

Chapter 1  
*Madonna and Child*  
Duccio di Buoninsegna  
Knowing Jesus through Mary

*In this assignment, students will look closely at the image Madonna and Child by Duccio di Buoninsegna before exploring other images of the Madonna and Child from around the world. They will research each image, do a comparative assessment, and answer questions regarding what spiritual lessons are meant to be drawn from the piece. Display the following images so or have the students look up the images on their own devices for independent study: Our Lady of Czestachowa and Our Lady of Perpetual Help.*

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Throughout the world, images of the infant Jesus and his mother Mary have been popular works of devotion. Each image is unique, and is meant to communicate some insight about the life of Jesus.

The image of *Madonna and Child* by Duccio di Buoninsegna (page 00) offers many insights on the life of this holy Mother and child. Baby Jesus is looking up at Mary and tugging on her veil, a simple gesture, but one that conveys dependence and affection. Mary is giving her attention to Jesus, but seems to be looking past him, maybe aware of the suffering ahead for her son.

All images of Mary and Jesus have spiritual insights. Look up each of the following images. Research and name the date of its composition and its author. Then reflect on and write what spiritual insights you glean from the painting using the prompts below.

**Our Lady of Czestahowa**

Artist:

Date of Composition:

What are your observations about Mary?

What are your observations about Jesus?

What overall spiritual meaning do you take from this painting?

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help**

Artist:

Date of Composition:

What are your observations about Mary?

What are your observations about Jesus?

What overall spiritual meaning do you take from this painting?

Of the three images (including the one in the book), which one has most spiritual meaning for you? Explain why.