

CHILDREN'S LITURGY LESSON PLAN

LITURGICAL DATE: Year C 23rd week of Ordinary Time

THEME: Nativity of Mary

- 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 14: 25-30,33". 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 mins 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:** We'll be learning about the Nativity of Mary.
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 that 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 14: 25-30,33

One day, when a large group of people were listening to Jesus, he said to them,

"If you want to be my disciple,

You must love me more than anyone.

You must love me even more than you love yourself.

If you really want to be my disciple, you must be willing to carry your cross and follow me."

Then Jesus gave them this example:

"Suppose you want to build something. The first thing you would do it sit down and think about what you need to build it. And then how much it will cost.

Then you would see if you have enough money to pay for it.

For if you don't plan before you start, You might only get part of it built

And not be able to finish it. And people will say how foolish you are because you weren't able to finish what you started.

"So you must be willing to give up everything you have if you want to be my disciple."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Questions for discussion:

Q: How do builders know what to build? {They have seen plans or been given instructions}

Q: Can we think of something in our community that is being built right now? {new school next to pool or Burger King}

Q: If workers didn't put in walls or a roof would that building be complete? {could we go to a restaurant or a school without a roof}

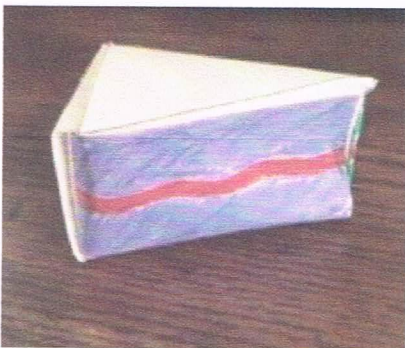
Q: If you put only some ingredients in a bowl but forgot the sugar would your cake be a complete cake?

Q: Does God want us to follow only some of his rules or all of his rules?

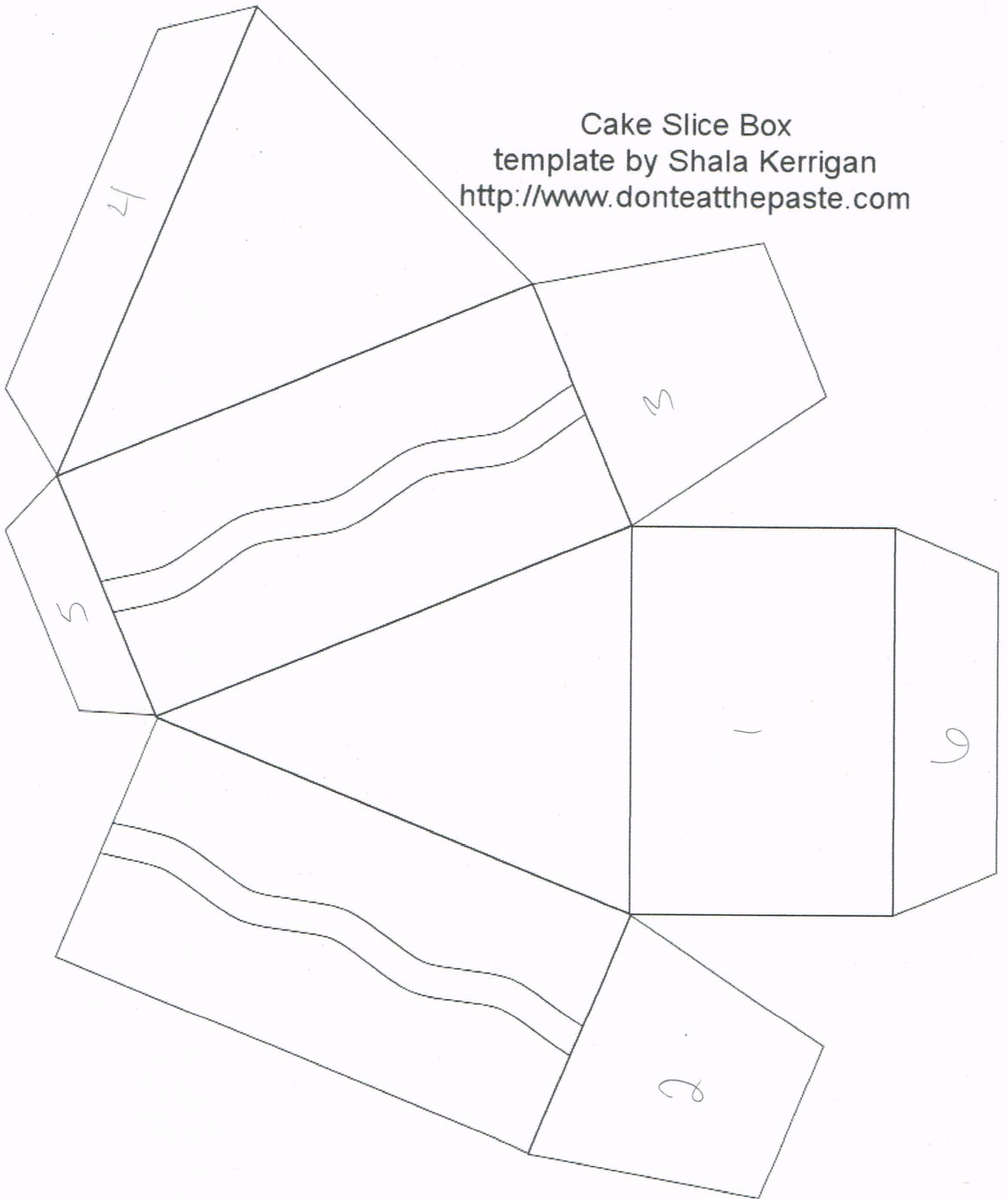
God has given us all the rules we need to follow in order to be a disciple. If we only follow some of them we won't be complete. Sin can keep us from following the rules. God loves us and if we ask for forgiveness we can continue to work on following all the rules to be a disciple.

Speaking of cake our activity will be to celebrate Mary's Birthday. Did you know that to be the most perfect mother for Jesus Mary was born without sin! This Sunday we celebrate Mary's birthday. Since we can look to her as a spiritual Mother, we are going to decorate a slice of Birthday cake for Mary. You can display it at home to remember our Holy Mother .

Catechists: Please set out markers, glue and crayons. Encourage the children to decorate the slice of cake for Mary. You'll find a sample one numbered to better help the cardstock. You can use glue or staples if need be to keep it together.



Cake Slice Box
template by Shala Kerrigan
<http://www.donteatthepaste.com>



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