

CHILDREN'S LITURGY LESSON PLAN

LITURGICAL DATE: Year A 6th Sunday of Ordinary Time

THEME: Peace

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 Matthew 5.23-24". 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: coloring

- 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 Matthew 5.23-24

Jesus said to his disciples: “If you are about to place your gift on the altar and remember that someone is angry with you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. Make peace with that person, then come back and offer your gift to God.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Questions for discussion:

Q: Have you ever been angry? How does it feel? {Sometimes we get angry. We feel upset or unsettled. If someone has hurt our feelings it might keep us from doing something we want to do. For example if a sibling keeps stealing our toys we are angry. We want to keep playing in the living room but know that if we do, we’ll have to share our toys.}

Q: Have you ever made someone else angry? {Sometimes, we make a choice that hurts other people and make them angry. When we hurt others, we push them away. We separate ourselves from them}

Q: Does it feel good to have had a fight with someone? How did you feel inside?

Q: Did you make up with that person? How did you make peace? { When we make up after a fight, we are coming back together with the other person. When we want to make pace, we can start by saying

"I'm sorry." We can let others know that we don't want them to be angry or feel bad anymore. We can ask how to make it better and try to restore or replace what was wrong (if a toy was stolen, the promise to ask before taking next time, etc).

Q: What is an altar? {We have seen an altar in church haven't we? At mass, our priest stands at the altar to lead us in prayer. During mass, some people leave the pews and bring the gifts of bread and wine to be blessed and transformed.

Q: Has anyone here helped to bring up the gifts? Would you like to some mass?

Q: Why would Jesus ask us to make peace before we bring our gifts to the altar? {We don't just see the gifts of wine and bread at mass. We bring the gifts of ourself! We want to give God our best. When we fight with someone, we aren't being our best self. When we make up with someone we are doing what God asks and working towards becoming a better person so we can have a good relationship with them and God.

Can you remember when during mass we shake hands and say 'Peace' to our neighbors? We do this because we want to share Jesus or the gift of peace with them. Can anyone recall what we sing?

"Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world. Grant us peace."