

CHILDREN'S LITURGY LESSON PLAN

LITURGICAL DATE: Year A First Sunday of Advent

THEME: Advent Wreath

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 24: 37-44". 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: advent wreath

- 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 24: 37-44

Jesus said to his disciples: “When the son of Man appears, things will be just as they were when Noah lived. People were eating, drinking, and getting married right up to the day that the flood came and Noah went into the big boat.

They didn’t know anything was happening until the flood came and swept them all away. That is how it will be when the Son of Man appears.

“Two people will be in the same field but only one will be taken. The other will be left. So be on your guard! You don’t know when the Lord will come. Homeowners never know when a thief is coming and they are always on guard to keep one from breaking in. Always be ready! You don’t know when the Son of Man will come.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Questions for discussion:

Q: What does it mean to be ready? {to be prepared for what is next, we’re not ready to play in the snow without boots for example}

Q: What do we do to get ready to eat {wash hands, help set the table, pour a drink,etc}

Q: What do we do to get ready for bed? { We take a bath or wash our face, brush our teeth, find our pajamas, say prayers}

Q: Has anyone noticed a change in the decorations at church, what do you see? { advent wreath with 3 purple and 1 pink candles, etc}

Q: What color vestments had the priest been wearing before today and what color is he wearing now? {Green/ Purple}

Catechists:

This Sunday we begin a new Liturgical Year and season. It's called Advent. This is a time when we prepare for Jesus to come on Christmas. The color purple helps signal us to prepare our hearts. Purple is a royal color and Jesus is certainly royalty to us (remember last weekend when we made crowns?). Today we are going to make an advent wreath with pipe cleaners. We can keep it near our beds so that when we prepare to sleep and prepare to wake up, we are reminded that in this period to keep our hearts extra open to love as we await the birth of Jesus.

Each child should have one green pipe cleaner and three purple pieces and one pink piece. They can make a circle from green one and then twist on three purple pieces and one pink piece for a portable advent wreath.

