

## CHILDREN'S LITURGY LESSON PLAN

LITURGICAL DATE: Year A      5th Sunday Easter

THEME: Heaven

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 14:1-12". 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: Draw a picture of Heaven**

- 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 14:1-12**

Jesus said to his disciples: “Don’t be worried and have faith in God and have faith in me. There are many rooms in my Father’s house. I am going there to prepare a place for each of you. After I have done this, I will come back and take you with me and we will be together. You know the way to where I am going.”

Thomas said “Lord, we don’t know where you are going. How can we know the way?”

“I am the way, the truth and the life Jesus answered. Have faith in me when I say that the Father is one with me, and that I am one with the Father. Or else have faith in me simply because of things I do. I tell you for certain that if you have faith in me, you will do the same things that I am doing. You will do even greater things, now that I am going back to the Father.”

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**Questions for discussion:**

Q: When Jesus describes his Father’s house, does he tell us there is only one room or many rooms and a place for each of us? {Many rooms with a place for each of us}

Q: Where do we think Jesus’s father God lives? {Heaven}

Q: How do you think we can get to heaven? {By following Jesus}

Q: What are some of the ways we can live our lives as he asks us to? {Loving and respecting people, being kind, obeying our parents, Praying.

Today we are going to think about what heaven might look like. It could look different for all of us. Everyone will have a sheet of paper (there is more available) and we can draw pictures, add stickers, etc to create what we think heaven could look like.