

The Immaculate Conception

Mary receives God's grace from her first moment

Ages about 7-11 | Video 2:40 | Group lesson about 25-35 minutes

Central truth God preserved Mary from original sin from the first moment of her conception through the saving work of Jesus.

Learning goals Explain whose conception the feast celebrates; connect Mary's grace to Jesus' saving work; and practice a willing response to God.

Gather Video access, one handout per child, pencils or crayons, and a Bible.

Watch online [Open this video on Servus Dei](#)

Before watching | 2 minutes

Ask which person the words Immaculate Conception describe. Watch for the gift Mary receives before her yes at the Annunciation.

Watch and notice

Notice Mary's first moment, the garden image, Gabriel's greeting, and Mary's willing response.

Talk together | 6-8 minutes

1. Whose conception does this feast celebrate?

Mary's conception, not Jesus' conception. God preserved her from original sin from her first moment.

2. Did Mary make herself full of grace?

No. Her holiness began with God's gift, given through the merits of Jesus Christ, her Savior.

3. How did Mary respond to Gabriel?

She freely said yes to becoming the mother of Jesus. Her trusting response is called her fiat.

4. How can we respond to God's help today?

Pray for grace and choose a loving action. We need God's mercy; the lesson is not a contest to be perfect.

Then respond and pray Allow 6-8 minutes for a handout or the activity on page 2; finish with the closing prayer.

Lead the response

The Immaculate Conception

Short family lesson Watch the video, choose one recall question and one application question, then pray. About 12-18 minutes; the handout is optional.

Choose a handout

Draw & Tell Draw the story's garden image for Mary's grace. Then draw one loving response you can make with God's help. Accept an oral explanation.

Read & Write Recall the story, explain its central teaching, then apply it through a specific choice.

Adapt by readiness

Ages 7-8: draw or dictate answers; revisit the named story moment together.

Ages 9-11: explain the connection between the story detail and the planned response.

Gift and response garden | Optional 4 minutes

Draw a two-part garden. Label the soil God's gift of grace and the flowers Mary's yes. Add a separate flower for a loving response you can make with God's help. Explain that grace comes first; good choices are a response to his love.

Look for understanding Look for the named story details in the answers and a practical response connected to grace, mary, and god's saving gift.

Closing prayer God, thank you for the grace you gave Mary through Jesus. Help us trust you and say yes to your love. Amen.

At home Ask an adult to pray the Hail Mary with you and discuss the words full of grace.

Handout answer notes The feast concerns Mary's conception. God preserved her from original sin through Christ's saving merits. Responses should identify a loving choice made with grace.

Teach with care

Provide paper and pencils. Preview the video and invite children to ask questions or pass. Clarify that this feast concerns Mary's conception and God's grace through Christ. Childhood scenes in the video include tradition and imaginative detail. Mary needed Jesus as Savior; she was preserved by his saving merits. Anne and Joachim's names and childhood details belong to tradition or imaginative retelling, not the Gospel account. The Immaculate Conception differs from the virginal conception of Jesus.

Words to explain Immaculate: without stain. Grace: God's free gift of life and help. Fiat: Mary's yes to God's plan.

Sources for the leader

Story source: [Servus Dei video and English transcript](#)

Background: [Catechism 490-493: the Immaculate Conception](#)

A garden of grace

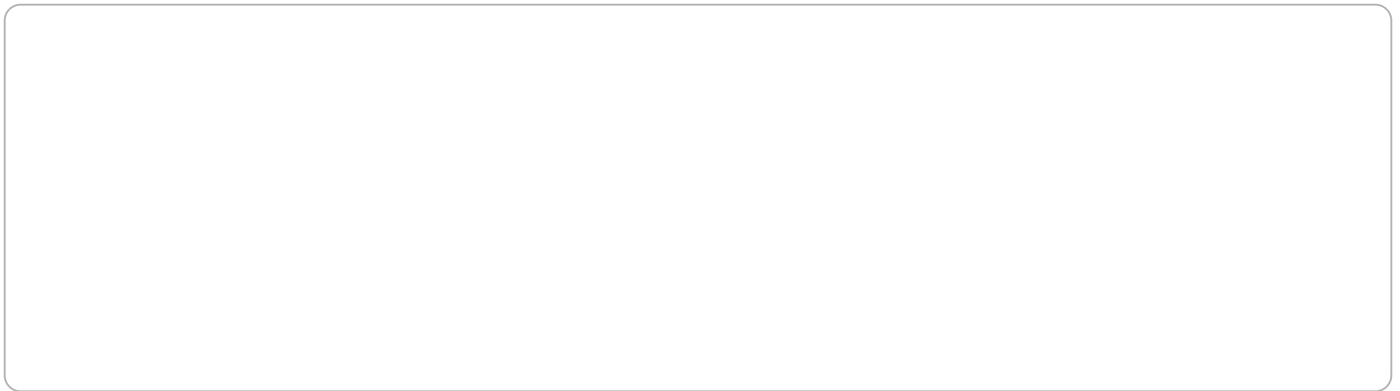
The Immaculate Conception

God preserved Mary from original sin from the first moment of her conception through the saving work of Jesus.

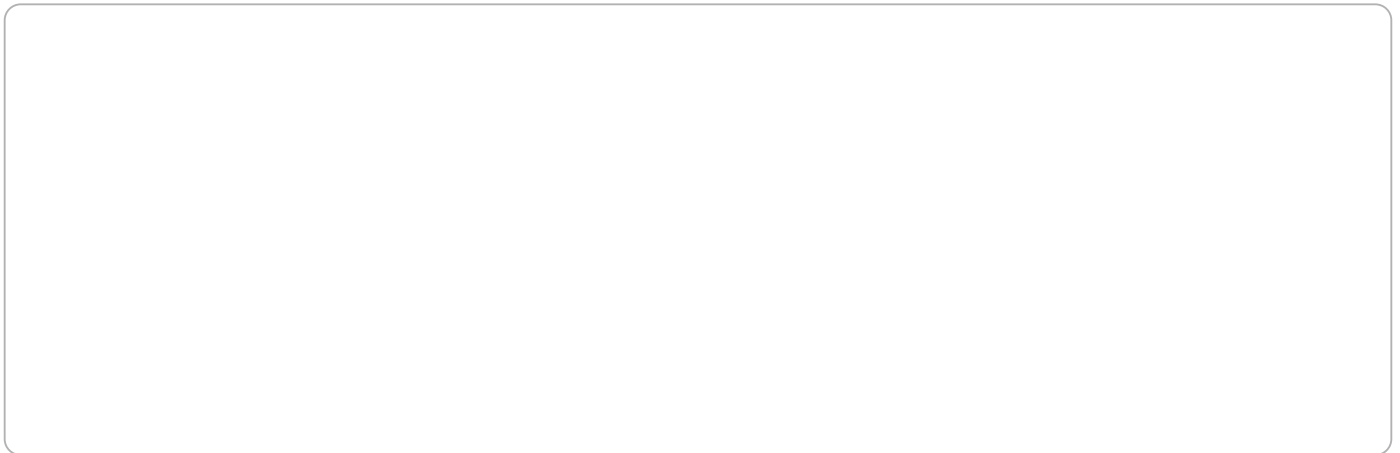
Name _____

Adult helper Read aloud. Invite drawing, pointing, or spoken answers. Writing is optional.

1 Draw the story's garden image for Mary's grace.



2 Draw one loving response you can make with God's help.



Tell Who gives grace? How can a person respond to that gift?

Pray God, thank you for the grace you gave Mary through Jesus. Help us trust you and say yes to your love. Amen.

At home Share your picture and one thing you learned about God or following Jesus.

God's gift and Mary's yes

The Immaculate Conception

Mary receives God's grace from her first moment. Remember, explain, and respond.

Name _____

1 Remember

Whose conception is called immaculate?

The feast celebrates ...

2 Explain

Where did Mary's holiness begin?

God gave Mary ...

3 Respond

What loving yes could you choose today?

With God's help, I can ...

Pray God, thank you for the grace you gave Mary through Jesus. Help us trust you and say yes to your love. Amen.

Go deeper Why is grace a gift to receive rather than a prize to earn?