

Wednesday, April 3rd 2019- FAMILY NIGHT

1st-4th Grade Lesson Plan: Family Life (M7)

- Walk with your small group from the Worship Space to your small group room. Take attendance.
- **Opening Prayer-** we will have already prayed as a large group, but if anyone would like to share and write down a prayer intention for the basket give them a chance to do that. Or if something comes up during check-in that you think might be a good prayer intention, encourage the child to write it down to put in the basket.
- **Check-in (5-10 minutes)**
- **Journey of Faith (15-20 minutes)**
 - Begin with the first question on the first inside page. There are many ways to approach this question since each family is different and the way they live out their faith is different, so be sure to affirm any answers.
 - I really like the section on "Your First Church". Be sure to go through each of the commandments and have everyone write down who they first learned that from. It doesn't necessarily have to always be a family member, there are other people we learn from as well, but chances are family members will come up as answers to these questions frequently.
 - Be sure to spend a little time on the second question about favorite Jesus stories. It's always interesting to hear which stories are especially memorable for kids and which message resonate the most!
 - This section on making Mass more interesting is really helpful. Use these suggestions to have a discussion on what the childrens' attitudes about going to Mass are and what are some ways we can make the most of the experience. Sometimes just shifting your attitude and finding ways to be more involved can make a huge difference.
 - You can do something similar with the section on praying together at home. Ask if people pray together as a family and if so, how and when.

Be careful not to shame anyone who maybe doesn't pray with their families at home, but simply offer some suggestions and encouragement.

- The section on Living love at home is really nice and hopefully everyone will have something to say about how their family shows love for each other.
- The section on learning from the saints is also a cool thing to bring up. Maybe instead of reading all of it since you might be a little bit short on time this week is to just ask if anybody can think of a saint who gives them an example of how to follow Jesus.
- If you'd like, you can encourage the children in your group to do the activity on the last page: writing a thank you note to someone in their family who has helped them in a special way. It could be someone in their immediate or extended family, or even someone who they are not related to but who supports them and teaches them about love.

- **Activities (to fill the rest of the time you have)**

- My Family Worksheet- 1st-4th

I put together a worksheet with simple questions about each child's family. They can fill it out and have a kind of "profile" of their family and how they share their faith with each other and how they show that they love each other. It goes right along with the things you discussed in this lesson, so it's a good way to reinforce these ideas of what faith looks like for your specific family. If you'd like, you can hang these up somewhere in your small group rooms, or send them home with each child. This worksheet can be found under additional activities on the website.

- Video- The Domestic Church- 1st-4th

This video talks about what the Domestic Church is and how families can support each other to be the Church in the larger community.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vVhcaEEmDHo>

- Discussion- Celebrating the Church Year at home- 1st-4th

Throughout the years and around the world, there have been many at home traditions that families have celebrated around certain Saint

days or important days in our liturgical year. Here is a list of a some Catholic traditions that can be celebrated in the home in special ways. See if any of these sound familiar to anyone in your group or if they have maybe celebrated one or more of these traditions (or something not on the list). If not, do a little bit of research on a few of these traditions and how they are celebrated at home.

- Dia de los Muertos celebrations
- St. Lucy's Day Breakfast
- Las Posadas Christmas Novena
- Epiphany Door Blessing
- St. Blaise day blessing of the throats
- Easter Story Cookies
- St. Nicholas Day Gifts
- Jesse Tree for Advent
- Birthday cake for baby Jesus
- Epiphany King's Cake
- Making Palm Crosses (Palm Sunday)

- When you hear the bell or are notified that time is up, walk *together as a group* to St. Francis Hall and have them find their families and sit down at a table together. Try to stay together until kids see their parents and then they can go join them.