

CHILDREN'S LITURGY LESSON PLAN

LITURGICAL DATE: Year A 3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time

THEME: Fishers of Men

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 4.12-23". 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: Fish mobile

- 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 4.12-23

Jesus started preaching, “Turn back to God! The kingdom of heaven will soon be here.” While Jesus was walking along the shore of Lake Galilee, he saw two brothers. One was Peter and the other was Andrew. They were fishermen and they were casting their net into the lake.

Jesus said to them, “Come with me! I will teach you how to bring in people instead of fish.” Right then the two brothers dropped their nets and went with him. Jesus walked on until he saw James and John. They were in a boat with their father, mending their nets. Jesus asked them to come with him too. Right away they left the boat and their father and went with Jesus.

Jesus went all over Galilee, teaching in the Jewish meeting places and preaching the good news about God’s kingdom.

He also healed every kind of disease and sickness.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Questions for discussion:

Q: Has anyone ever gone fishing? For those who have, tell us about your experience? { did you put bait on a hook, throw the line into the water and wait to catch a fish}

Q: What is a fisher? {someone who catches fish. Some people fish for their living (job) and some fish for fun}

Q: What were the names of the fisherman and what did Jesus say to the fishers on the shore of Lake Galilee? {Jesus asked Peter, Andrew, James and John to come with him and he would make them fishers of people}

Q: What might it mean to be fishers of people? Do you think Jesus meant to toss nets and catch people? {No, he meant that the four men would become his disciples and lead people to God}

Q: How did they respond to Jesus' offer to make them fishers of men? {they accepted. The gospel tells us that 'the two brothers dropped their nets' and 'right away they left their father and went with Jesus'. They felt strongly about joining Jesus. They didn't stop to have a snack or catch more fish. They heard Jesus call and answered.

Q: Where do we hear Jesus? {When we hear the bible read, when we are quiet, when we pray, when we ask him for help or thank him}

We are not too young to be fishers of people. We can tell others about the Kingdom of God and how much he loves us. We can share with others how we quiet our minds and hearts and ask Jesus to speak to us and what he has said. We can also let them know that they too can follow Jesus. We can do this with our kind words and loving actions. We can bring God's love to all we meet.

Catechists:

Today we'll be making fish to remind us that Jesus asked the disciples to be fishers of people. Each Child can decorate one or two fish and then tie a piece of yarn/pipe cleaner through the punched holes as a fishing rod. They can use glitter glue or markers/colored pencils, stickers, etc and hang at home.

