

CHILDREN'S LITURGY LESSON PLAN

LITURGICAL DATE: Year A Divine Mercy

THEME: Faith

Grab the children's bible and/or lectionary and battery operated candle from the room and take it with you when Father calls us the children to gather in front of the altar.

- Ask children to help carry the bible and light on the walk to Liturgy room.

- 1. Greet the children, asking them their names. Introduce yourself and your helper if you have one. Place candle and materials on the table. Do a head count and write the numbers on the sheet on the wall.

- 2. **Sing the Opening Prayer Song:** Following the tune of 'Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star' (there is chart paper on the wall)

"Hello, Hello how are you?
We have many things to do.
Read some stories, dance and play,
Learn about our God today.
God our Father, we ask you,
Bless us in the things we do."

3. Read the gospel:

"A reading from the Gospel of John 20:19-29". Have the children model you making the sign of the cross on their foreheads ("to keep Jesus on our minds"), their lips ("to keep Jesus in our words") and their chest ("to keep Jesus in our hearts"). The gospel is in the lectionary and also in this packet. There are a few questions you and the kids can discuss (3-5 min is a great goal).

- 4. **Intercessions:** Give each child a prayer rock (on window ledge). Ask the children to close their eyes and bring quiet to their hearts as they rub the rock. When the children are ready, see if a few of the children have an intention they would like to pray for.

After a few individual intercessions, read our group general intercessions and allow the children to respond (R) Lord hear our prayer:

We pray for our church. R

We pray for Pope Francis R

We pray for our families R

We pray for all Holy People R

The children can take a moment to whisper a private prayer while holding the rock.

As a group say “Lord hear our prayers” and respond with singing “Ever Loving God (spread out left arm), Faithful God (spread right arm out), Hear the prayers of your people.

5. Activity: Divine Mercy cut out

- 6. Closing Prayer:** Say this prayer with the children (on chart paper) – “Jesus lay your hand on me; Bless me and take care of me. Amen”. End with the sign of the cross, “In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit”.

Ask the children to collect their craft and line up at the door. There is a rubber stamp and inkpad in the supply area if you wish to distribute. **Remind children mass is still happening and many are praying, it’s important they quietly return to their parents. We have a new bulletin board hanging on a brick column opposite the entrance to the church. Feel free to direct kids to hang up their work for display.**

Thank You for volunteering today and making a positive impact on our parish!

Gospel Reading John 20:19-29

The disciples were together in a room and suddenly Jesus appeared in the middle of the group. He greeted them and showed them the wounds from crucifixion on his hands and side. The disciples were very happy to see Jesus. He breathed on them and said “ Receive the Holy spirit. If you forgive anyone’s sins, they will be forgiven.”

The disciple Thomas was not with the group when Jesus appeared. When they told him they had seen the risen Lord Thomas said “I must see the nail scars in his hands and touch them with my finger. I won’t believe until I do this!”

A week later the disciples were together again. This time Thomas was with them. Jesus came in while the doors were still locked and stood in the middle of their group. He greeted everyone and said to Thomas “ Put your finger here and look at my hands, Stop Doubting and have faith!”

Thomas replied, “You are my Lord and my God!”. Jesus then said “ Thomas, do you have faith because you have seen me? The people who have faith in me without seeing me are the ones who are really blessed”.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Questions for discussion:

Q: How do we know that it will get dark at night and light in the morning? {we see it happen every day}

Q: How do we know that Spring and summer are coming? Doesn't it feel like we are wearing jackets and snowpants forever? {Spring may start in March or May but it always comes}

Q: How do we know what school might be like before we go? {An older brother or parent or cousin might talk to us about it}

Q: Does it feel hard to believe something unless we have seen it? {Yes}

Q: What does the word 'Faith' mean? {It means what we believe}

We may not have seen Jesus when he was walking on earth but there were believers who wrote down and protected all the stories. We call that the Bible! Because of the early believers, we know that Jesus was here and what he said and his promises. And all of God's promises have come true (Noah's ark, Jesus rising from the dead).

We know that on the cross to make sure Jesus was dead, the soldiers used a sharp blade to cut his side. What poured out was his blood and water. Today we're going to color and staple/glue on some water and blood to the Divine Mercy image. Anytime we may doubt we can say the special prayer ' Jesus I trust in you' and he'll strengthen our faith.

