

CHILDREN'S LITURGY LESSON PLAN

LITURGICAL DATE: Year A 5th Sunday of Ordinary Lent

THEME: Lazarus

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 John 11.3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45". 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 a Lazarus mask

- 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 John 11.3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

Jesus received a message that his friend was sick. Jesus loved his friend Lazarus and his sisters Mary and Martha. He knew the illness wouldn’t end in death but ‘bring glory to God and his Son.’ Once he arrived at their house he learned that Lazarus had been dead for four days. Martha told Jesus “ had you been here my brother would not have died”. Jesus told her “Your brother will live again”.

Many people had come to comfort Martha and Mary. When they saw her leave the house, they followed her. Jesus too went to the tomb and rolled away the stone. They were worried about bad it would smell but Jesus replied “ Didn’t I say that if you had faith, you would see the glory of God.” Once the stone was rolled away, Jesus looked up to heaven and thanked his Father for answering his prayer. He commanded “Lazarus, come out”! And Lazarus came out, his body and face covered in burial cloth.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Questions for discussion:

Q: Have you ever known anyone who died or maybe a pet?

Q: How did or might it make you feel? {Sad, missing someone we love}

Q: How do you think Jesus knew that Lazarus 'will live again'? {God had heard the prayer and shared with him that it would be answered and Lazarus would rise from the dead}

Q: Can we think of anyone else who was able to rise from the dead? [Jesus, after being crucified}

Catechists: The kids can draw on the plate to look like a mummy (or as Lazarus would have after rising from the dead out of his tomb). They can glue the mask onto a popsicle stick if they'd like or keep as is.

