

CHILDREN'S LITURGY LESSON PLAN

LITURGICAL DATE: Year A Presentation of the Lord

THEME: Light of Christ

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 Luke 2.22-32". 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: Coloring

- 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 Luke 2.22-32

The time came for Mary and Joseph to do what the Law of Moses says a mother is supposed to do after her baby is born. They took Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem and presented him to the Lord, just as the law of the Lord says, “Each first born baby boy belongs to the Lord.”

The Law of the Lord also says that parents have to offer a sacrifice, giving at least a pair of doves or two young pigeons. So that is what Mary and Joseph did. At this time a man named Simeon was living in Jerusalem. He was a good man. He loved God and was waiting on God to save the people of Israel. God’s spirit came to him and told him that he would not die until he had seen Christ the Lord. When Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple to do what the Law of Moses said, the spirit told Simeon to go to the temple. Simeon took the baby Jesus in his arms and praised God. “Lord, I am your servant and now I can die in peace because you kept your promise to me. Your mighty power is a light for all nations and it will bring honor to your people Israel.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Questions for discussion:

Q: Who teaches you about God? { parents, siblings, godparents, priests, teachers,etc}

Q: What are the ways they teach you about God? {Teaching you to pray, showing you how to be loving and kind, reading the bible, bringing you to church, coming here to Children's liturgy, etc}

Q: Is everyone able to drink the wine and eat the bread? {No, one must be old enough to understand the sacrament and take classes and go to confession first,etc}

Mary and Joseph prepared Jesus as they should but there was a time when in the Jewish tradition, children were brought to the temple (the jewish place of worship like we worship here in church) for additional learning about his faith.

Q: When Simeon saw Jesus, how do you think he knew that Jesus was the Savior God had told him about? {He knew inside his heart as that is how God shares things with us}

Q: Has anyone here felt God talk to them by putting a nice feeling in their heart?

Q: Simeon called Jesus 'a light for all nations'. How can we show the light of Christ to others? { by choosing to show love and kindness, by praying and letting someone know we prayed for them, coming to mass, singing, receiving our sacraments, telling others about God.

Catechists:

Today's activity is coloring,