

CALL to FAITH

FACILITATOR'S GUIDE

GRADE
K

Unit 6
Chapter 16

Materials Needed to Complete Session

Chapter Sixteen *Call to Faith* Parent Handout

I Am a Holy Sign Handout (one per child)

White paper (cut into squares that fit behind the flaps/doors on *I Am a Holy Sign*)

Child-safe scissors

Tape or glue-stick

Crayons and/or colored markers

Bingo type markers

Sign of Love handout (one per child)

For the opening prayer:

- Bible (Psalm 36:10)
- Small table covered with a table cloth
- Crucifix on the small table
- DVD *Move! Pray! Celebrate!* "Gather Together" (Track 1)
- DVD player and monitor

Time Frame (60 minutes)

Welcome and Call to Prayer
10 mins.

Conversation One
15 mins.

Conversation Two
20 mins.

Conversation Three
10 mins.

Closing
5 mins.

HOSPITALITY

Warmly welcome participants as they arrive and invite them to find a seat together at a table. Ask them not to do anything with the handouts on the table until you are ready to begin the gathering prayer.

WELCOME AND CALL TO PRAYER **10 mins.**

Welcome parents/guardians and the children. Thank them for being there and say that you hope they will enjoy some special time with each other to explore holy signs called sacraments that help us to grow closer to God and each other.

Prayer

In place of the Prayer in the Student Edition, use the following prayer:

Gather participants in the prayer space.

Teach the participants the words and gestures to "Gather Together."

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Make the Sign of the Cross.

Sing and do the gestures to “Gather Together.”

Read aloud or invite a volunteer to read aloud Psalm 36:10.

Leader: **Let us pray**

God our Father, we are your children.

You live in us.

Help us live as holy signs of your presence.

We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus.

Amen.

Close with the Sign of the Cross.

Conversation One

15 mins.

1. Direct participants back to their seats.
2. Ask them to open their *Call to Faith* book to page 135 and to place the parent handout beside it. Explain that the handout is self-directed and that you would like them to **complete steps 1-4**. Make sure each participant has a copy of the *Sign of Love* handout.

Conversation Two

20 mins.

1. Invite participants to turn to pages 136 and 137 in their *Call to Faith* book and page 2 of their handout.
2. Ask participants to **complete steps 5-8**. Make sure each child has a copy of the *I Am a Holy Sign* handout.

Conversation Three

10 mins.

1. Tell participants to turn to page 138 in their *Call to Faith* book and page 3 of their handout.
2. Invite them now to **complete step 9**.

Closing

5 mins.

1. Guide the parents to the **For Home** page (page 4 in handout). Thank the parents/guardians and children for their participation and say that you look forward to seeing them on _____.
2. Conclude with the *Thanking Prayer* found on page 117.

COACHING PLAN

CALL to FAITH

PARENT HANDOUT

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Begins on page

Conversation One

Thank you for coming to spend time in conversation with your son/daughter! Talking about faith with your child at any age is important, but starting at kindergarten enables the conversations to become part of your child's life long faith journey.

These conversations will focus on sacraments. The seven sacraments are gifts from Jesus, that are experiences of God's life within us. We move toward God when we open our hearts and minds to his grace. We move away from him when we reject his love, when we sin. We need help to grow in love, to grow in holiness. The sacraments help us to do just that.

Inspired by the Holy Spirit, these rituals offer sacred moments when God's life is made present to those whose hearts are open to receive it. Sacraments are also marked by celebrations. Families and cultures have special ways of celebrating the sacraments and marking the changes they bring. Baptisms, First Communions, and Holy Matrimony, are often enhanced by gatherings of family and friends.

1. Ask your child to think of the "signs" you saw on your way here. Did you see traffic lights that told you when to go, stop, and slow down? Did you see any store signs or neon lights for restaurants? Did you see any police cars or ambulances with special markings?
2. Now read together the *Let's Begin* on page 135 of *Call to Faith*.
3. Talk with your child about signs of love. How did your parents/caregivers show love to you? How do you try to show it to your children?
4. Work with children to complete the *Sign of Love* activity sheet which involves them drawing a picture of their favorite sign of love. Ask them to fill the space with their drawing and create a picture you could send to someone they love.

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Conversation Two

5. Read together *Jesus' Signs* on page 136, then review the pictures of Jesus with your child:

What did Jesus do with water? (*He washed his disciples' feet, he baptized people, he helped people who were thirsty.*)

What did Jesus do with light? (*He told people that they were the light of the world and to let their lights shine so all would know of God's love.*)

What did Jesus do with food? (*He blessed it before he ate it; he celebrated the Last Supper with his disciples; he multiplied the loaves and the fishes.*)

6. Now turn to page 137 and read *Blessing Food*, which is the story of the loaves and the fishes. Remind your child that you are about to read a story from the Bible, God's living word. Have your child describe the story back to you.
7. Ask your child, What did the blessing and the sharing of the food show the people? What was it a sign of? (*It showed that Jesus had great power; it showed that God loved the people and knew that they needed food.*)
8. Take out the handout, *I Am a Holy Sign* and a sheet of white paper and follow the instructions below to complete it with your child:

The finished project will be a church that shows a picture of your child's face, to remind them that they are an important part of the Church.

Introduce the activity by saying: "You are a holy sign, too. God lives in you. Let's make a picture of you as a holy sign." Take a white paper square and have your child draw a picture of his/her face no bigger than the doors of the church.

Take the church building and have children cut along lines so the doors of the church can be opened and folded back. Tape or glue the picture behind the doors so that when they open, the picture will be seen. Ask your child to also color the church.

COACHING PLAN

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Conversation Three

9. Read page 138 and complete the Activity by following these instructions:

Using the markers provided in the center of your table, invite your child to place a marker on the picture (just one) that corresponds to each of these clues:

A place to pray (church)

God's stories (Bible)

Where Jesus slept (manger)

God's creation (world)

How Jesus died (cross)

The Holy Spirit (dove)

Jesus calling his friends (Jesus motioning to Apostles)

Love (heart)

What lead the wise men to Jesus (star)

**PARENT
HANDOUT**

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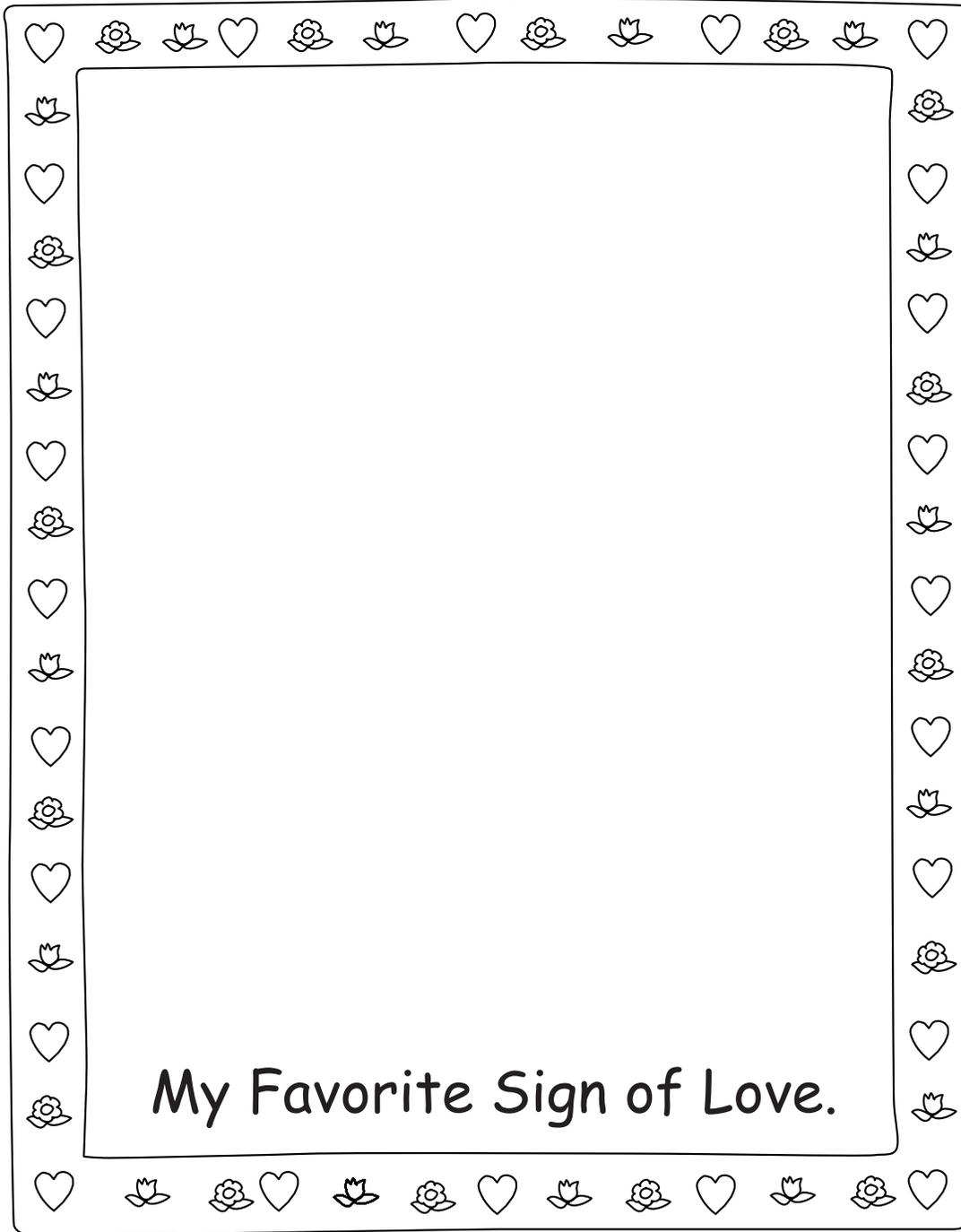
For Home

1. Read together Mark 6:34-42.
2. Review the *Family Project* on page 140 and send a note of support to someone.
3. Read together *People of Faith* and then conclude with the *Family Prayer*.

Name _____ Date _____

Sign of Love

Directions: Draw your favorite sign of love.



I Am A Holy Sign

