

CHILDREN'S LITURGY LESSON PLAN

LITURGICAL DATE: Year C 31st week of Ordinary Time

THEME:

- 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 19.1-10". 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:

- 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 19.1-10

Jesus was going through the city of Jericho. In Jericho there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a wealthy, very important tax collector. He wanted to see who Jesus was, but he was too short to see above the crowd. He ran ahead to a place where he knew Jesus would come. He climbed a tree so he could see Jesus. When Jesus came to that place, he looked up and saw Zacchaeus in the tree. He said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down! I must stay at your house today."

Zacchaeus came down quickly. He was pleased to have Jesus in his house. All the people saw this and began to complain, "Look at the kind of man Jesus stays with. Zacchaeus is a sinner!"

But Zacchaeus said to the Lord, "I will give half of my money to the poor. If I have cheated anyone, I will pay that person back four times more!"

Jesus said, "Salvation has come to this house today. This man truly belongs to the family of Abraham. The Son of Man came to find lost people and save them."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Questions for discussion:

Q: Why did Zacchaeus climb the tree? {He was so eager to see Jesus whom he had heard much about}

Q: What did the crowd think of Jesus going to Zaccheus' house? {They assumed he was a sinner since Jesus spent time with sinners}

Q: Why did Jesus spend time with sinners? {To teach the truth and then help them repent from sinful ways}

Q: Did Zacchaeus repent from sin? { Yes, he offered to give half of his money to the poor and then make right with anyone he might have cheated from}

Q: How did Jesus respond to Zacchaeus? {He was so happy. He proclaimed that Salvation has come because we can only be saved once we turn away from sin and live as God asks us too}

Q: Is there someone we hurt or made sad because of something you did or said this week? If yes, can you think of ways to make it right? {For example, if we hit a sibling out of anger this week, could we say we are sorry and offer them an extra hug today?}

Catechists:

How does one become a saint? In part by doing what God asks us too. Is this easy? No. In fact some saints were martyred (killed because of your religious beliefs). Did you know that we are all asked to work towards being a Saint? God doesn't want us to be martyred but he does want us to work every minute of every day towards living a life he and we can be proud of. He wants us to live forever in heaven with him. This week we are celebrating All Saints Day and All Souls Day. All Saints Day is when we can remember those who worked above all else to do God's will on Earth. We can pray and ask them to intercede (they are already in heaven so it's like praying to God twice) for us. And then on All Souls' Day we can pray for all of those souls who are waiting to enter heaven. They are especially in need of our prayer as they wait.

As we color in the saints on this sheet let us ask them to pray with us and for us. Let us also pray for all the souls who are waiting to enter heaven. I challenge you to remember Zacchaeus and how he knew that in order to be saved, he had to right the sins he had and changed his life in order to work towards heaven.

If there is time, please read through and model the Litany of the Saints with the children

Litany of the Saints

Lord, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, have mercy on us.
Christ, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, hear us.
Christ, graciously hear us.



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St. Vincent De Paul

Pray for Us

Blessed Virgin Mary

Pray for Us

St. Joseph

Pray for Us

St. Peter

Pray for Us

St. Paul

Pray for Us

St. Francis of Assisi

Pray for Us

St. Teresa of Kolkata

Pray for Us

**All You Holy Saints of God,
Pray for Us.**

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Happy All Saints Day!

