

## CHILDREN'S LITURGY LESSON PLAN

LITURGICAL DATE: Year A      Ephiphany

THEME: Crowns

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 Matthew 2.1-12 ". 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: make wise men crowns**

- 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 2:1-12**

When Jesus was born in the village of Bethlehem in Judea, Herod was king. During this time some wise men from the east came to Jerusalem and said, “Where is the child born to be king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.”

When King Herod heard about this, he was worried and so was everyone else. Herod brought together all the chief priests and the teachers of the law of Moses and asked them, “Where will the Messiah be born?” They told him, “He will be born in Bethlehem”.

Herod secretly called in the wise men and told them to go and search carefully for the child. “As soon as you find him, let me know.” The wise men followed the star in the East until they came to the Manger. When they saw the child with Mary, his mother, they knelt down and worshipped him. They gave him their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Later they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod and they went back home by another road.

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**Questions for discussion:**

**Q:** Who were the men who searched for Jesus? { These special visitors have a few names: The Three Kings, the Magi or the Three Wise men}

**Q:** How did they know where Jesus would be born? {They noticed a new star in the sky and they knew God was sending them a message}

**Q:** Have you ever looked around the world, the sky or any other part and noticed something new and beautiful?

**Q:** Did you take a moment to thank God for the beautiful moon or sunset, etc?

**Q:** When the Magi found the place where Jesus was born what did they do? {They followed the star to bring gifts as they knew this was God's promise coming true.}

**Q:** What do you do or see people do when they go near the altar during parts of Mass? { we kneel or bow several times during the mass as we are showing this sign of respect to God}

**Q:** What gift would you have given the newborn Jesus?

**Catechists:**

We are going to be making crowns that we can wear to remind us of The Magi traveling to see Baby Jesus. We can each live our life so that we are truly the best gift for God. Each plate has been pre-cut. The kids can color them and use jewel stickers to create a crown. Then fold the flaps up to wear as a crown.

