

CHILDREN'S LITURGY LESSON PLAN

LITURGICAL DATE: Year A Fourth Sunday of Advent

THEME:

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 1:18-24". 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: Antiphon Ornaments

- 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 1:18-24

This is how Jesus Christ was born. A young woman named Mary was engaged to Joseph from King David’s family. But before they were married, she learned she was going to have a baby by God’s Holy Spirit. Joseph was a good man and did not want to embarrass Mary in front of everyone. So he decided to quietly call off the wedding.

While Joseph was thinking about this, an angel from the Lord came to him in a dream. The angel said, “Joseph, the baby that Mary will have is from the Holy Spirit. Go ahead and marry her. Then after her baby is born, name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

So God’s promise came true, just as the prophet had said, “A virgin will have a baby boy, and he will be called Immanuel,” which means “God is with us.” After Joseph woke up, he and Mary were soon married, just as the Lord’s angel had told him to do.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Questions for discussion:

Once again in this gospel an angel appears with a message.

Q: Do you know the story of how the angel told Mary that she was going to have a son named Jesus? {we can recount the story including how the angel told her to not be afraid and she said Yes because she trusted in God}

Q: The angel came to Joseph in a dream and also gave him instructions on what to do. Did he follow the angel's instructions and marry Mary? {Yes}

Q: Why? {Because he trusted God}

Q: Who are some people that you might trust? {parents, teachers, friends}

Q: Do you trust God, How can we show him or anyone else that we trust them? {by listening to them and obeying them. We can look to Joseph and Mary as examples of how to listen to God's message and obey and wonderful things happen. We can trust that God's words are true.}

Q: Do we have more than one name for God? {Yes, in fact he may have more names than we can count.}

Q: Can anyone think of some of the names we might use? {Lord of all, mighty one, Messiah, Yahweh}

Catechists:

From the bag you can hand out 2-3 ornaments (there are 7 different ones) to each child to color.

"Today, we are going to make some ornaments that show different names of Jesus. During advent we can sing a song 'O Come Emmanuel' and use different names for God asking him to come."

Show the children the page with the 7 ornaments and read aloud each one : Sapientia (Wisdom) Adonai (Lord and Ruler) Radix Jesse (Root of Jesse) Clavis David (Key of David) Oriens (Dawn of the East) Rex Gentium (King of the Gentiles) Emmanuel (God With Us)

We can hang these ornaments on our tree and remember to names of God. We can all have a personal relationship with him and use a name really tugs on our heart and sounds beautiful to us. He will answer to all of them because he desires a relationship with us too.

