

## CHILDREN'S LITURGY LESSON PLAN

LITURGICAL DATE: Year A      7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time

THEME: Pray for enemies

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 5.38-48". 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: Learn about St. Issac Jogues**

- 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 5.38-48**

Jesus said to his disciples: “I tell you not to try to get even with a person who has done something to you. When someone asks for something, give it to them. Love your enemies and pray anyone who is mean to you. Then you will be acting like our Father in heaven.

“He makes the sun rise on both good and bad people. If you love only those people who love you, will God reward you for that? We must always act like our Father in heaven.”

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**Questions for discussion:**

We spoke last week about how it feels to feel hurt and it’s important to have peace with anyone we may have hurt. Today’s gospel also talks about this. Do you think if God wanted us to hear a similar message two weeks in a row it might be important? We’re going to learn about a Saint today who lived out this message. He prayed for his enemies and worked his life to share the Gospel with them too.

Catechists- Please read the story of St. Issac Jogues on page 29 (book of Saints 1). He is one of the earliest Saints who lived in Canada and is also known as a Canadian Martyr (someone who is killed because of their faith). And they can discuss a bit about how the easy way would be to have left the indigenous community but they knew God's word and so he stayed and prayed for and worked toward peace. There is a fact sheet about him the kids can draw a picture on and a coloring sheet. You may end with the prayer on the last page if you'd like.