

Unit 1 “God Wants Us to Say “Yes”” Lesson 6  
I Say “Yes”

**Objective:** The students will recall that Jesus wanted children around Him, learn that Jesus wants everyone to say "Yes" to Him, and be able to state that Baptism is the first way we say "Yes" to God.

**For the Catechist**

In the previous lessons the children have been given the examples of the disciples and Mary to show how we should say "Yes" to God. Now the subject is themselves. In this unit they will learn how they said "Yes" to God in Baptism and Chrismation through their parents and godparents and that they say "Yes" each day to God when they follow Jesus' teachings.

The closing to this lesson is very important. Depending on the number of students, it will take at least 10 minutes. Read about it now and plan for it.

We are called to follow Jesus. In the Gospels Jesus is shown as the teacher who leads us to the Father. Jesus teaches with authority because He knows the Father. When he calls us to follow Him, we can follow Him with certainty. He speaks not the words of men but with absolute certainty about Himself and His mission: "I am the way, the truth and the life."

Faith is essential to Christian life. For faith is our response to God's revelation of Himself to us. Faith is our way of saying "Yes" to God. Faith is the total surrender and dedication of one's life to love and serve our Lord. The concept of faith is difficult for small children to understand, possibly because it is characteristic of their childlike nature to have faith. Faith is also expressed in obedience. To obey is to hear—to listen to the voice of someone, with ears and heart open to the words that are spoken. This aspect of faith is presented here. The lesson focuses on the more concrete idea of the child saying "Yes" to Jesus by following His teachings.

**Lesson Plan Overview**

**Opening:** “It is Truly Right”

**Introduction:** Even children can aim for a worthy goal and practice and succeed in a challenge. Our challenge is following Jesus. **Need:** An award, ribbon, or trophy

**Read Text Aloud:** Ask questions on the following pages while text is being read.

**Activity Tracks:**

Choose a basic, group, or craft activity to reinforce the lesson (detailed on the pages that follow).

- *Basic:* I Say “Yes”
- *Group:* “Come Follow Me” Circle
- *Craft:* "Say Yes to God" Frame

**Closing:** "Jesus Calls You" **Need:** small mirror

**Come Bless the Lord Icon Packets:**

Packet I: Christ the Teacher  
Packet II:

**Teaching Pic:**

#

## ***Background Reading***

*(Direct quotations from the sources noted.)*

### **We Are Saved**

"Another difficult area for many people to give over to the Lord is the very working out of their salvation. Often people seem to feel that they are the ones responsible for uniting themselves to God. They fail to see that nothing men or women can do will earn them divine life—that has been done already, once and for all, by Christ. All we do can only be an attempted response to the great love of God for us" (*WEF* 43).

### **Union with God Is Achieved**

"In the same way, Christians need not drive themselves to unnecessary guilt or fear, trying for a spotless record before God in hopes of thereby 'earning' heaven. Our individual human experiences show each of us all too clearly that we do not have the power to free ourselves from sin. No one has ever been able to observe the law of God to perfection. No one ever will. And, thank God, no one will ever have to, for our union with God has already been achieved in Christ. 'We were God's enemies, but He made us His friends through the death of His Son' (Romans 5:10)" (*WEF* 43).

### **Our Response Is "Yes"**

"Deep faith in Jesus as Lord, then, means accepting in our hearts with confidence that His death and resurrection 'worked.' It is realizing that, like true heirs, all we can do is to try and express our gratitude to the One who has given us all we have. We do not have to strive to put ourselves in Christ—we are there already if we have accepted Christ's work through faith and baptism. With the assurance and confidence of people who truly trust in the Lord, we will then be able to follow the invitation of Christ we heard earlier, 'Stand erect and hold your head high, for your deliverance is at hand'" (*WEF* 43-44).

# *The Lesson Plan*

## **Opening**

[Gather at icon corner.] *We'll open today with the prayer to the Mother of God, "It Is Truly Right." Can we say the prayer without the words?* [Have words available. Use the translation for your jurisdiction.]

## **Introduction**

*I have a story to begin our lesson today. Once there was a young girl, five years old, who watched the Olympics on television. When she saw the figure skaters compete, she was fascinated. She got up off the floor and tried as best she could to imitate them. After the Olympics she pestered her parents to take her to the local ice rink. There she found someone teaching others how to figure skate. After a time her parents found enough money to give the young girl lessons. Eagerly she watched her teacher. Then the teacher told her to follow in her steps. Then the teacher held her hand, and they skated together. She did everything the teacher did. She followed the teacher's every move. Soon she was skating alone with the teacher watching and giving advice. One day she tried out for the Olympics. She made the team. And, to everyone's surprise because she was only 14, she won the gold medal.*

*Today our lesson is about another kind of Olympics: life. We have been called by Jesus to follow His way of living. Even if you are very young, you can begin to follow Jesus. Even the very young Christian is capable of great things. If we succeed in following Jesus all our life, we will win the prize: life eternal with God. God wants us to say "Yes" to Jesus.*

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## I Say "Yes"

God created every person. God created you. The day you were born, your family was very happy. A new life had come into the world. It was a special day.

When Jesus taught people about God, He told them, "You must be born again of water and the Spirit." What did this mean? The disciples learned what He meant.

We must be born into God's family. When we are born into God's family, we are part of the kingdom of God.

Here is a story from the Gospels.



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## Reading of Text

*As the children read aloud, help them interact with the text using the comments or questions below which are keyed to the text phrases (in bold type).*

### **It was a special day.**

*Who knows when their birthday is? Do you know any special stories about your birth? [Allow responses.]*

### **When we are born into God's family, we are part of the kingdom of God.**

*Have you heard the phrase "kingdom of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" before? When? We, in the Church, are in the kingdom of God. Jesus is our King and our Lord. Jesus said we must be born again. That means we must have two birthdays. Does anyone know what our second birthday is? [Allow responses.] We'll find the answer in this lesson.*

[Read story slowly pausing to ask:]

### **... placing his hands on them.**

*Let's retell the story. Who came to see Jesus? (People brought their children.) Then the disciples told the people to take the children away. If you were a child in the story, how would you feel then? [Allow responses.] What did Jesus say? (He told the disciples to let the children come to Him. He told the disciples the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.)*

*Children are very special to Jesus. He knows they trust and have faith easier than adults. You all are children. You are very special to Jesus!*

### **Jesus wants everyone to say "Yes" to Him.**

*Do you remember the story that tells how Mary said "Yes" to God? [If time, retell story (Lesson 4).] Do you remember the story that tells how the disciples said "Yes" to God? [If time, retell story (Lesson 5).] Do you think it is good to love and forgive as Jesus taught us? Do you want to say "Yes" to Jesus? [Allow responses.]*



*People were bringing children to Jesus that He might touch them, but the disciples stopped them.*

*When Jesus saw this, He became upset and said to them, "Let the children come to Me; do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it. Then He embraced them and blessed them, placing His hands on them." (Mark 10:13-16).*

Jesus knew that children trust God to take care of them. Jesus was telling the disciples that they must trust or have faith in God, too.

Jesus wants everyone to trust God. Jesus calls everyone to the kingdom of God. Jesus wants everyone to say "Yes" to Him.

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**Our parents and godparents said "Yes" to God for us.**

*Did you hear the answer to the last question—how did we say "Yes" when we couldn't speak? (Our parents and godparents said "Yes" for us.)*

*They wanted us to be in the kingdom of God so we could live forever. It was the day we were born again. Our baptism day is our second birthday. Even though we couldn't say "Yes" at our baptism, we say "Yes" each day when we follow Jesus' teachings. When do we say "Yes" today? (When we follow Jesus' teachings)*

**Do you know what happened at your baptism?**

[Allow responses.]

***Let's review:** How many birthdays do we have (Two) When are they? (Our birthday into our family and our baptismal day when we were born into the kingdom of God) What does Jesus want us to say when He asks us to follow Him? ("Yes") How do we say "Yes" to Jesus? (By receiving the Mystery of Baptism and by following His teachings.) This lesson concludes our first unit. Let's turn to the unit review page and see what we have learned. If we don't know the answer, we'll go back to the lesson where we learned the answer. [Answers are provided on the last page of the Teacher Manual lesson.]*

**Activity Tracks**

**Basic:** I Say "Yes"

*Today we learned that Jesus loved children. He wanted them by Him. To be near someone is to ABIDE by them. In our last lesson we learned a phrase that Jesus used to explain that disciples need to live united to Him. Let's see if we can remember the phrase and put in the missing words. I'll let you do the puzzle below the phrase.*

When we were baptized, we said "Yes" to God. Most of us were baptized before we could speak. How did we say "Yes?" Our parents and godparents said "Yes" to God for us.



Our parents and godparents wanted us to be part of the Church family. They brought us to be baptized.

It was a wonderful day when you were baptized. Do you know what happened at your baptism?



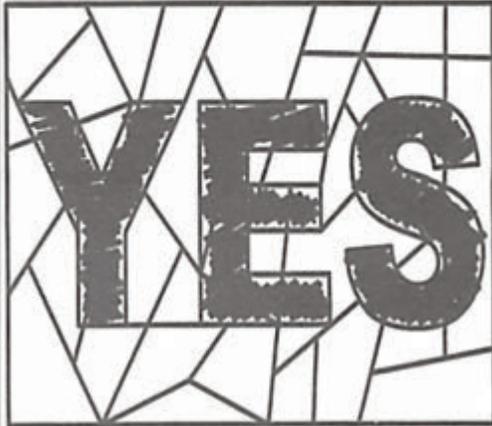
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**I Say "Yes"**

A. In the last lesson you read Jesus' words that are written below. Circle the missing word to complete the phrase.

Jesus said,  
 "If you live according to my teaching,  
 you are truly my disciples."      teaching      writings

B. In the puzzle below is a hidden word. Choose a crayon and color in the spaces that contain a cross. When you are done, use different colors to make a colorful background.

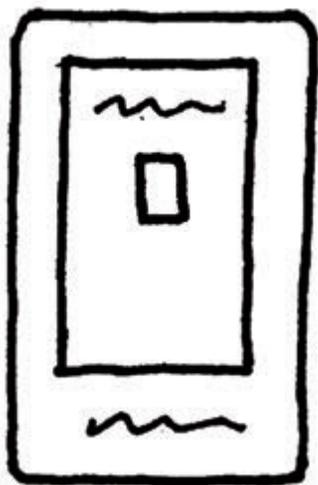


**Group:** "Come Follow Me" Circle

*Today we learned that Jesus called people to follow Him. Jesus calls each of us to follow Him too, and He knows us by name. Let's play a circle game to help us remember that Jesus calls each of us and that we should say "Yes!" like the disciples. The leader will stand in the circle and say this rhyme: [Clap when underlined]*

*"When Jesus called. Peter came.  
James and John did the same.  
Jesus calls, me and you:  
All of us should follow, too.  
So if you have a [alphabet letter] in your name.  
I'm calling you to do the same.  
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, Yes! [Raise hands on "Yes."]*

*Come into the circle when a letter from your name is called, and join in the rhyme. Only the leader can say each new alphabet letter.*



**Craft:** "Say 'Yes' to God" Frame

*Materials:* "Say 'Yes' to God" activity sheet copied onto heavier paper, decorating materials such as sequins, buttons, markers

*Every day we need to remember that we have said "Yes" to God. To keep us focused on God and following God's rules, we'll make a light switch frame. When you tape it over your light switch, you'll see it as you start each day.*

**Closing:** *In the last few lessons, we have been learning about people who said "Yes" to God. In the last lessons, who said "Yes" to God? (Mary, the disciples) In this lesson we learned that God wants us to say "Yes." God calls every person to follow Him. I have brought something special for our closing today. When I call your name, please come forward. Afterward, return to your seat but don't talk to anyone. [Have a small mirror hidden in your hands. Call each child individually to come forward to you. Say the following:] (Name), this is a special friend and helper that Jesus has called. [Expose the mirror only to that child so that he or she can see the image. Give each child sufficient time to respond to the experience. Have the child sit down and not share what happened. Gather the students*

around you to discuss the experience. Allow responses to the following:]

*What did you think you were going to find in my hands?*

*How did you feel when I called you to come?*

*Were you surprised to see your own reflection?*

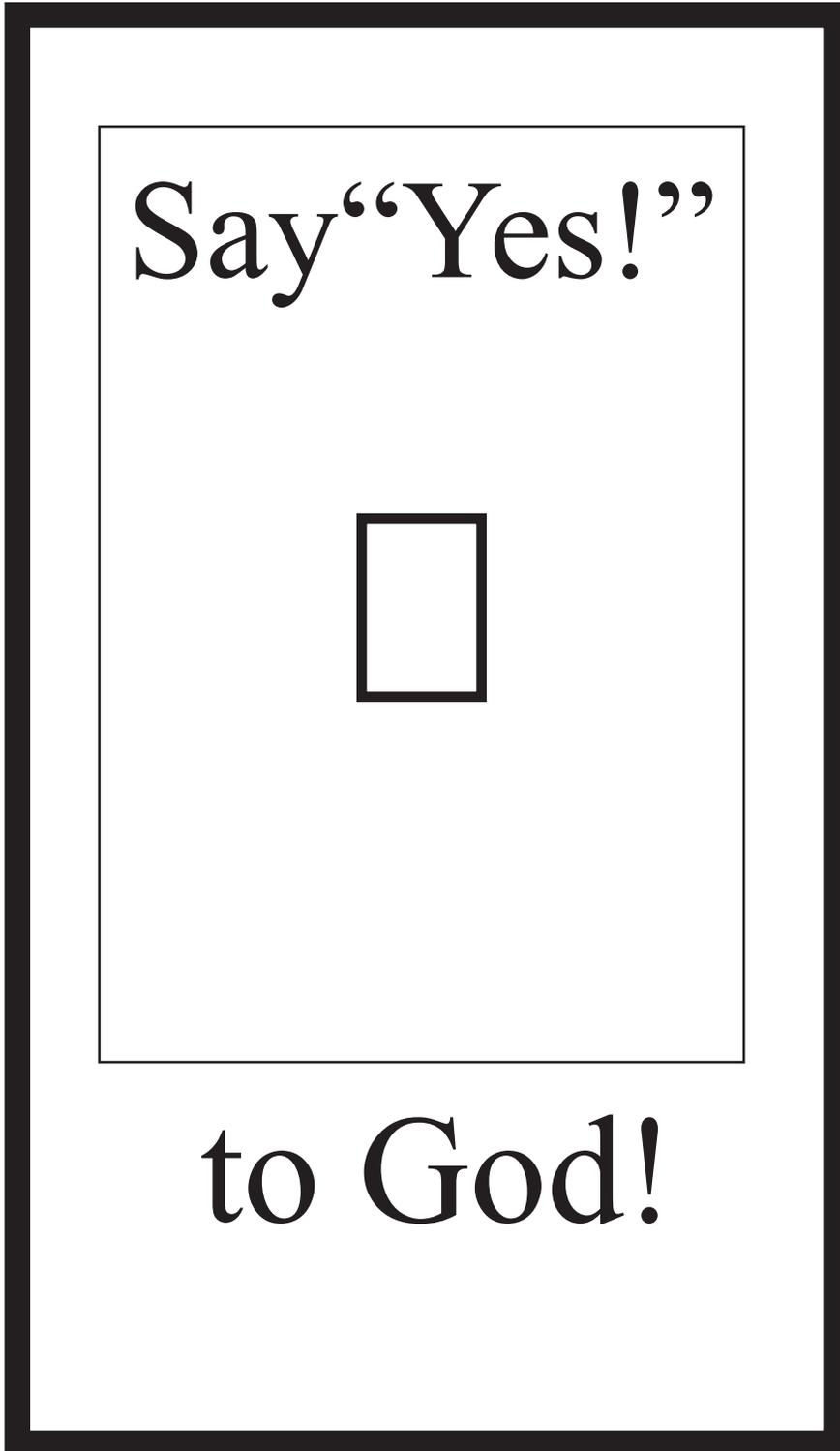
*How did you feel when you saw yourself in the mirror?*

*How does it feel to be called to become a special follower of Jesus?*

*What do you think Jesus asks of you?*

[Gather children at icon corner.] *Each of you is very important and special to God. Each of you is different, and God calls you in different ways. Close your eyes for a moment and think of a most special gift which God has given to you. Thank Him in your heart for the special gift. [After a few moments, say the following:] Thank you, God, for calling each of us. Help us to learn how to say "Yes" to You. Amen.*

Dear Parents: Please help your child tape this over the light switch in his or her room.



Cut line

Cut out center  
rectangle for  
switch

# Unit 1 Review

1. *Who made us and loves us?*

*(Lesson 1: God made us and loves us.)*

2. *Why did God create us?*

*(Lesson 1: God made us to live united to Him now and forever.)*

3. *Why do we call Jesus the new Adam?*

*(Lesson 1: Jesus was always united to God as God intended for Adam and Eve.)*

4. *Who are the persons of the Trinity?*

*(Lesson 2: The persons of the Trinity are God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.)*

5. *What is the phrase we use to describe Mary?*

*(Lesson 4: Mary is called the "Mother of God" or "Theotokos.")*

6. *Who were Jesus' first disciples?*

*(Lesson 5: Jesus first disciples were the twelve Jesus called to follow Him.)*