

Madonna and Child

GRADE 7, UNIT 2, SESSION 10

Faith Focus: We can trust the Lord completely to take away our fears and to guide us in the right direction.

OUTCOMES

- Identify how Mary was changed by Jesus’ birth.
- Analyze how Mary is a role model of faith.
- Articulate how our relationship with Jesus changes our own lives.



About the Artist Patricia Brintle is a self-taught artist who was born and raised in Haiti. She emigrated to the United States in 1964, but her artistic style continues to reflect the colors and symbolism of her native land. Since the death of her 11-year-old son in a car accident, she has felt connected to the Madonna because she too lost a son. After this event, Brintle’s work became more serious and spiritual. Her relationship with God plays an important part in her art.

About the Artist *Madonna and Child—Beloved Son* is part of the artist’s Madonna and Child series of acrylic paintings, which focuses on the bond between a mother and child. Close examination reveals the connection between Mary and Jesus; halos radiate around the faces of each figure. The vibrant colors are examples of the bright and vivid hues the artist uses in many of her works. A splash of orange contrasts the cool greens and blues, drawing the eye to the woman.

CATECHIST DIRECTIONS

1 Begin

Display the Art Print while completing Session 10.

Briefly introduce and discuss the Art Print, using information from About the Artist and Artifacts. Say: ***What details of the painting help you know this is a representation of Mary and the baby Jesus? (The halos around their faces show they are holy. The color blue is symbolic of Heaven.) What other images of the Madonna have you seen? How do these compare to the Art Print? (Answers will vary.)***

Say: ***Mary was a young woman when an angel told her that something seemingly impossible would soon happen. How was Mary’s reaction so different than that of others who were visited by angels? (She did not doubt that God could make this happen. She did not argue about why it could not happen.) This good news changed Mary. Why would her faith become even greater with the angel’s news? (Possible answer: Her pregnancy was a miracle. She knew that she would give birth to the Messiah.) How did others change around her as a result of her news? (Possible answers: Their faith grew stronger. They understood what a miracle this was.)***

Invite young people to reflect on the artwork and pray a prayer of thanks for the gift of his Son and the Salvation his birth brought to the world.

2 Connect

Distribute the Blackline Master. Read aloud the title and introduction. Discuss the question. Ask volunteers to read aloud the text and the Bible verse. Ask: ***How do Mary’s words reflect her faith? (She praises God and acknowledges the great things he has done for her.) How do you know Mary is aware of how her life will change? (She says that from now on, she will be called blessed.)*** Say: ***There will be times we are fearful and unsure of the choices we face. However, just like Mary, we can trust the Lord completely to take away our fears and to guide us in the right direction.*** Read aloud Face the Change. Allow time for young people to complete the activity and share their responses with a partner. Encourage volunteers to share with the class.

Past Meets Present

Ask a volunteer to read aloud this feature. Read aloud Isaiah 11:1–9. Ask: What does this prophecy say? ***(Possible answers: The Messiah would come from Jesse’s line. The Messiah would be fair. The Messiah would defend those who were poor. The Messiah will spread the Lord’s knowledge.)*** Ask: ***Why are the Old Testament prophets important to us today? (Possible answers: They help us understand that Jesus’ second coming is bound to happen because their prophecies of his birth came to pass. They help us understand the joy that people must have felt when Jesus was born.)***

IF TIME ALLOWS

If time allows, complete one or more of the activities below.

Expression: Music

Mary in Song Play a song about Mary such as “Immaculate Mary.” After listening, have small groups discuss the song’s message and write a new verse dedicated to Mary. Encourage groups to share their final product with the class.

Time: 20 minutes
Materials: CD player, music such as “Immaculate Mary” [*Finding God* Grade 5 CD 2 Track 9]

Expression: Art Studio

Faith Symbols Explain that this artist often paints a tiny angel next to the year on each of her paintings, because she feels an angel is watching over her. Have young people come up with a symbol to represent some aspect of their faith. Allow several minutes for young people to brainstorm ideas. Then ask young people to draw and decorate their symbols. When young people are finished, have them explain the significance of their symbol to the class.

Time: 20 minutes
Materials: drawing paper, crayons or markers, pencils, art supplies

Name _____ Date _____

Art Print 10 shows the Madonna holding her beloved infant as she gazes upon him lovingly. How did the birth of the Messiah change Mary’s life and ours?

A Time of Anticipation

Mary was changed when she learned of Jesus’ upcoming birth. As a young woman, unmarried, and from a humble family, she had every right to be fearful and anxious. She felt honored to be chosen by God for a very special role. She was filled with love and grace and the awesome responsibility of caring for the child who was to be the Light of the World. Mary acknowledged this in her words to her cousin Elizabeth:

“My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior. For he has looked upon his handmaid’s lowliness; behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed. The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.”

Luke 1:46–49

As people arrived to see the baby Jesus, Mary listened to them recount the angels’ proclamations of the birth of a child who was the Messiah and Lord.

Mary knew that not only would she and her family be changed by Jesus’ birth, but also that the whole world would be changed because Jesus was the Messiah who had been prophesized for so long.

Face the Change

You too are changed through your relationship with Jesus. Understanding the events leading up to and including Jesus’ birth helps us see the world in a different way. Perhaps through Christ you are less fearful or anxious, or your connection with Jesus gives you peace or allows you to act with courage. On a separate sheet of paper, write about how knowing Jesus has changed you and will change you as you grow in faith. List ways that you prepare to receive more of Jesus’ presence in your life.

Past Meets Present

The Old Testament prophets foretold the coming of the Messiah. As a result, people over the centuries waited in anticipation for the birth of Jesus. Today we anticipate the celebration of his birth during the season of Advent. During Advent we prepare ourselves for the coming of the Messiah and the celebration of his birth on Christmas. We also anticipate a future time when Jesus will walk among us once more, as this has also been foretold.

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Patricia Brintle, 2008.