building activity such as a meal or a game.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"I am the way and the truth and the life.

No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6

"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9

ACTIVITY: THE WAVE

Purpose: Students memorize the Bible Memory Verses.

Supplies: Bible Memory Verse poster or Bible

God created everything in heaven and on the earth. As we say our Bible Memory Verse together, think about something amazing you have seen. Remember, God created everything and He created you, too!

Directions:

1. Assign one word or phrase from John 14:6 and Romans 10:9 to each student or group.
2. Direct each student/group to quickly stand and say the assigned word or phrase while raising both hands up to the sky, then down to the thighs, and finally sitting down.
3. Repeat three times, going faster each time.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

ACTIVITY: WALKING ON THE WORD

Purpose: Students will memorize the Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: 2 Bibles or poster with the Bible Memory Verse, sturdy paper, Bible Memory Verse Song "I Am the Way," large cross cut from poster board

Prepare: From sturdy paper, cut 40 paper footprints. Create two sets of 20 paper footprints, each with one of the following 20 phrases: I am/the way/and the truth/and the life./No one/comes to/the Father/except/through Me./If you/confess/with your mouth/"Jesus is Lord"/and believe/in your heart/that God/raised Him/from the dead/you will/be saved.

You may choose to print each verse (John 14:6 and Romans 10:9) on a different color paper.

Optional: Laminate the paper footprints to protect them from tearing or substitute scrap linoleum flooring for the sturdy paper. To simplify for beginning readers, add symbols or pictures on the footprints. To increase degree of difficulty, create a footprint for each word instead of each phrase.

We have two Bible Memory Verses. John 14:6 quotes Jesus' exact words promising He is the only way to come to God the Father. Romans 10:9 explains the promise concerning what we must do to be saved. In this game, team members will work together to place the footprints in the right order. You may use a Bible. Then, each member will say step on the footprints while saying the phrases until he or she has reached the cross.

Directions:

1. Mix up each set of 20 footprints.
2. Designate a starting line for each team at one end of the play area.
3. Place the cross at the other end of the play area.
4. Divide students into 2 teams.
5. Play the Bible Memory Verse Song as background music.
6. Have teams line up behind their starting line. Give each team a set of 20 footprints.
7. On your signal, teams race to place the footprints in the correct order in a path from their starting line to the cross.
8. When the footprints are in the correct order, each team member steps on the footprints, saying each phrase aloud, until they reach the cross.
9. The first team to have all its members reach the cross is the winner.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



APOSTLES' CREED ACTIVITY

DISCUSSION: FIND IT IN THE BIBLE

Purpose: Students and mentors locate the supporting scriptures of the Apostles' Creed in Section 2.

Supplies: The Apostles' Creed (located in the Leaders' Guide and Student and Mentor Journals), Bibles

"I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,"

Have a mentor read Matthew 17:5 and Romans 10:9. **What do you think it means when someone says Jesus is the Lord of his or her life?** (Students respond.)

"conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,"

God, as the Holy Spirit, formed baby Jesus in Mary's womb. A mentor reads Luke 1:35. **Jesus was then born to His mother Mary who was a pure young maiden.**

"suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried."

Pontius Pilate was the Roman governor of Judea who sentenced Jesus to be crucified, which is death on a cross. Have a mentor read of Jesus' suffering and death in John 19:1-3, 16, 30.

How does knowing that Jesus chose to suffer and die for you affect your relationship with Him? (Students respond.) **The Roman centurion testified that Jesus died.** Have a mentor read about Jesus' burial in Mark 15:44-47. **In proving that Jesus truly died, why is it important to have the word of a Roman guard, rather than only the word of His followers?** (The centurion was a more objective witness.)

"On the third day He rose again;"

As Christians, we believe God the Father, raised Jesus from death to life. Jesus proved this Himself by appearing to over 500 witnesses during the 40-day period between God raising Him from the dead and God lifting Him up to heaven. Have a mentor read Paul's list of eyewitnesses in 1 Corinthians 15:3-8.

"He ascended into heaven,"

Have a mentor read Acts 1:8-11. **Where do Christians believe Jesus is living now?** (Heaven.)

"He is seated at the right hand of the Father,"

Have a mentor read Mark 16:19. **"Seated at the right hand of the Father" means seated on God's throne in heaven. What do you think Jesus does as He sits there?** (Students respond.) Have a mentor read Romans 8:34. **"To intercede" means to plead for someone else. How does it feel to know Jesus is pleading to God the Father for you?** (Students respond.)

"He will come to judge the living and the dead."

Have a mentor read 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18 and 2 Timothy 4:1-2. **Who will Jesus judge when He returns?** (He will come to judge everyone who is alive when He returns as well as those who have already died.) **The good news is those who believe in Jesus will be judged and rewarded fairly for their thoughts, words, and deeds; but they will not be punished for their sins. As Christians, we look forward to Jesus' return!**

Does anyone have questions about these statements? (Students respond.) Recite The Apostles' Creed together.

A.B.C. Prayer

Lord Jesus, I **A**dmit that I'm a sinner.

I **B**elieve You are the Lord who died to take my sins away.

Please **C**ome into my heart and I'll follow You forever.

In Jesus name, I pray, AMEN!

A.B.C. Prayer

Lord Jesus, I **A**dmit that I'm a sinner.

I **B**elieve You are the Lord who died to take my sins away.

Please **C**ome into my heart and I'll follow You forever.

In Jesus name, I pray, AMEN!



Leader's Guide
Young Disciples Step 1
Becoming a Disciple
Session 3

Becoming a New Creation

**Session Aim: To know what it means to be born again
as a disciple belonging to Christ.**

Step 1: Becoming a Disciple			
	Session	Aim	Scripture References
1	Seeing the Light	To understand spiritual darkness and God's kingdom of light.	Isaiah 60:19; John 1:4-5, 12:46; 2 Corinthians 4:6
2	Choosing the Way	To understand that only through choosing to follow Jesus do we have eternal fellowship with God.	Genesis 3:1-6; 1 John 1:5; Romans 5:12; Psalm 86:15; 1 Peter 3:18; John 3:16, 14:6
3	Becoming a New Creation	To know what it means to be born again as a disciple belonging to Christ.	Romans 10:13; John 5:24; 2 Corinthians 5:17; John 3:3-5, 16-17; Ephesians 2:4-10
4	Celebrating a New Identity	To understand the symbolism of baptism.	Mark 1:9-11; 2 Corinthians 5:15, 17; John 1:12; 1 Corinthians 12:13
5	Belonging to God's Family	To know what it means to be a member of the body of Christ.	1 John 3:1a; Matthew 12:48-50; John 14:2-3; Colossians 3:14-15; Ephesians 4:14-16
Baptism Celebration John 14:6; Romans 10:9			

Step 1 Terms: Baptism, body of Christ, born again, the church, Christian, disciple, God's family, holy, redeemed, saved, sin (For definitions, see the dictionary in the Leader's Manual, Mentor's Journal, and Young Disciple's Journal.)

Step 1 Bible Memory Verses: John 14:6; Romans 10:9

How to Use This Guide: Young Disciples is designed to guide students in navigating the foundational teachings of Jesus and the apostles in order to further establish them in their faith as disciples of Christ. Designed for students age nine and older, this study can be adapted to a variety of cultures and types of gatherings including various size groups of children of different ages in the following settings: student and mentor, individual families, multiple family gatherings where parents, grandparents, or caregivers participate in the class with their children, VBS, Sunday School, or multiple family gatherings where an adult leads the children in this study while parents engage in similar topics.



Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Review: Choosing the Way	Students and mentors will need their <i>Daily Steps: Step 1</i> Session 2
		Opening Activity: Butterflies and Birthdays	White paper and pencil, plus paint or markers or glue with variety of colorful craft supplies (ex. colored paper, fabric, glitter, stickers, various colors of tissue paper, etc.)
THE WORSHIP	Up to 10	Worship Sheet music and recordings for the Bible Memory Verse Songs are available at ResourceWell.org.	Lyrics are found in the <i>Leader's Guide and Student & Mentor Journals</i> , Bible Bible Memory Verse Songs: "I Am the Way" (John 14:6; Romans 10:9) "For God So Loved the World" (John 3:16) "Chosen People" (1 Peter 2:9) Additional Song Suggestions: "This Little Light of Mine" (traditional) "This I Believe" by Hillsong
THE WORD	Up to 10	Read the Word: Romans 10:13; John 5:24; 2 Corinthians 5:17; John 3:3-5, 16-17; Ephesians 2:4-10	Bible(s)
THE WAY	Up to 50	Illustration: A New Creation	<i>Metamorphosis of a Butterfly Visuals</i> , optional: <i>Metamorphosis of a Butterfly Coloring Pages</i> (available in Leader's Guide Resources)
		Discussion: Saved and Born Again	Bibles (optional)
		Share Your Story: Born Again	<i>Metamorphosis of a Butterfly Visuals</i> (available in Leader's Guide Resources)
	Final 5	Final Five: Prayer and Daily Steps	<i>Daily Steps: Step 1</i> Session 3 take-home devotional for students and mentors, optional: <i>Metamorphosis of a Butterfly Coloring Pages</i> (available in Leader's Guide Resources)
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: The Wave	Bible Memory Verse poster or Bible
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Walking on the Word	2 Bibles or poster with the Bible Memory Verse, sturdy paper, Bible Memory Verse Song "I Am the Way," large cross cut from poster board
	Up to 15	Apostles' Creed Activity: Find It in the Bible	<i>The Apostles' Creed</i> (located in the Leaders' Guide and Student and Mentor Journals), Bibles

Session 3: Becoming a New Creation Scriptures

Step 1 Bible Memory Verses

"I am the way and the truth and the life.

No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6

"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9

Romans 10:13

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

John 5:24

"Very truly I tell you, whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life."

2 Corinthians 5:17

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"

John 3:3-5

"Jesus replied, 'Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.' 'How can someone be born when they are old?' Nicodemus asked. 'Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!' Jesus answered, 'Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit.'"

John 3:16-17

"For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him."

Ephesians 2:4-10

"But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages He might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in His kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."



Becoming a new creation

THE WELCOME

REVIEW: CHOOSING THE WAY

Purpose: To remind students of the content of the previous session.

Supplies: Students and mentors will need their *Daily Steps: Step 1* Session 2 take-home devotionals.

Last week, we talked about entering God's kingdom by believing in His Son Jesus, and asking Him to be our Lord and Savior. Divide students in groups of two or three to discuss their answers to the following question from last session's Daily Steps: **How is Jesus like a bridge between God and people?** (Students respond.)

This week, we will read about the change in us that takes place when we chose to trust Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

OPENING ACTIVITY: BUTTERFLIES AND BIRTHDAYS

Purpose: Create a picture or craft to introduce the concept of the creation of butterflies.

Supplies: White paper and pencil, plus paint or markers or glue with variety of colorful craft supplies (ex. colored paper, fabric, glitter, stickers, various colors of tissue paper, etc.)

Directions:

1. Give each student 1 sheet of sturdy white paper.
2. Students (or helpers) draw the outline of a butterfly.
3. Students use paint, markers to color the drawing or use glue to attach colorful craft supplies to the drawing.
4. While students are completing their project, lead the following discussion. **God created the butterfly. He creates so many amazing creations, including each one of you!** (As you tell each student that you are thankful to God for creating him or her, ask the date of his or her birth.) **Each year, we like to celebrate our birthday in some way. What is your favorite thing to do to celebrate your birthday?** (Students respond.) **Celebrating the day you were born can be so much fun! Did you know we can have another kind of birthday, too?** (Students respond.) **Jesus told us about a second kind of birthday. We will find out more about it when we read God's Word today.**



Worship God as our Creator

THE WORSHIP



We worship God as our Creator. Last time, we talked about how God made a way for us to be close with Him forever. Today, we will learn that when we trust Jesus as the only way, God makes us a new creation with eternal life – life forever close with God. (Lead a prayer in which you give thanks to God for making a way for us to have eternal life forever close with Him.)



Sing “For God So Loved the World” (John 3:16).

God loves us so much that He made a way for us to have eternal life. Through believing in Jesus as our Lord and trusting Him to be our Savior, we receive eternal life.

Sing Bible Memory Verse Song “I Am the Way” (John 14:6; Romans 10:9).

Sing “This I Believe” or another favorite song confirming the statements about Jesus found in The Apostles’ Creed.

When we trust Jesus as our Savior, His Spirit gives us new life and lives in our hearts. In your Daily Steps this week, you will have the opportunity to explore Bible verses that show us more about the Holy Spirit that leads us in this new life and shows us how to live in a way that pleases God. If time allows, lead the APOSTLES’ CREED ACTIVITY: FIND IT IN THE BIBLE in GOT TIME?.



Born again

THE WORD

Purpose: To learn that in Christ, we are a new creation.

Supplies: Bible(s)

Leader's Tip: Have a different student read each Scripture passage aloud.



Read Romans 10:13. **Lord Jesus is called the Savior. Without a savior, we live apart from God in life and in death. Jesus saves us from that and gives us eternal life. We are saved so we can have life forever close with God—here on earth and later in heaven.**

Read John 5:24.

Once we believe in Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we are changed forever. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17.

Jesus explained more about this to a man named Nicodemus. He told him what it means to be born again. Read John 3:3-5, 16-17.

When Jesus saves us, we are made a new creation. It's as if we have a second birthday. You are a child of God that will live forever close to Him. Paul explains God's plan for our life as this new creation. Read Ephesians 2:4-10.



You are a new creation

THE WAY

ILLUSTRATION: A NEW CREATION

Purpose: To use the metamorphosis of a butterfly to illustrate how in Christ we are a new creation.

Supplies: 3 large photos or pictures (caterpillar, chrysalis, butterfly), optional: *Metamorphosis of a Butterfly Coloring Pages*

Leader's Tip: Some students are more able to focus and learn when they are physically active. As you teach this illustration, you might provide the *Metamorphosis of a Butterfly Coloring Pages* for them to color.

Optional: You may choose to show "The Amazing Life Cycle of a Monarch Butterfly" by Duncan Scott on YouTube (www.youtube.com/watch?v=7AUeM8MbaIk).

Earlier today you made a picture of a butterfly. Do you know what creature God uses to create a real butterfly? (A caterpillar.) God creates new life when He changes a caterpillar to a butterfly. It is called metamorphosis, which means, "change of form." The life of a butterfly is a great picture of how God makes us a new creation when we believe in Jesus.

Show caterpillar picture. **When a butterfly egg hatches, a tiny caterpillar is born. The caterpillar crawls and eats and grows. Just as its life is focused on searching for food and eating, our life before we choose to follow Jesus is focused on our own needs and desires. The caterpillar will shed its skin 4 to 6 times as it grows. In the same way, we may change our ways many times as we grow, yet we are still incomplete.**

Show chrysalis picture. **After about 2 to 4 weeks, the caterpillar looks for a safe place under a twig or leaf to transform itself into a chrysalis, which is a hard protective shell. During the next 10-15 days, inside the chrysalis, the caterpillar's body breaks down into a thick liquid and is reorganized into a beautiful butterfly! In the same way, when we make the choice to trust Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we are choosing to be transformed into a new creation – one who trusts and follows Jesus.**

Show butterfly picture. **Finally, the full-grown butterfly emerges from the chrysalis. It spreads its wings and begins a new life. It is as if that caterpillar had a second birth – this time as a new creation – a butterfly! When we choose Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we are given a second birth as a new creation. That day is our spiritual birthday! Even though we may feel no physical change, God has changed us from a person who doesn't care about Him into someone who lives to please Him. We are changed from a person who lives and dies separated from God, to a child of God who will live forever close with God, here on earth and later in heaven.**

Just as a butterfly cannot change back into a caterpillar, no one can change you back into that old creation. Once you belong to Jesus, nothing can separate you again from God. Jesus makes us a promise about that. As we read His promise to us, picture yourself as a butterfly resting safely in His hand. John 10:28 says, "I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of My hand."

The difference between the new life of a butterfly and the new life of a believer is that the life of a butterfly lasts only a few weeks, while the life of a believer made new in Christ lasts forever, even after our bodies die, our souls live forever with God.

THE WAY *continued...*

DISCUSSION: SAVED AND BORN AGAIN

Purpose: To help students grasp how their own lives correspond with the Metamorphosis of a Butterfly illustration.

Supplies: Bibles (optional)

Leader's Tip: You may choose to read the scriptures as noted below, or if you have time, you may have students look up the scriptures and have a different student or mentor read each passage aloud.

Discussion:

- **As a new creation, what do you think our new purpose is?** (Students respond.) Read Ephesians 2:10: "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." **What do you think some of these good works might be?** (Students respond.)
- **When we are born again, the Holy Spirit comes and lives in our hearts forever. What does the Holy Spirit help us do?** (Follow Jesus and do what is right in God's eyes.) **How do you think God will show you exactly what good works He has already prepared for you to do?** (Students respond.) **Jesus explained how we would know how to live our new life as a new creation.** Read John 14:26: "But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."
- **Jesus said we must be born again to enter His kingdom. Who can describe in their own words what it means to be born again as this new creation?** (Students respond.)
- **Being born again means that we have two birthdays. Our first birthday is the day our mother gave birth to us. Our second birthday is our spiritual birthday – the day that we received eternal life by believing in Jesus as our Lord and Savior. What is a great way to celebrate your spiritual birthday?** (Students respond.)
- **Jesus said when we are born again, it is through water and the Holy Spirit. Water reminds us that Jesus washes our sins away so we can have eternal life, close with God forever. One action that announces and celebrates our spiritual birthday is baptism. Who knows what baptism is?** (Believers are sprinkled or dunked in water as a sign that they believe in Jesus as the Lord who washed their sins away.)
- **What does it feel like to be born again?** (Students respond.) **Some people feel like a whole new person. Some people don't feel anything. No matter how you feel, if you believe Jesus is God's Son who died for you and you've decided to follow Him the rest of your life—you are born again. The Holy Spirit is living in your heart even if you don't feel differently.**
- **What do you think happens if we sin after we have been born again?** (Students respond.) **The Bible promises that if we admit our sin and are sorry, God is faithful to forgive us.** Read 1 John 1:9: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." **Jesus died to save us from all our sins—past, present, and future. The Holy Spirit inside a born again believer helps him or her turn away from those sins.**

THE WAY *continued...*

SHARE YOUR STORY: BORN AGAIN

Purpose: Students hear a leader's personal testimony (in age appropriate terms) of how God brought him or her through a transformation to be born again as a new creation.

Supplies: 3 large photos or pictures from Illustration (caterpillar, chrysalis, butterfly)

Prepare: Before class, ask a leader, mentor, or adult helper to share his or her personal testimony during class. Give that person time to prepare and a reminder to share his or her testimony in an age-appropriate manner.

Leader, parent, or adult helper shares a brief personal testimony according to the instructions below:

1. Give a brief description, in age-appropriate terms, of how you made choices according to your own desires and how that eventually left you feeling unsatisfied, incomplete, or far from God. (As you explain this, hold or point to the picture of the caterpillar.)
2. Again, in age-appropriate terms, explain the circumstances of your transformational time (a moment or a season in your life) when God showed Himself and led you to trust Jesus as your Lord and Savior. (As you explain this, hold or point to the picture of the chrysalis.)
3. Describe the change in your life now that you have been born again as a new creation. (As you explain this, hold or point to the picture of the butterfly.)
4. From your new life, give an example of one way you have been able to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit.
5. From your new life, give an example of one way you plan to ask the Holy Spirit for more help in following Him.

If time allows, invite mentors to turn to their young disciples and, using simplified age-appropriate terms, briefly share their story of how God changed or transformed their life in some way.* Then, encourage the young disciples to share with their mentors about a change or transformation they have experienced. If there is not enough time to complete this activity, encourage the mentors to find time during the week with their young disciples to share their stories.

* Remind everyone that we all have something to share about changes God has made in our lives and in our beliefs. Those who have not yet decided to follow Jesus might share their thoughts about how God has changed their heart to become interested in learning more about Him.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

CLOSING PRAYER

First, let's take a moment in silent prayer. If you have trusted Jesus as your Lord and Savior, take this silent moment to thank Him for making you a new creation! If you have never trusted Jesus as your Lord and Savior, and you wish to do so, you can do that now by silently asking Jesus to forgive you and to be your Lord and Savior. He will do it right now! He will give your soul a second birth and you will be a new creation, forever close with God. Allow a few moments of silence for prayer.

Invite everyone to pray (aloud) sentence prayers of praise and requests. Conclude with praying the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) together.

THE WAY *continued...*

DAILY STEPS

Be sure students and mentors know where to find *Daily Steps: Step 1* Session 3 in their journals.

Each day this week, use the DAILY STEPS take-home devotional to guide you in your personal devotional time with God. Remember to bring your journals with you next time we meet. We will begin by sharing what you learned during your devotional times.

Dismiss students or enjoy a relationship-building activity such as a meal, a game, or a favorite birthday celebration snack.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"I am the way and the truth and the life.

No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6

"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9

ACTIVITY: THE WAVE

Purpose: Students memorize the Bible Memory Verses.

Supplies: Bible Memory Verse poster or Bible

God created everything in heaven and on the earth. As we say our Bible Memory Verse together, think about something amazing you have seen. Remember, God created everything and He created you, too!

Directions:

1. Assign one word or phrase from John 14:6 and Romans 10:9 to each student or group.
2. Direct each student/group to quickly stand and say the assigned word or phrase while raising both hands up to the sky, then down to the thighs, and finally sitting down.
3. Repeat three times, going faster each time.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

ACTIVITY: WALKING ON THE WORD

Purpose: Students will memorize the Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: 2 Bibles or poster with the Bible Memory Verse, sturdy paper, Bible Memory Verse Song "I Am the Way," large cross cut from poster board

Prepare: From sturdy paper, cut 40 paper footprints. Create two sets of 20 paper footprints, each with one of the following 20 phrases: I am/the way/and the truth/and the life./No one/comes to/the Father/except/through Me./If you/confess/with your mouth/"Jesus is Lord"/and believe/in your heart/that God/raised Him/from the dead/you will/be saved.

You may choose to print each verse (John 14:6 and Romans 10:9) on a different color paper.

Optional: Laminate the paper footprints to protect them from tearing or substitute scrap linoleum flooring for the sturdy paper. To simplify for beginning readers, add symbols or pictures on the footprints. To increase degree of difficulty, create a footprint for each word instead of each phrase.

We have two Bible Memory Verses. John 14:6 quotes Jesus' exact words promising He is the only way to come to God the Father. Romans 10:9 explains the promise concerning what we must do to be saved. In this game, team members will work together to place the footprints in the right order. You may use a Bible. Then, each member will say step on the footprints while saying the phrases until he or she has reached the cross.

Directions:

1. Mix up each set of 20 footprints.
2. Designate a starting line for each team at one end of the play area.
3. Place the cross at the other end of the play area.
4. Divide students into 2 teams.
5. Play the Bible Memory Verse Song as background music.
6. Have teams line up behind their starting line. Give each team a set of 20 footprints.
7. On your signal, teams race to place the footprints in the correct order in a path from their starting line to the cross.
8. When the footprints are in the correct order, each team member steps on the footprints, saying each phrase aloud, until they reach the cross.
9. The first team to have all its members reach the cross is the winner.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



APOSTLES' CREED ACTIVITY

DISCUSSION: FIND IT IN THE BIBLE

Purpose: Students and mentors locate the supporting scriptures of the Apostles' Creed in Section 3.

Supplies: *The Apostles' Creed* (located in the Leaders' Guide and Student and Mentor Journals), Bibles

Why is it important to believe in the Holy Spirit? (He is God.) **Why do we, as believers, let the**

Holy Spirit lead us? (So we can live a life that pleases God.)

As Christians, we believe in one God. This one God is a mystery because He is three in one. He is the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

"I believe in the Holy Spirit"

Have a mentor read Genesis 1:1-2. **The Holy Spirit created the world with the Father and Son. He visited people in the Old Testament, giving them power to say and do mighty things.**

Have a mentor read John 14:26-27. **Jesus promised His Spirit would lead us in truth. The Holy Spirit helps us understand the Bible. He points us to Jesus and helps us believe. He guides us in making choices that please God. The Holy Spirit is also called the Counselor.**

Have a mentor read Acts 1:8. **The Holy Spirit gives power to love, serve, and point others to Jesus.**

Have a mentor read 2 Corinthians 1:21-22. **The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Jesus sent to live in the hearts of believers when Jesus returned to heaven. Why is it important to believe in the Holy Spirit?** (He is God.) **Why do we, as believers, let the Holy Spirit lead us?** (So we can live a life that pleases God.)

Does anyone have questions about these statements? (Students respond.) Recite The Apostles' Creed together.



Leader's Guide **Young Disciples Step 1** **Becoming a Disciple** **Session 4**

Celebrating a New Identity **Session Aim: To understand the symbolism of baptism.**

Step 1: Becoming a Disciple			
	Session	Aim	Scripture References
1	Seeing the Light	To understand spiritual darkness and God's kingdom of light.	Isaiah 60:19; John 1:4-5, 12:46; 2 Corinthians 4:6
2	Choosing the Way	To understand that only through choosing to follow Jesus do we have eternal fellowship with God.	Genesis 3:1-6; 1 John 1:5; Romans 5:12; Psalm 86:15; 1 Peter 3:18; John 3:16, 14:6
3	Becoming a New Creation	To know what it means to be born again as a disciple belonging to Christ.	Romans 10:13; John 5:24; 2 Corinthians 5:17; John 3:3-5, 16-17; Ephesians 2:4-10
4	Celebrating a New Identity	To understand the symbolism of baptism.	Mark 1:9-11; 2 Corinthians 5:15, 17; John 1:12; 1 Corinthians 12:13
5	Belonging to God's Family	To know what it means to be a member of the body of Christ.	1 John 3:1a; Matthew 12:48-50; John 14:2-3; Colossians 3:14-15; Ephesians 4:14-16
Baptism Celebration John 14:6; Romans 10:9			

Step 1 Terms: Baptism, body of Christ, born again, the church, Christian, disciple, God's family, holy, redeemed, saved, sin (For definitions, see the dictionary in the Leader's Manual, Mentor's Journal, and Young Disciple's Journal.)

Step 1 Bible Memory Verses: John 14:6; Romans 10:9

How to Use This Guide: Young Disciples is designed to guide students in navigating the foundational teachings of Jesus and the apostles in order to further establish them in their faith as disciples of Christ. Designed for students age nine and older, this study can be adapted to a variety of cultures and types of gatherings including various size groups of children of different ages in the following settings: student and mentor, individual families, multiple family gatherings where parents, grandparents, or caregivers participate in the class with their children, VBS, Sunday School, or multiple family gatherings where an adult leads the children in this study while parents engage in similar topics.



Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Review: Becoming a New Creation	Students and mentors will need their <i>Daily Steps: Step 1</i> Session 3
		Opening Activity: Who Am I?	<i>Who Am I? Nametags</i> (available in Leader's Guide Resources)
THE WORSHIP	Up to 10	Worship Sheet music and recordings for the Bible Memory Verse Songs are available at ResourceWell.org.	Lyrics are found in the <i>Leader's Guide and Student & Mentor Journals</i> , Bible Bible Memory Verse Songs: "I Am the Way" (John 14:6; Romans 10:9) "For God So Loved the World" (John 3:16) "Chosen People" (1 Peter 2:9) Additional Song Suggestions: "This Little Light of Mine" (traditional) "This I Believe" by Hillsong
THE WORD	Up to 10	Read the Word: Mark 1:9-11; 2 Corinthians 5:15,17; John 1:12; 1 Corinthians 12:13	Bible(s)
THE WAY	Up to 50	Illustration 1: Properties of Water	<i>Properties of Water Visuals</i> (available in Leader's Guide Resources)
		Discussion 1: Baptism Symbolism	Bible(s)
		Illustration 2: Baptism in Motion	None
		Discussion 2: Baptism and You	None
		Share Your Story: Why I Wanted to Be Baptized	Blue (or white) paper, set of <i>Why I Want To Be Baptized Water Drops</i> for each student and mentor (available in Leader's Guide Resources)
	Final 5	Final Five: Prayer and Daily Steps	<i>Daily Steps: Step 1</i> Session 4 take-home devotional for students and mentors, <i>Do You Want To Be Baptized?</i> , <i>Baptism Celebration Invitations</i> , <i>Baptism Celebration Guests RSVP</i> , <i>My Baptism Bookmark</i> (available in Leader's Guide Resources)
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: The Wave	Bible Memory Verse poster or Bible
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Walking on the Word	2 Bibles or poster with the Bible Memory Verse, sturdy paper, Bible Memory Verse Song "I Am the Way," large cross cut from poster board
	Up to 15	Apostles' Creed Activity: Find It in the Bible	<i>The Apostles' Creed</i> (located in Leaders' Guide and Student and Mentor Journals), Bible(s)

Session 4: Celebrating a New Identity Scriptures

Step 1 Bible Memory Verses

"I am the way and the truth and the life.

No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6

"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9

Mark 1:9-11

"At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, He saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on Him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: 'You are my Son, whom I love; with You I am well pleased.'"

2 Corinthians 5:15, 17

"And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again. ... Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"

John 1:12

"Yet to all who did receive Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God—"

1 Corinthians 12:13

"For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink."



Celebrating a new identity

THE WELCOME

REVIEW: BECOMING A NEW CREATION

Purpose: To remind students of the content of the previous session.

Supplies: Students and mentors will need their *Daily Steps: Step 1* Session 3 take-home devotionals.

Last week, we learned about the change in us that takes place when we chose to trust Jesus as our Lord and Savior. Divide students in groups of two or three to discuss their answers to the following question from last session's Daily Steps: **How would you explain to a friend what it means to be born again?** (Students respond.)

This week, we will learn about the new identity we have when we follow Jesus as our Lord. Our identity is who we say we are; it is how we describe ourselves to others.

OPENING ACTIVITY: WHO AM I?

Purpose: Describing behaviors and guessing identities to introduce the concept of identification.

Supplies: *Who Am I? Nametags* (available in Leader's Guide Resources) printed on paper or 2-inch x 4-inch labels

Teacher Tip: If less experienced readers are present, draw pictures of the vocations or animals on the nametags along with the printed name.

Directions:

1. Place a preprinted nametag on the back of each student and each mentor. Do not let the person see his or her own nametag.
2. Mentors all silently read their student's nametags.
3. Mentors describe to their students the behavior of the person or animal printed on their student's nametag.
4. Students guess the name of the person or animal on their own nametags.
5. Roles are reversed as students silently read their mentor's nametags. (Leader assists inexperienced readers.)
6. Mentors guess the name of the person or animal on their own nametags.

We can identify many people and animals, not only by their appearance, but by their behaviors and their choices. Today we will learn about ways we identify Jesus as our Lord, and ourselves as His disciples of Jesus.



Worship Jesus as our Lord

THE WORSHIP



We worship Jesus as our Lord. Last time, we learned that when we choose to follow Jesus, God makes us a new creation – a creation with eternal life close to God forever. The Holy Spirit lives in the heart of each person who is this new creation. Today, we will learn that as this new creation, we identify Jesus as our Lord, and ourselves as His disciples.

We say who we are, and who Jesus is to us not only with our words, but with the way we live our lives. (Lead a prayer in which you ask God to give us all boldness to use our words and live our lives proclaim with our words and our lives that Jesus is our Lord, and that we are His disciples.)

Sing Bible Memory Verse Song “I Am the Way” (John 14:6; Romans 10:9).



When we choose to follow Jesus, we have a new identity. Let’s read how Peter describes that new identity. Read 1 Peter 2:9.



Option: Sing “Chosen People” (Bible Memory Verse Song located on resourcewell.com).

We worship Him by singing, and by declaring His praises, and by declaring what we believe as the family of God. When we identify Jesus as our Lord, and ourselves as His disciples, we are also identifying ourselves as those who agree with the statements of the Apostles’ Creed.

Sing “This I Believe” or another favorite song confirming the statements about Jesus found in The Apostles’ Creed.

In your Daily Steps this week, you will have the opportunity to explore the truths about life as a saint (a disciple) as expressed in the fourth section of the Apostles’ Creed. If time allows, lead the APOSTLES’ CREED ACTIVITY: FIND IT IN THE BIBLE in GOT TIME?.



Identity in Christ

THE WORD

Purpose: To learn that when we identify Jesus as our Lord, we have a new identity as His disciples.

Supplies: Bible(s)

Leader's Tip: Have a different student read each Scripture passage aloud.

We celebrate who Jesus is and what He has done for us in special celebrations that the family of God shares together. These celebrations are called holy sacraments. There are two holy sacraments. Today we will learn about the first one—which is baptism.



When Jesus was an adult, just before He began his public ministry, He was baptized in the Jordan River by His cousin, John the Baptist. As we read what happened, imagine what it might have felt like to see what Jesus saw and hear what Jesus heard at His baptism. Read Mark 1:9-11.

What did Jesus see? (Heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus like a dove.) **What did Jesus hear?** (God's voice said, "You are my Son and I am well pleased with You.") **How might you feel if you heard God say those same words to you?** (Students respond.) **Even though we can't always hear His voice, God says the same thing to us when we are baptized. "You are Mine! You belong to My family! I am well pleased with you!"**

Once we decide to follow Jesus, God calls us to be baptized. The Bible helps us understand why baptism is so important.

Baptism is an outward sign of two important connections. One is a connection to Jesus. It is an outward sign that shows we are true followers of Jesus. That means we are connected to Jesus in His death and in His resurrection (rising from the dead). Read 2 Corinthians 5:15, 17.

The other is a connection to all believers. It is an outward sign that we have become a part of God's family, which is called the Body of Christ. Read John 1:12 and 1 Corinthians 12:13.



Celebrating your new identity

THE WAY

Leader Tip: It is recommended that the leader do both illustrations and discussions in THE WAY.

ILLUSTRATION 1: PROPERTIES OF WATER

Purpose: To understand the properties and universal uses of water

Supplies: *Properties of Water Visuals* (available in Leader's Guide Resources)

Directions:

1. Divide your class into 6 groups.
2. Give each group one of the pictures, 1 pencil, 1 piece of paper, and 1 of the pictures. Do not allow the groups see one another's pictures.
3. All groups take 60 seconds to brainstorm words to describe the water shown in their picture. Have one mentor in each group write a list of that team's descriptive words.
4. Afterwards, have one group share its list of descriptive words with the other groups.
5. The other groups guess what type of picture the group was describing.
6. Each group takes a turn sharing their list while the others guess what was in the picture.

DISCUSSION 1: BAPTISM SYMBOLISM

Purpose: To help students appreciate some of the symbolism in baptism

Supplies: Bible(s)

Leader's Tip: You may choose to read the scriptures as noted below, or if you have time, you may have students look up the scriptures and have a different student or mentor read each passage aloud.

There are three elements needed for someone to be baptized. The first is a willing heart in the person who is going to be baptized. That person must be willing to call Jesus their Lord and to follow Him forever. The second element needed is another believer as—the one who baptizes. Why do you think God designed baptism so that it would not be done alone? (Students respond, and then mentors respond.)

Baptism marks our entry into the family of God; it is important to have another family member there to welcome us into the family. The third element is water. What are the important uses we have for water? (Students respond.) **Water keeps us alive - our body needs water to survive. It cleans away dirt and germs, provides nourishment for all of creation, it provides sea life with a home, it moves us from place to place. Why do you think God chose water to be needed for baptism?** (Students respond, then mentors respond.)

Read John 3:16. **How does our relationship with God keep our souls alive?** (Through our faith in Jesus, our heavenly Father gives us eternal life.)

Read 1 John 1:9. **How does our relationship with Jesus clean our souls of our sin?** (Through our faith in Jesus, if we confess our sins, God is faithful to forgive us.)

THE WAY *continued...*

Discussion 1: Baptism Symbolism *continued...*

Read Matthew 4:4. **According to Jesus, how does our relationship with God give us nourishment?** (God's Word is like food for our souls.)

Read John 16:13-14. **How does our relationship with God guide us and move us from place to place?** (The Holy Spirit leads us in which way to go and which choices to make.)

Water can take the form of liquid. What are the other two forms water can take? (Solid and gas.) **What do you think God chose for baptism an element that can take three different forms?** (Students respond.) **There is one God, but He is three different persons. This is a mystery we call the Trinity. Who are the three persons that make of the trinity of our one God?** (Father, Son and Holy Spirit.) **Let's read our final command from Jesus before He was lifted up to heaven.** A mentor reads Matthew 28:19. **Why do you think it is important to be baptized in all three names of our God?** (Students respond, then mentors respond.)

ILLUSTRATION 2: BAPTISM IN MOTION

Purpose: To provide a visual and physical reminder of the symbolism in baptism.

Supplies: None

Since Bible times, believers have been baptized with water. Baptisms take place in rivers, pools, church buildings, and even bathtubs! Some people go completely underwater, and others are just sprinkled with water. Whether a baptism involves going under or being sprinkled, the big change from dry to wet gives the picture of the big change in our lives when we follow Jesus. Lead mentors through these the instructions below first and then the students.

Directions:

1. Imagine you are standing in water that is up to your chest. Fold your arms across your chest.
2. Motion 1: Keeping your right elbow in your left palm, raise your right fist with thumb extended to point to yourself, and say to your student: **"I used to live my life MY way."**
3. Motion 2: Slowly lower your right palm beneath the imaginary water and say: **"But I've laid that way of thinking DOWN."**
4. Motion 3: Slowly raise your right palm vertically to a 90-degree angle; point to heaven with index finger and say: **"Now I live my life for JESUS, doing things His way."**
5. Now turn to your mentor and repeat steps 1-4.

DISCUSSION 2: BAPTISM AND YOU

Purpose: To understand what it means to live life with Jesus as our Lord, and to follow Him forever.

Supplies: None

What are some ways we each live our lives according to our own way instead of God's ways? (Students respond.) **What does it mean to you to lay down a certain way of thinking?** (Students respond.) **What are some things that might change in your life when you live your life for Jesus, doing things His way?** (Students respond.)

THE WAY *continued...*

SHARE YOUR STORY: WHY I WANTED TO BE BAPTIZED

Purpose: Students consider their own reasons for wanting to be baptized after hearing an adult's personal testimony (in age-appropriate terms) of the reason he or she wanted to be baptized.

Supplies: Blue (or white) paper, set of *Why I Want To Be Baptized Water Drops* for each student and mentor (available in Leader's Guide Resources)

Preparation: Before class, ask a leader, mentor, or adult helper to share his or her personal testimony during class. Provide him or her with a set of water drops. Ask him or her to write an additional reason or inspiration for being baptized on the blank water drop.

Leader, parent, or adult helper shares a brief personal testimony according to the following instructions:

1. Give each student and mentor a set of water drop cut-outs.
2. Give a brief description, in age-appropriate terms, of how your reasons for being baptized were connected (or not connected) to the reasons listed on water drops 1-3.
3. After explaining how your experience connected to water drop 3, say, **"This is not a good reason to decide to be baptized."** Crumple water drop 3 in a ball and discard it.
4. Read the statement you wrote on water drop 4 and explain, as needed.

It is important to put into words why you are glad you were baptized, why you want to be baptized, or your concerns about being baptized. That's the purpose of the blank water drop. You can draw or describe your feelings about baptism on it. Take all four water drops home and keep them in your journal or Bible.

If time allows, invite mentors to turn to their young disciples and, using simplified age-appropriate terms, briefly discuss how water drops 1-3 connect to their decision or desire to be baptized. Include what he or she would write on water drop 4. Then, instruct them to have their young disciples discuss their water drops with their mentors. If there is not enough time to complete this activity, encourage the mentors to find time during the week to share their stories with their young disciples.

Remind everyone that we all have something to share about our decision to be baptized, desire to be baptized, or concerns about being baptized. Even if we have chosen not to be baptized, we can contribute to the conversation.

THE WAY *continued...*



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

CLOSING PRAYER

First, let's take a moment in silent prayer. If you are considering being baptized, take this silent moment to ask God to guide you in your decision. If you have already been baptized, ask God to remind you each day of the meaning of our baptism. Allow a few moments of silence for prayer.

Invite everyone to pray (aloud) sentence prayers of praise and requests. Conclude with praying the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) together.

DAILY STEPS

Be sure students and mentors know where to find *Daily Steps: Step 1* Session 4 in their journals.

Each day this week, use the *Daily Steps* take-home devotional to guide you in your personal devotional time with God. Remember to bring your journals with you next time we meet. We will begin by sharing what you learned during your devotional times.

To students, distribute *Do You Want To Be Baptized?*, *Baptism Celebration Invitations*, *Baptism Celebration Guests RSVP*, and *My Baptism Bookmark* (available in Leader's Guide Resources).

Students, if you have not already been baptized, pray about participating in the Young Disciples' Baptism Celebration. Talk about it with your mentor and your family. If you choose to be baptized, read the information sheet and contact your leader. Invite your friends and family. Be sure to complete the *Baptism Celebration Guests RSVP* and bring it to our next class.

Dismiss students or enjoy a relationship-building activity such as a meal, a game, or a favorite birthday celebration snack.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"I am the way and the truth and the life.

No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6

"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9

ACTIVITY: THE WAVE

Purpose: Students memorize the Bible Memory Verses.

Supplies: Bible Memory Verse poster or Bible

God created everything in heaven and on the earth. As we say our Bible Memory Verse together, think about something amazing you have seen. Remember, God created everything and He created you, too!

Directions:

1. Assign one word or phrase from John 14:6 and Romans 10:9 to each student or group.
2. Direct each student/group to quickly stand and say the assigned word or phrase while raising both hands up to the sky, then down to the thighs, and finally sitting down.
3. Repeat three times, going faster each time.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

ACTIVITY: WALKING ON THE WORD

Purpose: Students will memorize the Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: 2 Bibles or poster with the Bible Memory Verse, sturdy paper, Bible Memory Verse Song "I Am the Way," large cross cut from poster board

Prepare: From sturdy paper, cut 40 paper footprints. Create two sets of 20 paper footprints, each with one of the following 20 phrases: I am/the way/and the truth/and the life./No one/comes to/the Father/except/through Me./If you/confess/with your mouth/"Jesus is Lord"/and believe/in your heart/that God/raised Him/from the dead/you will/be saved.

You may choose to print each verse (John 14:6 and Romans 10:9) on a different color paper.

Optional: Laminate the paper footprints to protect them from tearing or substitute scrap linoleum flooring for the sturdy paper. To simplify for beginning readers, add symbols or pictures on the footprints. To increase degree of difficulty, create a footprint for each word instead of each phrase.

We have two Bible Memory Verses. John 14:6 quotes Jesus' exact words promising He is the only way to come to God the Father. Romans 10:9 explains the promise concerning what we must do to be saved. In this game, team members will work together to place the footprints in the right order. You may use a Bible. Then, each member will say step on the footprints while saying the phrases until he or she has reached the cross.

Directions:

1. Mix up each set of 20 footprints.
2. Designate a starting line for each team at one end of the play area.
3. Place the cross at the other end of the play area.
4. Divide students into 2 teams.
5. Play the Bible Memory Verse Song as background music.
6. Have teams line up behind their starting line. Give each team a set of 20 footprints.
7. On your signal, teams race to place the footprints in the correct order in a path from their starting line to the cross.
8. When the footprints are in the correct order, each team member steps on the footprints, saying each phrase aloud, until they reach the cross.
9. The first team to have all its members reach the cross is the winner.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



APOSTLES' CREED ACTIVITY

DISCUSSION: FIND IT IN THE BIBLE

Purpose: Students and mentors locate the supporting scriptures of the Apostles' Creed in Section 4.

Supplies: *The Apostles' Creed* (located in the Leaders' Guide and Student and Mentor Journals), Bible(s)

"(I believe in) the holy catholic church"

The word "catholic" has two meanings. When it is capitalized, it refers to a certain c group called the Roman Catholic Church. The leader of the Roman Catholic Church is the Pope. The Apostles' Creed uses the other meaning of catholic. When the word catholic is not capitalized, it means universal or worldwide. "The holy catholic church" refers to the whole group of believers from every tribe, nation, and denomination.

Have a mentor read 1 Corinthians 1:2. **While we may worship and serve in different places all over the world, we are still one church made up of people who follow Jesus. Why do you think the worldwide church is such an important part of our faith?** (Students respond.)

"(I believe in) the communion of saints"

"Saints" means believers. The "communion of saints" does not refer to the taking of the bread and the cup at the Lord's Supper. In the Apostles' Creed, it means coming together.

Have a mentor read Matthew 18:20. **God wants His believers to gather and worship Him together. He promises that wherever two or more are gathered in His name, He is there, too!**

Have a mentor read Hebrews 10:25. **The Bible reminds us never to give up meeting together with the saints. Why do you think it is important for believers (saints) to meet together often?** (Students respond.) **In our gatherings, we can worship in unity. We are encouraged to come together to remember who God is and what He has done in our lives. Why do you think God wants us to assemble?** (Students respond.) Brainstorm ways to connect the church worldwide.

"(I believe in) the forgiveness of sins"

As Christians, we believe in the forgiveness of sins. Sin is doing wrong in God's eyes.

Have a mentor read Acts 10:43. **Before Jesus came to earth, God promised He would one day make a New Covenant with His people. A covenant is an agreement that usually includes a promise. In the Old Covenant, God promised if the people obeyed Him fully, He would make them His treasured possession. Unfortunately, the people kept breaking the Old Covenant by disobeying God. That's called sin - disobeying God by doing wrong in God's eyes. Everyone sins. Under the Old Covenant, what was the final punishment for sin?** (Death.) **What did Jesus do to take away our final punishment?** (He died on the cross, paying for our sin with His own death.)

Continued on the next page.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

"(I believe in) the forgiveness of sins" continued...

Have a mentor read Hebrews 8:10-12. **God's New Covenant with His people promises that whoever believes in His Son, Jesus, will be forgiven. When Jesus died to take the punishment for our sins, He bought total forgiveness for all who believe. Why do you think it is such an important part of our faith to believe in the forgiveness of sins?** (Students respond.) **It's important that we know our sins are erased and no longer separate us from a life forever close with God.**

"(I believe in) the resurrection of the body"

"Resurrection" means rising from the dead. As Christians, we believe that all who believe in Jesus will be raised from the dead and will have life everlasting with Him.

Have a mentor read John 11:25 and 1 Corinthians 15:51-52. **What is the sound we will hear just before Jesus comes back to raise the dead?** (A trumpet) **Our bodies will be changed from bodies that can die to bodies that live forever in heaven with Jesus. What do you imagine your new body will look like?** (Students respond.)

"(I believe in) the life everlasting."

Have a mentor read John 6:47. **Everlasting life is life forever. Jesus promises everlasting life to all who believe in Him. That means even if our body dies, our souls will live forever close to God. Why do you think it is such an important part of our faith to believe in the resurrection of the dead and the life everlasting?** (Students respond.) **Our deepest desire is to live forever close to God. It is the promise of hope for all who believe in Jesus.**

Does anyone have questions about these statements? (Students respond.) Recite The Apostles' Creed together.



Leader's Guide
Young Disciples Step 1
Becoming a Disciple
Session 5

Belonging to God's Family

Session Aim: To know what it means to be a member of the body of Christ.

Step 1: Becoming a Disciple			
	Session	Aim	Scripture References
1	Seeing the Light	To understand spiritual darkness and God's kingdom of light.	Isaiah 60:19; John 1:4-5, 12:46; 2 Corinthians 4:6
2	Choosing the Way	To understand that only through choosing to follow Jesus do we have eternal fellowship with God.	Genesis 3:1-6; 1 John 1:5; Romans 5:12; Psalm 86:15; 1 Peter 3:18; John 3:16, 14:6
3	Becoming a New Creation	To know what it means to be born again as a disciple belonging to Christ.	Romans 10:13; John 5:24; 2 Corinthians 5:17; John 3:3-5, 16-17; Ephesians 2:4-10
4	Celebrating a New Identity	To understand the symbolism of baptism.	Mark 1:9-11; 2 Corinthians 5:15, 17; John 1:12; 1 Corinthians 12:13
5	Belonging to God's Family	To know what it means to be a member of the body of Christ.	1 John 3:1a; Matthew 12:48-50; John 14:2-3; Colossians 3:14-15; Ephesians 4:14-16
Baptism Celebration John 14:6; Romans 10:9			

Step 1 Terms: Baptism, body of Christ, born again, the church, Christian, disciple, God's family, holy, redeemed, saved, sin (For definitions, see the dictionary in the Leader's Manual, Mentor's Journal, and Young Disciple's Journal.)

Step 1 Bible Memory Verses: John 14:6; Romans 10:9

How to Use This Guide: Young Disciples is designed to guide students in navigating the foundational teachings of Jesus and the apostles in order to further establish them in their faith as disciples of Christ. Designed for students age nine and older, this study can be adapted to a variety of cultures and types of gatherings including various size groups of children of different ages in the following settings: student and mentor, individual families, multiple family gatherings where parents, grandparents, or caregivers participate in the class with their children, VBS, Sunday School, or multiple family gatherings where an adult leads the children in this study while parents engage in similar topics.



Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Review: Being Born Again	Students and mentors will need their <i>Daily Steps: Step 1</i> Session 4
		Opening Activity: Fingerprint Faces	Two or more pieces of paper per student and mentor of various size and shape (no larger than 4 inches x 5 inches), pens or pencils, inkpad or washable markers. Optional: Glue, craft supplies (e.g. colored paper, glitter, googly eyes, stickers, yarn, cotton balls)
THE WORSHIP	Up to 10	Worship Sheet music and recordings for the Bible Memory Verse Songs are available at ResourceWell.org.	Lyrics are found in the <i>Leader's Guide and Student & Mentor Journals</i> , Bible Bible Memory Verse Songs: "I Am the Way" (John 14:6; Romans 10:9) "For God So Loved the World" (John 3:16) "Chosen People" (1 Peter 2:9) Additional Song Suggestions: "This Little Light of Mine" (traditional) "This I Believe" by Hillsong
THE WORD	Up to 10	Read the Word: 1 John 3:1a; Matthew 12:48-50; John 14:2-3; Colossians 3:14-15; Ephesians 4:14-16	Bible(s)
THE WAY	Up to 50	Illustration: The Body of Christ	Dry erase board or large poster board, markers, timer or clock
		Discussion: All Different, All Dependent	Bible(s)
		Share Your Story: Belonging to God's Family	Fingerprint Faces (made during opening activity), dry erase board or large poster board, tape
	Final 5	Final Five: Prayer, Baptism Celebration Details, and Daily Steps	<i>Daily Steps: Step 1</i> Session 5 take-home devotional for students and mentors, <i>Preparing for Baptism for Mentors</i>
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: The Wave	Bible Memory Verse poster or Bible
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Walking on the Word	2 Bibles or poster with the Bible Memory Verse, sturdy paper, Bible Memory Verse Song "I Am the Way," large cross cut from poster board
	Up to 15	Apostles' Creed Activity: Apostles' Creed Shuffle	Paper, <i>The Apostles' Creed</i> (located in Leaders' Guide and Student and Mentor Journals)

Session 5: Belonging to God's Family Scriptures

Step 1 Bible Memory Verses

"I am the way and the truth and the life.

No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6

"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9

1 John 3:1a

"See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!"

Matthew 12:48-50

"He replied to him, 'Who is My mother, and who are My brothers?' Pointing to His disciples, He said, 'Here are My mother and My brothers. For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother.'"

John 14:2-3

"My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with Me that you also may be where I am."

Colossians 3:14-15

"And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful."

Ephesians 4:14-16

"Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of Him who is the head, that is, Christ. From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."



Belonging to God's family

THE WELCOME

REVIEW: BEING BORN AGAIN

Purpose: To remind students of the content of the unit's previous session.

Supplies: Students and mentors will need their *Daily Steps: Step 1* Session 4 take-home devotionals.

Last week, we talked about our new identity when we follow Jesus as our Lord. Divide students into groups of two or three to discuss their responses to the DAILY STEPS water drop activity. **In your groups, discuss what you wrote or drew on the blank water drop about your feelings on baptism. What reasons did you include for why you are glad you were baptized, why you want to be baptized, or your concerns about being baptized?**
(Students respond.)

OPENING ACTIVITY: FINGERPRINT FACES

Purpose: To introduce the concept of the many different faces of believers within the body of Christ. These fingerprint face groups will be used in SHARE YOUR STORY: BELONGING TO GOD'S FAMILY.

Supplies: Two or more pieces of paper per student and mentor of various size and shape (no larger than 4 inches x 5 inches), pens or pencils, inkpad or washable markers

Optional: Glue, craft supplies (e.g. colored paper, glitter, googly eyes, stickers, yarn, cotton balls)

Prepare: Create a sample group of Fingerprint Faces on a piece of paper as an example. You will also need to create a paper with a single Fingerprint Face for step 2 in the SHARE YOUR STORY activity.

Leader's Tip: Provide soap and water or other cleaning supplies for students and mentors to wash their hands after this activity.

Directions:

1. Give each student and mentor two pieces of paper. Have additional pieces of paper available.
2. To create a fingerprint (or thumbprint): Press finger onto an inkpad or color with a washable marker. Then, press finger onto paper to make a fingerprint.
3. To create a fingerprint face: Create hair and facial details on the fingerprint using a pencil, pen, and/or craft supplies.
4. Instruct students and mentors to create several fingerprint faces on each piece of paper. Continue until everyone has made at least two groups of fingerprint faces.
5. Collect all the fingerprint faces for use in SHARE YOUR STORY: BELONGING TO GOD'S FAMILY.

While students and mentors are completing their project, lead the following discussion. **God created each person in a unique way. No two people are exactly alike, even if they belong to the same family. Think about your friends and family members. In what ways are you the same?** (Students respond.) **In what ways are you different?** (Students respond.)



Jesus, the Head of the body of Christ

THE WORSHIP



Last time, we learned that when we trust Jesus to be our Lord and Savior, God makes us a new creation—one with eternal life forever close with God. All who trust Jesus as Lord and Savior belong to God's family, which is called the church or the body of Christ.



God the Father has put His Son Jesus as the head of the body of Christ. Ask a volunteer to read Ephesians 1:22-23.



We are worshiping Jesus with our lives when we trust and obey Him as the head of the body of Christ. Sing Bible Memory Verse Song "I Am the Way" (John 14:6; Romans 10:9).

Each believer is a unique member of the body of Christ, yet as the church, we agree on key statements of our one faith. These key statements can be found in the Apostles' Creed.

Sing "This I Believe" or another favorite song confirming the statements found in The Apostles' Creed.

In your Daily Steps this week, you will have the opportunity to review and discuss the Apostles' Creed with your mentor. If time allows, lead the APOSTLES' CREED ACTIVITY: FIND IT IN THE BIBLE in GOT TIME?.



God's family

THE WORD

Purpose: To learn that all Christians belong to God's family, which is the body of Christ or the church.

Leader's Tip: Have a different student read each Scripture passage aloud.



What is another name for anyone who has trusted Jesus as Lord and Savior?

(Believer, Christian, saint, follower of Christ, disciple of Christ.) **When we believe in and belong to God's Son Jesus, we are adopted into God's family and called children of God.** Read 1 John 3:1a.

Let's read what Jesus says about this. Read Matthew 12:48-50.

What are other names for God's family? (The church, the kingdom of God, the body of Christ.)

What are the two meanings for the word "church"? (Students respond.) **Many times, people use the word "church" to refer to a building where people gather to worship God. The Bible also uses the word church as the name for God's family—the group of all believers throughout time and all around the world who believe in Jesus as Lord and Savior.**

Where is the home for God's family? (Heaven.) **However, until Jesus returns to earth, God's family lives throughout the world. God's family is made up of members of every race, from every nation, and those who speak every language. Just before Jesus was lifted up into heaven, He made a promise to one day take God's family home.** Read John 14:2-3.

As members of God's family, how do you think He wants us to treat one another? (Students respond.) **The Bible says God wants us to love one another, peacefully and united as one family.** Read Colossians 3:14-15.

God the Father wants His family to grow in number and in maturity, continually becoming more and more like His Son Jesus. Read Ephesians 4:14-16.



The church, the body of Christ

THE WAY

ILLUSTRATION: THE BODY OF CHRIST

Purpose: To use the Bible's explanation of the body of Christ to illustrate how we function as the family of God, the church.

Supplies: Dry erase board or large poster board, markers, timer or clock

Directions:

1. Draw a person on a dry erase board or poster board. Include brain, eyes, ears, mouth, arms, legs, feet, and hands. **God created our body with many parts. Each part by itself is of no use; the parts must all work together as one unit.** Invite students (one at a time) to come to the board, label a body part, and describe how it works with the other parts of the body.
2. **Imagine your eyes see a young girl who is very hungry. In 60 seconds, let's list all the ways these different body parts might work together to give the young girl something to eat. Ready? Set? Go!** Set the timer for 60 seconds or have a helper watch the clock. On the dry erase board, record what students say.
3. Review the list the students created. **Just as different body parts have different abilities that can work together to help others, God has given each one of us very different gifts and talents. He wants us to work in unity to do the things He asks us to do.**

DISCUSSION: ALL DIFFERENT, ALL DEPENDENT

Purpose: To help students appreciate the differences and the interdependence in the body of Christ.

Supplies: Bible(s)

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12, 15-20, 27. **How is the family of God like a body?** (Student's respond.)

In the body of Christ, we each have different gifts and different roles, but we are equally important members. God wants His family to grow, for others to become part of His family. That means the members of the body of Christ must work together to reach those who do not yet follow Jesus. It takes all kinds of gifts and personalities to reach out to others and welcome them into God's family. What are some of the ways God might use different gifts and personalities to do that? (Students respond.)

God wants His family to grow and become more like His Son Jesus. What are some ways that members of the body of Christ can help each other do that? (Students respond.)

Read 1 Timothy 4:12. **God has an important role for each of us. People of every age, including children and teens, can help God's family grow in size and in maturity. The life you live today as a family member can change lives for the better and can help God's family to grow! How might God use your personality and your gifts along with others this week to help His family grow?** (Students respond.)

THE WAY *continued...*

SHARE YOUR STORY: GOD'S FAMILY

Purpose: Two leaders* briefly share their personal testimonies of how God's family has encouraged them, and what roles God has given them to encourage His family.

Supplies: Fingerprint Faces (made during opening activity), dry erase or large poster board, tape

Prepare: Before class, choose two leaders* to share their personal testimony about God's family. Provide preparation time, instruction, and a reminder to share in an age-appropriate manner.

*It is ideal to have two adults share their testimony so children understand each testimony is unique. If there are not two leaders who can share, consider asking one of the mentors (ahead of time) to share. The first leader shares a brief personal testimony according to the instructions below. The second leader shares a brief personal testimony, pointing to the Fingerprint Faces placed by the first leader as needed to illustrate his or her testimony.

1. Draw an outline of a large cross on the board. **Everyone who believes in Jesus and follows Him is called a Christian and belongs to God's family, which is called the church or the body of Christ.**
2. **Before I became a Christian, I was not yet in God's family.** Place a single Fingerprint Face outside the cross to represent yourself. **Long before I became a Christian, some members of God's family prayed for me.** Attach a group of Fingerprint Faces inside the cross to represent those who prayed for you. Briefly share appropriate details about those who might have been praying for you (relatives, neighbors, local churches, believers around the world, etc.).
3. **Before I became a Christian, some members of God's family showed God's love to me.** Attach a group of Fingerprint Faces inside the cross to represent those who showed God's love to you through their actions and words. Briefly share appropriate details.
4. **Before I became a Christian, some members of God's family reached out to me to tell me about Jesus.** Attach a group of Fingerprint Faces inside the cross to represent anyone who told you about Jesus, including anyone who extended an invitation of prayer for salvation.
5. Move the single fingerprint face representing yourself inside the cross. **When I chose to believe in Jesus and follow Him, I became a Christian. Now, I belong to God's family.**
6. **As a member of God's family, I pray for others in God's family and for those who are not yet in God's family.** Attach groups of Fingerprint Faces inside and outside the cross to represent those two groups. Briefly share appropriate examples of how you pray for them.
7. **As a member of God's family, I want to share God's love to others in God's family and to those not yet in God's family.** Attach groups of Fingerprint Faces inside and outside the cross to represent those two groups. Briefly share appropriate examples of sharing God's love through service, generosity, compassion, etc.
8. **As members of God's family, we reach out to others to tell them about Jesus.** Attach a group of Fingerprint Faces outside the cross to represent those with whom you have shared or hope to share the gospel. Briefly share appropriate examples.
9. **As members of God's family, we encourage each other to live in a way that is pleasing to God.** Attach a group of Fingerprint Faces inside the cross to represent those who encourage you and hold you accountable in your walk with God. Briefly share appropriate examples.
10. **As members of God's family, whenever we gather to worship, we are also joining with Christians all through time and all over the world as one big family – God's family.** Attach any remaining groups of Fingerprint Faces inside the cross to represent God's family throughout time and around the world.

THE WAY *continued...*

Share Your Story: God's Family *continued...*

If time allows and using simplified age-appropriate terms, invite mentors to share with their young disciples their own story of their relationships with specific individuals in the body of Christ. Then, instruct them to have their young disciples discuss their water drops with their mentors. If there is not enough time, encourage the mentors to find time during the week to share their stories with their young disciples.

Remind everyone that we all have something to share about relationships with individuals in the body of Christ. Even if we are not yet believers and thus not yet members of the body of Christ, we can contribute to the conversation.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

CLOSING PRAYER

In a moment, we will take time for silent prayer. Today, we have talked about being part of God's family. All who trust Jesus as Lord and Savior belong to God's family. If you have already trusted in Jesus as your Lord and Savior, take this time to thank God for choosing you to belong to His family. If you have never trusted Jesus as your Lord and Savior and you wish to do so, you can do that now by silently asking Jesus to forgive your sins and to be your Lord and Savior. He will do it and you will immediately become forever close with God the Father, belonging to His family forever. Allow a few moments of silence for prayer.

Invite everyone to pray (aloud) sentence prayers of praise and requests. Conclude with praying the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) together.

BAPTISM CELEBRATION DETAILS

Communicate any final details for the Young Disciples' Baptism Celebration. To mentors, distribute *Preparing for Baptism for Mentors* (available in Leader's Guide Resources).

DAILY STEPS

Be sure students and mentors know where to find *Daily Steps: Step 1* Session 5 in their journals.

Each day this week, use the *Daily Steps* take-home devotional to guide you in your personal devotional time with God. The completion of *Daily Steps: Step 1* Session 5 marks the conclusion of our class, Young Disciples Step 1. Thank you for being part of this class!

I challenge each of you to look for opportunities to continue to grow as a young disciple. Ask God to help you be faithful in your habit of daily devotionals. Be sure to include time for prayer, reading the Bible, and thinking about God and your relationship with Him.

Also, consider participating in Young Disciples Step 2 in the near future. Step 2 centers around living as a disciple according to Jesus' commandments to love God and each other in Matthew 22:37-39. At the close, we will share in Holy Communion together. Students, you do not need to take Step 2 before taking communion, but we encourage you to talk with your mentor (or family) about communion and its significance before taking part.

Dismiss students or enjoy a relationship-building activity such as a meal, a game, or a favorite birthday celebration snack.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"I am the way and the truth and the life.

No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6

"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9

ACTIVITY: THE WAVE

Purpose: Students memorize the Bible Memory Verses.

Supplies: Bible Memory Verse poster or Bible

God created everything in heaven and on the earth. As we say our Bible Memory Verse together, think about something amazing you have seen. Remember, God created everything and He created you, too!

Directions:

1. Assign one word or phrase from John 14:6 and Romans 10:9 to each student or group.
2. Direct each student/group to quickly stand and say the assigned word or phrase while raising both hands up to the sky, then down to the thighs, and finally sitting down.
3. Repeat three times, going faster each time.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

ACTIVITY: WALKING ON THE WORD

Purpose: Students will memorize the Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: 2 Bibles or poster with the Bible Memory Verse, sturdy paper, Bible Memory Verse Song "I Am the Way," large cross cut from poster board

Prepare: From sturdy paper, cut 40 paper footprints. Create two sets of 20 paper footprints, each with one of the following 20 phrases: I am/the way/and the truth/and the life./No one/comes to/the Father/except/through Me./If you/confess/with your mouth/"Jesus is Lord"/and believe/in your heart/that God/raised Him/from the dead/you will/be saved.

You may choose to print each verse (John 14:6 and Romans 10:9) on a different color paper.

Optional: Laminate the paper footprints to protect them from tearing or substitute scrap linoleum flooring for the sturdy paper. To simplify for beginning readers, add symbols or pictures on the footprints. To increase degree of difficulty, create a footprint for each word instead of each phrase.

We have two Bible Memory Verses. John 14:6 quotes Jesus' exact words promising He is the only way to come to God the Father. Romans 10:9 explains the promise concerning what we must do to be saved. In this game, team members will work together to place the footprints in the right order. You may use a Bible. Then, each member will say step on the footprints while saying the phrases until he or she has reached the cross.

Directions:

1. Mix up each set of 20 footprints.
2. Designate a starting line for each team at one end of the play area.
3. Place the cross at the other end of the play area.
4. Divide students into 2 teams.
5. Play the Bible Memory Verse Song as background music.
6. Have teams line up behind their starting line. Give each team a set of 20 footprints.
7. On your signal, teams race to place the footprints in the correct order in a path from their starting line to the cross.
8. When the footprints are in the correct order, each team member steps on the footprints, saying each phrase aloud, until they reach the cross.
9. The first team to have all its members reach the cross is the winner.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



APOSTLES' CREED ACTIVITY

GAME: APOSTLES' CREED SHUFFLE

Purpose: Players cooperate to put the statements of the Apostles' Creed in the correct order.

Supplies: Paper, *The Apostles' Creed* (located in the Leaders' Guide and Student and Mentor Journals)

Prepare: In large lettering, print each phrase of the Apostles' Creed below on a separate sheet of paper.

I believe in God
the Father Almighty
Creator of heaven and earth
I believe in Jesus Christ
God's only Son
our Lord
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
born of the Virgin Mary
suffered under Pontius Pilate
was crucified
died
and was buried
On the third day He rose again
He ascended into heaven
He is seated at the right hand of the Father
and He will come again
to judge the living and the dead
I believe in the Holy Spirit
the holy catholic church
the communion of saints
the forgiveness of sins
the resurrection of the body
and the life everlasting
Amen

Directions:

1. Have students shuffle the pages so they are completely out of order.
2. Distribute the pages face down to the players (students and mentors). Depending on the size of your class, some players may receive 2 pages, or some students may join to share 1 page.)
3. Players line up, shoulder to shoulder, in a random order, holding their page in a way that all can see the phrase (face up).
4. Start a timer and have all players cooperate to see how quickly they can shuffle their line to get all phrases into the correct order.
5. Stop timer. Play again to try to do it faster.

Options:

- Make 2 sets of pages, and divide players into 2 teams. The first team to line up shoulder to shoulder in the correct order is the winner.
- Play song "This I Believe" or another song about the Apostles' Creed as you play the game.