

Topic: Gathering for Mass, a celebration

Family Small Group for FHC Cycle Week 2.9 (December 01, 2024)

Lesson Overview for Parents

Two weeks ago, we had our Circle of Grace lesson. We learned that God is always with us. We stretched out our arms to the sides, in front of us, above us, behind us, and all the way to the floor. This area is our Circle of Grace. God is always in our Circle of Grace with us. God is always with us because He wants a relationship with us. When we have a relationship with someone, we want to be with them. This week's lesson introduces the Ark of the Covenant. The Ark of the Covenant was a sign of God's presence and love in the Old Testament. People gathering and processing with the Ark of the Covenant in the Old Testament was a prefigure of our mass today. The mass is another way we celebrate being close to God. It is THE most important way we celebrate being close to God – it is where we can receive Jesus in the Eucharist. What an amazing gift God gave us and you are helping prepare your student to receive Him! Be sure to share your excitement with your student. Today's lesson will introduce the mass.

1. Opening Prayer

Pray this prayer morning, in the car, at night, etc over the next 2 weeks to help your student learn it. If your student knows the prayer, you are welcome to work on another prayer from your list of prayers in your parent folder.

2. Mass and Mass Journal

Did your student write in their mass journal this weekend?

Prayer to Jesus

Christ be with me.
Christ be beside me.
Christ be before me.
Christ be behind me.
Christ be at my right hand.
Christ be at my left hand.
Christ be with me everywhere I go.
Christ be my friend forever and ever. Amen

Spend a minute or two talking about what your student wrote in their mass journal.

*If you haven't gone to mass yet, suggest that your student pay special attention to the procession (who is in it) and the Opening Prayers. What did the priest say?
What did we say?*

3. Sacrament Book Readings

*Remember, you are your students first and most important Catechist. You have options on how you cover the material below. You can read the information in the books below yourself and then talk about it with your student. You can read it together like story time and talk about it as you read it. We are asking you to focus on **parts** of the chapter. If you would like to go through the entire chapter with your student, you are welcomed to do that too.*

Grades 1-3

Book: *God's Gift Eucharist*
Chapter 2, pages 11-20

Grades 4-6

Book: *Loyola Intermediate Reconciliation and Eucharist*
Chapter 9, pages 39-42

4. Formed Video

Before clicking the link below, log into your FORMED account or be ready with your userid/password to log in after clicking the link below. The video below does a good job relating the story to the everyday life and actions of our children. If you need to take a break and view this at a later time or another day, decide now when that will be and put it on your calendar. If your student is able, continue on. We do not want you to skip this section entirely, it just may work best for your student to watch this at a later time.

No video this week.

5. Activity

Be a little crazy and goofy this week! You will need anything you have in the house that is or can be a musical instrument. Preferably things you can walk around with. (Kazoo, harmonica, drums, two pan covers to clang together, etc. Be creative.) Find a box to represent the Ark of the Covenant. Set it in the center of the room.

- First think about a time your student was soooo excited to see someone – maybe it was a Grandparent, a friend, another relative.
- Talk about how God is that excited and more to see us at mass!
- Set up the Ark of the Covenant in the middle of a room you can walk around in.
- Everyone, gather your instruments.
- Play some music too!
- March around like King David, singing and dancing because he was so happy to be in the presence of the Lord!
- Wouldn't it be awesome if we could be that excited going to mass? Try it!

6. Discussion Question

- Mass is a celebration. What things happen at mass or what things do you see at mass that help you see it as a celebration? (things you might talk about: lots of people are gathered, people may dress up, there's music, there are candles, there is food & drink, friends hug, etc.)

7. Story Time

Now, prepare for next week. You may want to schedule time to read this story later in the week. Be sure to put it on your calendar or make a note on your frig so you don't forget. Be sure to read it before our Sunday Sanctuary Lesson next weekend. Read the bible story below in your Illustrated Children's Bible.

Story Name: *Elijah – Fire from Heaven / Jonah and the Whale*
Pages: 144-156