

CHILDREN'S LITURGY LESSON PLAN

LITURGICAL DATE: Year A 6th Sunday Easter

THEME: Always there

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 14:15-21". 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: pinwheel

- 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: 15-21

Jesus said to his disciples: “If you love me, you will do as I command. Then I will ask the Father to send you the Holy Spirit who will help you and always be with you. The spirit will show you what is true. The spirit will keep living in you.”

“In a little while the people of the world won’t be able to see me, but you will see me. And because I live, you will live. If you love me, you will do what I have said, and my Father will love you.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Questions for discussion:

Q: Has there been a time when you didn’t see your mom or dad? Maybe you were at daycare or school and they were at work or you were with a baby sitter and they were out of the house.

Q: Did you miss them or feel sad?

Q: You knew they were coming back, maybe not the exact time but you knew that after school or dinner or wake up time you’d all be together again.

Q: Did you know that it's just like that with Jesus? {He was here on earth and then left to go to heaven but is still always available to us. One day he'll come back to earth for us but even if we can't wait that long, we'll all be together in heaven again.

Q: Can we think of other things in our world that are around all the time but that we may not see all the time? {ocean, the sun on a rainy day, friends, playgrounds}

What about the wind? The Holy Spirit is a lot like the wind and so today we're going to make or decorate pinwheels. What does it take for a pinwheel to move? *The wind*

If it isn't moving does that mean the wind is gone? *No, maybe it's moved or is lighter than it was*

The Holy Spirit is always with us. There might be times when it's quieter or we are quieter and there may be times when the spirit might be really trying to tell us something and our pinwheel moves furiously fast. Take this pinwheel home and keep it close and watch it move as the Holy Spirit moves always in our lives.

