

Many Faces of Mary

By Julie Filby



How do you picture Mary, the mother of Jesus? There may be one image of Mary that comes to mind for you, or there may be several. Mary has been depicted in many different ways.

For

Young Family

Season

Spring

Needed

Artwork or photos of artwork of Mary—Jesus' mother—from books, greeting cards, or the Internet



[Hamed Saber](#)

Prepare in Advance

Gather at least ten pieces of art depicting Mary or photos of such artwork. If you search the Internet for "images of Mary Mother of God," you'll have thousands to choose from!

Activity Plan

1. Gather the family and pray aloud this prayer from the Roman Catholic tradition:

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now, and at the hour of our death. Amen.

2. Discuss how Mary, Jesus' mother, has been known by many titles, such as Mother of God, Queen of Heaven, and Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Discuss what these names tell you about Mary. Variation: Tell how Mary has appeared to people in visits known as apparitions. Some of these apparitions have been approved by the Catholic Church, some have not, and some are in the process of being researched.
3. Tell how Mary has been depicted visually in many ways. You can see this by looking at images of Mary from various cultures, such as: Our Lady of Guadalupe (Mexico), Our Lady of Kibeho (Rwanda), Our Lady of Fatima (Portugal), Our Lady of Knock (Ireland), Our Lady of La Vang (Vietnam), Our Lady of Loreto (Italy), Our Lady of All Nations (Amsterdam), and others.
4. Pass around the artwork and photos of Mary that you gathered. Appreciate the many beautiful ways she is depicted. As you view the artwork, discuss:
 - Why do you think Mary appears in so many different ways?
 - What might Mary look like if she appeared to us today?
 - Think about Mary's son, Jesus. What might Jesus look like if he appeared to us today?
 - Why do you think Mary is important in the story of God's people?
5. Close by praying aloud:

Gracious God, thank you for your Son, Jesus, and his mother, Mary. Help us to learn from them about rejoicing in your love and living in your ways. Amen.

