

## CHILDREN'S LITURGY LESSON PLAN

LITURGICAL DATE: Year A      5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time

THEME: Salt & Light

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 5.13-16". 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: salt a candle**

- 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 5.13-16**

Jesus said to his disciples: “You are like salt for everyone on earth. But if salt no longer tastes like salt, how can it make food salty? All it is good for is to be thrown out and walked on.”

“You are like light for the whole world. A city built on top of a hill cannot be hidden, and no one would light a lamp and put it under a clay pot. A lamp is placed on a lamp stand, where it can give light to everyone in the house. Make your light shine, so that others will see the good that you do and will praise your Father in heaven.”

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**Questions for discussion:**

Q: What is it like to be in the dark? {When it’s hard, it’s hard to see things. We might bump into something we can’t see. It can be scary or lonely}

Q: Does anyone have a nightlight in their room or house?

Q: How do you feel when you are in the light? {safe, cheerful, we can see where we are going so we don’t bump into anything}

Q: Does having a nightlight make night less scary?

Well that's good news. In the gospel today Jesus told us that we are like light for the world. When we are kind and loving and follow Jesus we become a stronger and stronger light, much like a nightlight for the world. We can make the world less scary to those around us.

Catechists: Today we're going to do a craft involving glue. The children can paint glue ( in baby food jars) on the candle and shake on some salt and then let it dry a bit and then shake off excess into the garbage.

If you have time or are inclined they can start to sing 'This Little Light of mine' so the materials for that are included.

