

The CLOW Break Down!

You may be asking, "How Does This Program Work?" Well, here you go!

1. The children leave Mass with the blessing from Deacon or Father at the front of church.
2. They enter either the Wleczyk Hall or Angelina room and find seats (or carpet squares on the floor).
3. Play the opening song.....#5 on CD/DVD → already in the CD/DVD player
3. The facilitator introduces him- or herself and welcomes the children. THEN.....
 1. Review. Using the liturgy plan, the facilitator reviews the prior week symbol and central idea.
 2. Introduce new symbol. Show new banner symbol and ask leading questions. (prepared in advance: banner symbol → ON CHART PAPER)
 3. Light candle to prepare for readings. Reminder: Jesus is the light of the world and the candle also symbolizes the Holy Spirit
 4. The Co-Leader reads the 1st Reading and Responsorial Psalm. (Children should sit during the first reading & Responsorial Psalm)
 5. Play the Gospel Acclamation song... #10 on the CD/DVD Player (Children should stand up and remain standing until Gospel is finished)
 6. The Co-Leader reads the Gospel and then the children sit down. (I recommend modeling sitting: "criss-cross applesauce" by sitting yourself as well.)
 4. Ask questions, read, reflect. Use the liturgy plans to ask questions and lead the children to reflect on the day's readings. (Feel free to bring props, use your own life examples, and/or use activities to illustrate the Gospel)
 5. Color Offertory symbols and create a communal poster. The symbols that the children color and write their names on (for poster) reflect the central message of the day. The poster had the Responsorial Psalm written on it in advance.
 6. Prepare to re-enter the church. Logistically, this is the time to line them up, straighten up the worship space and hand out stickers, letters and take-home activities.
 7. Return to the Assembly when the offertory takes place, making sure students enter respectfully and to their parents.

CLOW TIPS & TRICKS

Tips:

- Kids like to move! Use Catholic Aerobics as much as possible because every time a child changes position (sit/stand) their attention span resets.
- Ask questions and names! Have a system in place...."Raise your hand if you can tell me >>>" or "Touch your head if you think >>>>" or " Stand up if you know >>>>" or ETC
- Be positive! " Look at all the wonderful children who are quietly sitting criss cross and have hands in their lap...WOW! What amazing leaders!"
- If an usher comes and says that time is almost up quickly finish what you are working on and then have the children line-up. It's okay if you don't finish your activity. The main goal is to finish the readings so keep the initial activities short and concise. Longer activities should be kept and completed after the readings.
- Utilize your teen helpers to keep children engaged and to redirect distracted children. Also feel free to give them jobs to help you. Ask them to lead the children in the hand movements, if they don't know them ask them to make them up... the children will love whatever they do.
- If a child is very upset please have a Virtus trained adult return them to the church and help them find their parents.