

Wednesday, November 14th 2018

1st, 3rd, 4th Grade Lesson Plan: The Sacraments (C2)

- I. **Welcome** children to the small group as they arrive. Take attendance.
- II. **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- Love will Hold us Together- follow [this link](#) for the youtube video. Or search Love will Hold us Together by Matt Maher- Lyrics. Encourage your small group to sing along!
 - Scripture Reading: Matthew 28:16-20
Using the Catholic Children's Bible, find this scripture reading together and have someone read it out loud. Ask your group to list some ways that Jesus continues to be with us.
 - 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, we thank you for your presence with us always and for your great love for us. We thank you for the ways that you use the sacraments to show us how much you love us. Help us to have fun, stay safe, and grow in relationship with you in our session today. Amen.*
- III. **Check-ins (5-10 minutes)**
- IV. **Journey of Faith (15-25 minutes)**
 - If you'd like, you can use the first page as a lead-in to the lesson. It might be a good idea to get them thinking about what we mean by love since there are so many different kinds of love.
 - I really like the way this lesson approaches the sacraments as ways that Jesus tells us he loves us. We'll have future lessons on specific sacraments so we won't get into the specifics much today, really try to explore this idea of sacraments as a way of showing love.
 - Work through the middle two pages and have the children in your group read the little Scripture readings. Be sure to stop at each question and talk about how Jesus showed his love in the story. If you'd like to look up the two other stories near the end (John 9:6-7 and Luke 19:1-10) you can, or you skip it and save time for other activities.

I think the four stories that written into the text do a good enough job of making the point.

- Be sure to focus on the last paragraph to tie everything together to how Jesus still shows us his love today through the sacraments. Be sure to put the word sacrament on your Word Wall.
- You can do the word search if you'd like or if your group really likes word searches or you can just tell your group they can do that at home. I'm not sure that it's the best review of the lesson material. I have an answer key to this that I can make a copy of if you need it.

V. Activities (to fill the rest of the time you have)

- Visible Signs of Invisible Grace- 1st-4th

This activity helps kids to understand the concept of outward signs of inner grace. You'll receive seven envelopes on a ring. Each envelope is labeled with a sacrament. I would recommend doing one set of envelopes for the whole group, but if you really want each child to have one let me know and I might be able to get the materials together. Together as a group, discuss what the outward signs and symbols or that sacrament are (oil, water, bread, baptismal garment, candles, laying on of hands, things like that) and have someone draw or write that on the outside of the envelope. Then talk about how that sacrament gives us inner grace, or in other words how Jesus shows us his love through this sacrament. Write a few of those answers on a small piece of paper and put that inside the envelope. If you have time, you could do all seven sacraments today or you could just do the sacraments of vocation (Marriage and Holy Orders) and save the rest for later in the year. We'll cover the other five sacraments at some point in the year; you can save your envelopes somewhere and bring them out every time you get to a lesson that covers one or more sacraments.

- Seven Sacraments Coloring Sheet- 1st-3rd

If your group is big on coloring, I found a coloring sheet that has a picture for each of the seven sacraments and a line where each child can write what that sacrament means to them. Let me know if you need copies of this.

- Seven Sacraments Review Game- 4th

This is an activity that the 4th-8th graders did last year in GOF as a review of the seven sacraments. Hopefully, most kids know the seven

sacraments pretty well by fourth grade, so you can play this review game as a way to test their knowledge. Break your small group into two or three teams. Each team will receive a Sacraments poster board, cards with the names of the sacraments, descriptions of the sacraments, and symbols of the sacraments on Velcro, as well as a whiteboard marker. Have them work together in their teams to place all the cards on the board where they belong and fill in the blanks on the back with whiteboard marker. Encourage them to work on everything together as a team, not break up and have different youth do different sides (that's why it's on the other side and not a separate paper). When they complete both tasks, you can check their answers and point out any incorrect answers. Then they need to go back and correct them themselves. The first team to correctly complete both sides wins.

- Discussion: How do the sacraments help us to love others?- 1st-4th
We've already talked about how Jesus shows his love for us in the sacraments, but when we receive that love we're called to share it with others. Brainstorm some ways that the sacraments help us to love others. If you want, write all seven sacraments on the board and try to come up with something for each sacrament (ie. Reconciliation helps us to forgive each other and fix broken relationships, the Eucharist nourishes us and gives us the strength to serve others, etc.)
- Video: The Sacraments- 3rd, 4th
[This video](#) is a pretty good overview of the seven sacraments. It does a good job addressing how Jesus gave us the sacraments and how they help us love like Jesus, so they go with the Journey of Faith packet's focus pretty well.
- Video: Your Love is a Song- Switchfoot- 1st-4th
If your group likes music, [this song](#) would be a great song to finish up the session. It's all about how God's love is all around us.

VI. **Closing Prayer (5 minutes)**

Pray the Glory Be together and/or listen to Your Love is a Song (the link to the video is above).

- The words to the Glory Be can be found in the Catholic Prayers app under "Basic Prayers" if you want to put them up on the screen.