

CHILDREN'S LITURGY LESSON PLAN

LITURGICAL DATE: Year A 4th Sunday Easter

THEME: Calling by name

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 John 10:1-10". 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: Frame Hail Mary prayer

- 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 John 10:1-10

Jesus said to his disciples: “ I tell you for certain that only thieves and robbers climb over the fence instead of going through the gate to get to the sheep pen. But the gatekeeper opens the gate for the shepherd and he goes in through it. The sheep know their shepherd’s voice. He calls each of them by name and leads them out. They follow him.

The sheep will not follow strangers. They don’t recognize a stranger’s voice and they run away. Jesus told the people this story but they did not understand.

Then Jesus said “ I tell you for certain that I am the gate for the sheep. Everyone who came before me was a thief. I am the gate. All who come in through me will be saved. Through me they will come and find pasture. A thief comes to rob, kill and destroy. I came so that everyone would have life!”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Questions for discussion:

Q: Tell me what you know about sheep: What do they eat? Do they stay together or stay alone? { they eat grass/hay and tend to stay in a big group that can be herded}

Q: What does a shepherd do for the sheep? { takes care of them, may move them to another pasture, if one wanders away the shepherd finds it and returns it to the safety of the group}

Q: Do you any of you have more than one brother or sister or cousin or more than one pet?

Q: Do you call them brother or sister 2 or cousin #8 or dog #3?

We call them by their name because they are loved. It shows that we know who they are and care for them, they mean something to us. Jesus loves us and only wants good things for us his sheep. If ever someone asks you to do or say something mean to someone else, we know that isn't his truth. That being might be asking us to jump over the fence rather than enter through the gate. We can recognize when something is wrong and then make a choice to not do it.

This is now the month of May and there is a special prayer we can say to Jesus' mother Mary. It is a month our church dedicates to her. We're going to start learning this prayer and make a frame we can keep anywhere in our house

Catechists:

Please hand each child one sheet with prayer and 4 popsicle sticks. They can color the popsicle sticks and then glue them around the prayer like a frame. There is some yarn too in case any older kids want to tie it around so it can hang.

