

CHILDREN'S LITURGY LESSON PLAN

LITURGICAL DATE: Year A Holy Family

THEME: The Holy Family

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 2.13-15, 19-23 ". 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: Holy Family cutout

- 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 2:13-15,19-23

An angel from the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. The angel said, “Get up! Hurry and take the child and his mother to Egypt! Stay there until I tell you to return, because Herod is looking for the child and wants to kill him.” That night Joseph got up and took his wife and the child to Egypt, where they stayed until Herod died. So the Lord’s promise came true, just as the prophet had said, “I called my son out of Egypt.” After King Herod died, an angel from the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph while he was still in Egypt. The angel said, “Get up and take the child and his mother back to Israel. The people who wanted to kill him are now dead.” Joseph got up and left with them for Israel. But when he heard that Herod’s son Archelaus was now ruler of Judea, he was afraid to go there. Then in a dream he was told to go to Galilee, and they went to live there in the town of Nazareth. So the Lord’s promise came true, just as the prophet had said, “He will be called a Nazarene.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Questions for discussion:

This gospel can sound scary. The idea of a king who wanted to kill Jesus as a baby isn’t nice. King Herod was afraid to lose his power and not be King. He didn’t know that all glory belongs to God and that God was watching over baby Jesus just as he watches over us.

Q: How did God protect the baby Jesus and Mary and Joseph? {Once again an angel appeared just like last week's gospel. This angel told Jesus to go to Egypt for safety}.

Q: Have you ever moved or gone on a long trip? What did you have to do to get ready? Did you miss your friends while away? {It's hard to leave home for a trip or to move to another country. Jesus and Mary didn't have time to say goodbye or make plans. They had to leave right away for safety. Sometimes moving away means finding a new job, learning a new language and making new friends. They always trusted that God would take care of them and it made the changes a bit easier.

Q: How do your parents or other family members help take care of you? { Cooking for you, taking you places, bringing you to church}

Q: How can you help take care of others? {Being kind, smiling, introducing yourself to someone new, understanding that not everyone speaks the same languages or cooks the same,etc}

Catechists:

Hand each child a sheet of construction paper. They can draw their family (pets and best friends can be included) and then share with the group if they'd like about who is in their family and how the child might help take care of them (by listening or loving, etc).