

Wednesday, December 19th 2018

1st-4th Grade Lesson Plan: Mary (Q14)/The Saints (Q15)

- 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- Advent Home- follow [this link](#) for the youtube video. You can also find it in the 1st-5th Grade Small Groups Playlist. Encourage your small group to sing along!
 - Scripture Reading: Luke 1:46-55
Using the Catholic Children's Bible, find this scripture reading together and have someone read it out loud. This passage is known as Mary's Magnificat, a song she sings after she finds out she is going to be the mother of Jesus. Ask your group: how does Mary glorify God in this prayer?
 - 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 thank you for all the people who are good examples for us of how to live out your will. The Saints, Mary, and even people in our own lives, show us how to follow you. We thank you for the special Community of Saints that we are a part of. 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)**
 - We'll start with the lesson the Saints (Q15). Start with the question on the first inside page. Read the section Choose Your Heroes which does a nice job explaining why we need the saints in a context kids can understand. Write the word Saint on your Word Wall.
 - Be sure to read all the way through the Saints Help us from Heaven section and do all the questions when they come up; they really could help lead to some great discussion. I would put Canonization on the Word Wall, you can choose whether or not to put up patron saints and seminary.

- I don't know that you'll have time to read about all the saints on the second inside page, but if you want to feel free to. I do like the You Can be a Saint, too! section. I think it's great to emphasize that we learn about the lives of the saints so that they can teach us and inspire us to be saints as well.
- The Patron Saint activity is pretty cool; you can choose to do it if you think your group would enjoy it or you can move on to the pamphlet on Mary, it's up to you. You could encourage the children to do it at home if you choose not to do it during class time.
- Now move on the Q14- Mary. I like how this lesson focuses on motherhood and what we can learn from Jesus' mother Mary. They chose a handful of stories about Mary from the Bible and qualities that those stories show about her. If you're trying to leave lots of time for activities, you might want to just focus on a few of those qualities and tell your group they can read the rest at home. You could choose the ones that have to do with the Christmas story since we're close to Christmas or the ones that jump out as the most important qualities to you personally. Be sure to use the questions to get some discussion going.
- Wrap up by reading the section Mary in Heaven. It answers a lot of questions people may have about Mary.
- If you decide to do the activity on the last page, the answers are Faithful, Brave, Helpful, Humble, Caring, Prayerful, and the hidden word is Mary.

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

- Saint Scavenger Hunt- 1st-4th

I wrote this activity as a fun way for kids to learn about the Saints who we've named our rooms after. Have someone read each short paragraph written from the point of view of a Saint and then they'll have to figure out which Saint it is. You can choose to break your group into teams and race each other or work all as one team and walk around to the rooms together to look at the options. Or if you'd rather keep them together in your room, you can just give them a word bank and write the possible answers on the board (out of order) and look up each of those options to match them to the paragraph. You can find the activity on the website where you find lesson plans. Let me know if you'd like me to make copies for you.

- Mary Coloring Sheet- 1st-4th
I found a really pretty coloring sheet of Mary that has the Hail Mary at the bottom. I posted it right where you find lesson plans on the website. Let me know if you want me to print it for you.
- Brother Francis videos on the Saints- 1st-2nd
These videos would be great to reinforce what we learned today for younger kids. Follow [this link](#) for a video on how the saints understand us and [click here](#) to watch a video on how the saints cheer us on. They can also be found on the 1st-5th Small Group playlist.
- Vocab Review Game- 1st-4th
Today might be a good day to do a review game of the Vocabulary Words you've learned up until today. You can find my ideas for fun review games on the website where you find lesson plans. Let me know if you'd like any materials prepared for you.
- Christmas According to Kids- video- 1st-4th
[This video](#) is super cute and it's my new favorite thing ever. Kids tell the Christmas story and adults act it out. You can follow this link or find it on the playlist for 1st-5th grade small groups.

VI. Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

Pray the Hail Mary together

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

VII. Christmas Song and Cookies!- 6:50

- At 6:50, we're all going to gather in St. Francis to do a Christmas Sing-along and have some Christmas cookies. Parents will pick up from St. Francis Hall so have kids bring everything with them.
- On your schedule it says Volunteer Social, but I think since we've decided to have cookies for everyone at the end of the session, it doesn't make much sense to have a second social after that. If you'd like to stick around in SFH for a little while to socialize with the other volunteers, feel free! I will not be in any rush to clean up.