

CHILDREN'S LITURGY LESSON PLAN

LITURGICAL DATE: Year A 23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time

THEME: Honesty

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 18:15-17". 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 sheet

- 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 18:15-17

Jesus said to his disciples: “If one of my followers sins against you. Go and point out what was wrong. But do it in private, just between the two of you. If that person listens, you have won back a follower. But if that one refuses to listen, take along one or two others.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Questions for discussion:

Jesus’ message in this Gospel story is a very hard lesson. He asks us to be honest with our friends when they are doing something wrong. However, he asks us to do it in a very kind way. That is not easy!

Q: If you are with your friends and they do something wrong, how might you respond? { get angry, tell an adult, join them in choosing wrong, tell them they are choosing wrong}

Q: Which one do you usually do?

Q: Which is the hardest one to do?

Q: Why might it feel hardest to tell them they are choosing wrong? {we don’t want them to be upset with us perhaps}

Q: Have your parents or teacher ever asked you to do something you didn't want to do...but that you knew was good for you like wash your hands or stop jumping on furniture?

We know living like Jesus isn't always easy, but it's the right way to live. Jesus gave us good advice that we can't ignore a sin but we can speak to people in a way that is respectful and kind and remind them if a choice is bad.