

Wednesday, December 5th 2018- FAMILY NIGHT

1st-4th Grade Lesson Plan: Church Year (Q10)

6:45-7:25 pm

- I. Walk with your small group from the Worship Space to your small group room. Have each child leave one shoe outside the door when you go in and close the door. Take attendance.
- II. **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.
- III. **Check-in (5-10 minutes)**
- IV. **The Story of St. Nicholas (5 minutes)**

Watch [this video](#) about St. Nicholas and explain that this is why we're leaving our shoes outside. You can also find the video on the 1st-5th Playlist. St. Nicholas's feast day is December 6th and it's a Catholic tradition to leave your shoes out for St. Nicholas on that day, so by the time you leave your small group hopefully St. Nicholas will have visited and left us something!

- V. **Journey of Faith (15-25 minutes)**
 - I will have a Journey of Faith pamphlet as well as a Liturgical Year coloring sheet for each child in your mailbox this week. As you're going through the seasons of the church year, have your group color the wedges of their calendar the appropriate color. I'll plan to put a big container of extra crayons in the hallway in case you're short on any particular color- it will be a bit tricky no matter what and some taking turns will be necessary! Also be sure to point out the Liturgical Calendar you can find in each small group room which is up year round.
 - We're talking about the entire Church Year this week but we'll kind of focus in on Advent since that's where we are right now. If you want, move the Advent wreath to the middle of your group's table so it's visible and have someone "light" the first candle (be sure to turn it off when you leave too!)

- Because of time restraints, I would recommend that you and/or your helper read the content and have the kids color their calendars while you're reading. Do be sure to stop at some of the discussion questions, or at least the ones that have to do with Advent and Christmas. We will talk about Lent and Easter later in the year so you don't have to go into too much depth about that right now, maybe just mention and summarize those sections.
- I recommend putting the words Church year, Advent, and Christmas on your Word Wall.
- You can choose to do the Feast Days and Holy Days activity or skip it and move on to the other suggested activities.
- I do recommend that you have your group do the activity on the last page as a review if you have time.

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

- Discussion on Advent and Christmas- 1st-4th
 -How do you celebrate Advent in your home? Do you have an Advent wreath or Advent calendar?
If you'd like, you can mention that each family will be receiving an Advent calendar on their way out tonight. It includes a book with short reflections for each day and a sticker that you put on a Nativity scene each day as we get closer to Christmas.
 -How is the way we celebrate Advent and Christmas in the Church different from how our secular culture celebrates Christmas? What are we celebrating and remembering in the Church during this season of the year? How can we be sure that those important things we celebrate this time of year are a part of your Advent and Christmas? (example: go to Mass, participate in Angel tree or another way to help families in need, Keep Christ in Christmas poster contest, etc.)
- Video- Advent in 2 Minutes- 3rd-4th
[This video](#) is everything you need to know about Advent in 2 minutes. It's a great quick review. The only reason it's for 3rd and 4th graders is because you have to read the words on the screen pretty fast. If you want to read the words out loud for your group as the video is playing, you could use this video for younger kids.
- Video- Whirl Kids Celebrate Advent- 1st-2nd
[This video](#) is a cute video about Advent time that's meant for younger kids.

VII. When you hear the bell, 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.