

## St. Edith Stein: One of Our Newest Saints

**Goal:** To learn about a modern saint and to see why she is a missionary.

**Materials needed:** the enclosed story of St. Edith Stein, this lesson plan, a map, picture of Edith

**Objectives:**

1. To learn about the life of St. Edith Stein (religion/history)
2. To associate the word journey with each person's own life journey (religion)
3. To learn what it means to be a missionary (religion)
4. To learn that the life of a Christian can influence others to follow Jesus (religion)
5. To learn a little about the times of World War II and the persecutions of the Jews (social studies)
6. To see the geography of Edith's journey [cities in Germany: Breslan (birth), Freiburg (study), Cologne (convent), Auschwitz (death)] and Holland (geography)
7. To understand how someone can be both Jewish and Catholic at the same time (religion)
8. To develop good listening skills (language arts)
9. To expand vocabulary, as appropriate: e.g., journey, Nazi, persecution, Jews, Carmelite, cloister, Star of David, holocaust (language arts)

**Procedure:**

1. Post a world map and a picture of St. Edith Stein (picture enclosed).
2. Prepare the students to listen to the story of a saint (Outcome 4, Religion Guidelines)
3. Tell or read the enclosed story (adapt for grade level).
4. Ask follow-up questions (suggestions below)
5. Pray together: (compiled from two of Edith's prayers) Dear God, please fill me with joy, courage, and strength to serve you. Give me your love and walk with me along the next steps of my journey in life. Help me to put my trust in you; then at the end of each day help me to rest peacefully so that I can begin the next day as if it were a new life. Amen
6. Present follow-up activity below (optional) Any follow-up activity may be substituted.

**Follow-up Questions:** (add, omit, re-word as appropriate for your grade level)

1. What was one of Edith's journeys?
2. Some journeys take us to a different place. Think of a journey that took you to a different place. There are other kinds of journeys that are like changes that take place inside of us, such as a journey to learn about God's love for me. Thank of a journey that made you different on the inside.
3. Edith became a Catholic because some friends shared their love of Jesus and gave her a book to read about St. Teresa. What can you do that shows others that you are a follower of Jesus?
4. Do you think it was wrong for Edith to become a Catholic when it displeased her mother so much? Why or why not?

**Follow-up Activity:**

*Older children:* Look up Proverbs 31 in Scripture. What do you think are some of the characteristics named here that Edith admired in her mother? OR Look up the history of the Star of David on the Internet.

*Younger children:* Draw a picture of your favorite part of this story OR draw a picture of someone being baptized.



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