

Wednesday, April 10th 2019

1st, 3rd, 4th Grade Lesson Plan: Holy Week (E7)/Easter Vigil (E8)

- **Welcome** children to the small group as they arrive. Take attendance.
- **Opening Prayer (10-15 minutes)**
 - Gather around your prayer table- turn on the candle, bless the children with holy water if you'd like
 - Opening Song- What Wondrous Love is This- follow [this link](#) for the youtube video. You can also find it in the 1st-5th Grade Small Groups Playlist. This video doesn't have lyrics on the screen so it might be hard to ask your group to sing along, but maybe have them close their eyes and reflect instead. This is a kind of modern arrangement of a really beautiful traditional hymn for Holy Week.
 - Scripture Reading: John 13:1-15

Using the Catholic Children's Bible, find this scripture reading together and have someone read it out loud. Ask your group: Why do you think Jesus washing the feet of his disciples was such an important gesture?
 - Write down any prayer intentions for the basket
 - Read the following prayer or do a spontaneous prayer. Begin and end with the sign of the cross. *Loving God, today we learn about the special week each year when we remember your death and resurrection. Thank you for your example of radical, sacrificial love that you showed us when you were here on earth. Help us to have fun, stay safe, and grow in relationship with you in our session today. Amen.*
- **Check-ins (5-10 minutes)**
- **Journey of Faith (15-25 minutes)**
 - We'll mostly focus on the pamphlet for Holy Week this week, we won't focus too much on the Easter Vigil. Since this curriculum is meant for children who are going through CIC (RCIA), the Easter Vigil is when they would celebrate their sacraments, so the pamphlet on the Easter Vigil is meant for their retreat before Holy Week and it goes through each of

the readings for the Easter Vigil, which is a lot. If you want to choose a few readings from the Easter Vigil to highlight with your group, feel free to do that near the end of your time together today, otherwise maybe just send this pamphlet home with each child.

- The pamphlet on Holy Week goes through each of the days of Holy Week in order. There's a lot there, so you might want to do something to help the children keep track of the order and importance of each day. There should still be some copies of a worksheet for Holy Week in one of the little cubbies in the Faith Formation office closet that you can feel free to use. There are little symbols that you glue to the corresponding day. You can have the children do this as you go through the significance of each day of Holy Week together. Or you can draw the days of a week like they would look on a calendar on the board and fill in symbols or important things about each day as you read.
- Some of the questions here are very specific to RCIA kids, but a few will work well for your groups. A few that I would ask are Do you have any questions about Holy Week, how can you serve others this week, why do you think no one stood up for Jesus and how can you stand up for others. There are also a lot of new words. If I were you I would put Last Supper, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil on your Word Wall.
- The activity on the last page is a good one; I would definitely recommend doing it with your group if you have time. Or if you want them to do a similar reflection on a few readings from the Easter Vigil (using the E8 pamphlet), you could do that as well. Have them write their reactions to the resurrection or to other Easter Vigil readings on the last page.
- **Activities (to fill the rest of the time you have)**
 - Group Lenten Observance- 1st-4th

If your group came up with a group Lenten observance, be sure to wrap that up this week. Or if you sent something home for each child to do during Lent, ask them how it's going and if they've been keeping up with it. *If you haven't done the Stations of the Cross yet and have time for it this week you could do that, just be aware that there is a First Eucharist meeting going on in St. Francis Hall so if you go*

somewhere else in the Church to do the Stations, be respectful of the children and parents who are in this meeting.

- Resurrection Story Eggs- 1st, 3rd

This is a really popular activity for younger kids that has to do with the story of Holy Week. We have several of these in the AV room in plastic egg cartons. There is a little booklet that says which color egg to open in which order and the object in each egg helps you tell the story of Holy Week in an interactive way. It's pretty simple- just follow the booklet. Be sure to grab one early so you can take time to go through each egg and make sure everything is in the right place- the objects and eggs tend to get mixed up!

- Holy Week in 2 minutes- Video- 3rd-4th

[This video from Busted Halo](#) goes through the days of Holy Week and could be a good review. The only reason I recommend it for older kids is that you have to be able to read the words on the screen pretty fast, but if first grade wants to use this video maybe an adult or teen helper could read out loud as the video is going on.

- What the Triduum looks like coloring page- 1st-4th

If your group likes coloring, [this could be a cool coloring sheet](#) to print off and have them color. You could hand it out as you're going through the lesson and have them color each symbol when you get to it or do it afterwards as a review.

- How People Celebrate Easter around the world- Video- 1st-4th

We belong to a universal church, and I always think it's interesting to learn about how people around the world celebrate the same things in their own unique way. [This video](#) gives some examples of how people in various countries celebrate Holy Week.

- **Closing Prayer (5 minutes)**

As a closing prayer, you can say this short prayer for the Veneration of the Cross together: *We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.* Or, if you chose to pray the Stations of the Cross this week, have that be your closing prayer.