# St. Laurence Catholic Parish Elementary Children's Faith Formation (CCE)

Week 6 Lesson Plan



# Unit 2 – How do we get to know and love Jesus Christ?

EQ #1: How does praying help me know and love Jesus Christ? (Part 1)

### CATECHIST PREPARATION

To prepare for this week's lesson:

- Prepare your adult heart and mind by watching one of the following videos ahead of the lesson: <u>THE POWER OF PRAYER</u> or <u>HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO PRAY?</u>
- Review the appropriate grade-level learning targets from the Catechetical Framework
  for Lifelong Faith Formation (CFLFF) posted on the Catechist website at
  <a href="https://stlaurence.org/the-catechist">https://stlaurence.org/the-catechist</a> for your age group. Keep these targets in mind as
  you prepare for and progress through the weekly lesson, making discussion points based
  upon these specific age-appropriate targets.
- Reflect upon a favorite Scriptural passage about prayer that you would like to share with your children and why it is important to you, or consider any one of the following:
   <u>MATTHEW 6: 5-13, MARK 1: 35, LUKE 22: 39-46, 1 THESSALONIANS 5: 16-18, or PHILIPPIANS 4: 6</u>
- Create a <u>Prayer Table</u> (or check out <u>How to Make a Prayer Table for Kids</u>) in a special corner of the classroom. Keep a Bible reverently displayed there to be used for readings in your lessons. When proclaiming *The Word* to children, it is more impactful to read directly from the Bible and not just from their workbooks. This gives them the sense that this is not just any book.
- Establish a comfortable learning space in your classroom for your session.

Supplies you may want to have on hand before beginning the Lesson:

- A Catholic family or children's Bible (go to <u>USCCB</u> for approved Bible translations); on campus, we use the <u>ST. MARY'S PRESS CHILDREN'S BIBLE</u>, a classroom set of which is located in the "CCE" storage cabinet.
- An electronic device with reliable internet access (i.e., an in-class mounted TV or TV cart if a video will be watched as part of the lesson)
- Sticky notes
- Art or any unlined paper
- Crayons, markers and pencils as needed (located in the "CCE" storage and your class bin)
- (Optional): Materials necessary for any of the craft ideas selected during the EXTEND segment of the lesson

## **OPENING PRAYER**

Begin your discovery session today with the children in prayer. Gather together in your dedicated prayer space and ask the children to quiet their minds and hearts as you pray together. Begin with the <u>SIGN OF THE CROSS</u> and recite a favorite prayer, choose one of the <u>COMMON PRAYERS BY GRADE</u> or the <u>THE JESUS PRAYER</u> together. Conclude by praying the <u>SIGN OF THE CROSS</u>.

\_\_\_\_\_

# **ENGAGE**

## (Mental warm-up)

**Say,** "Today, we are going to discover how praying can help us come to know and love Jesus Christ more deeply. I want to share with you one of my favorite passages about prayer found in the Bible... (Read your favorite passage from the Bible about prayer and explain WHY it is important to you or your favorite passage) ... You know, throughout the Bible, we hear many examples of God's people growing closer to Him through personal or community prayer."

\_\_\_\_\_

# **EXPLORE**

#### (Pre-assessment of faith concepts)

Ask/Discuss, "What do you know about prayer?"

- As the children share their ideas, have them jot a few down on a sticky note (with their name) and then place them on the wall in your classroom space. (For younger children, you may have to act as the 'scribe'). Retain the sticky notes to have an understanding of what the children already know or don't know. This will be helpful as you move along in your lessons.
- ❖ To facilitate thinking and discussion, use some of the following prompts: Think of a close friend of yours. How did you get to know that person? What kinds of things happened so that they became your friend? How did you come to love them and enjoy spending time with them? What is prayer? Who do we pray to? Can anyone pray? How should we pray? Are there different types of prayer? Can you list some examples? Plus, any others you can think of...

# **EQ** "Essential Question"

(This question serves as a cognitive bookend for the children – i.e., it is the targeted "so what" or "take-away" of the lesson being presented. If your learners can articulate a relevant answer to this question by the end of the session, you have done your job. ⊕)

Share and post the physical representation of the lesson's EQ in your classroom (Note: Each classroom is equipped with a set of *EQ posters* corresponding to those posted on the weekly *Lesson Schedule*):

How does praying help me know and love Jesus Christ?

**EXPLAIN** (Either as a class guided with your assistance, or working independently -or in groups- have the children review their relevant grade-level material – listed below - and complete the workbook activities, where applicable).

**Grade 1:** \* Alive in Christ, Chapter 9 (Jesus Teaches Us to Pray)

Grade 2: Alive in Christ, Chapter 15 (Ways to Pray)
Grade 3: Alive in Christ, Chapter 6 (Pray Always)

Grade 4: Alive in Christ, Chapter 6: pg. 114 (Making Good Choices), Chapter 7: pg. 126

(The Beatitudes) plus review pg. 324-330 (We Pray)

Grade 5: Alive in Christ, pg. 9-11 (Ordinary Time - Queen of the Holy Rosary) plus review

pg. 324-330 (We Pray)

\*NOTE: We are aware that some of our lower Elementary learners have been delayed and are not all reading ready. As the Catechist or class facilitator, your role is to help your learners understand or connect with the *content* of the weekly lesson. You can convey the assigned weekly content from the *Alive in Christ* textbook in a variety of creative ways that are appropriate and effective for your learners and does not involve the class taking turns reading from the student text. Review the content *beforehand*, and feel free to introduce other methods of conveying it or more specifically adapting it to your learners. Some suggested ideas can include the use of any of the following, many of which are available on campus. Just ask a staff member. These are:

- Story Books
- Felt Board Creation Figures to tell the stories
- Role-playing/Skits
- Manipulatives
- Costumes/Dress-up
- Puppets

If you have any questions or need suggestions, be sure to reach out to a staff member. Be sure to also check out the supplemental resources at the end of this Lesson Plan outline for additional ideas.

\_\_\_\_\_\_

## **EXTEND**

(Gather back together and invite children to share, in turn, what they learned about prayer. Affirm positive answers and interject grade-level learning targets into the discussion, where applicable. As a class (or in groups), come up with a list of at least three new things that the children learned, were surprised by or think others should know about God. Then, extend the lesson together by completing at least one of the activities provided below).

#### **Lower Elementary:**

- Video Watch the <u>OUR FATHER SONG</u>, <u>HOW DO WE PRAY?</u> or <u>GOD'S STORY: PRAYER</u> video
- Crafts Make the OUR FATHER PRAYER CROSS, FIVE FINGER PRAYER CRAFT, I CAN PRAY WHEEL or the PRAYER HANDS BOOKLET
- Activities GOD CAN HEAR ME OBJECT LESSON or the PRAYING HANDS CONNECT THE DOTS

### **Upper Elementary:**

- Video Watch the <u>EXPLAINING THE LORD'S PRAYER TO KIDS</u>, <u>HOLY FATHER, TEACH US</u>
   TO PRAY or THE LORD'S PRAYER (IN ARAMAIC) video
- Crafts Make the <u>CATHOLIC PRAYER PUZZLES</u> using <u>COMMON PRAYERS BY AGE/GRADE</u>
  or <u>CATHOLIC PRAYERS</u> (you can print out the prayers you want to make puzzles of for
  free from either of these two sites) or have each child make a <u>PRAYER JOURNAL</u>
- Activities Play one of the <u>PRAYER GAMES FOR KIDS</u> or complete one of the <u>YOUTH</u> <u>PRAYER ACTIVITIES</u> together as a class

# **EVALUATE/REFLECT**

Restate today's Essential Question (EQ) – How does praying help me know and love Jesus Christ?

- Summarize what's been learned during this lesson, emphasizing those concepts which
  may have been missed or misunderstood in the EXPLORE step above and keeping a
  mind's eye on the grade-level learning targets for this Unit.
  - Say, "Today's lesson showed us that prayer is a *conversation* with God. Just as Jesus talked with God and listened to Him, we can too. Prayer is so important that when he lived on earth, Jesus showed us not only how *he* prayed to God, his Father, but also how He wants us to pray. He did this by sharing the perfect prayer, the *Lord's Prayer* (or *Our Father*) with us. Don't forget that as Catholics, every time we begin and end our prayers with the *Sign of the Cross*, we are reminded of the *Holy Trinity* which is a mystery of our faith. We believe that there is one God who exists in three persons, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Our daily prayer life should include at least morning and evening prayers, as well as prayers before and after meals. We can pray by ourselves or with others (think of Mass), any time or anywhere, with our own words or those in prayers commonly used by Catholics. When we talk to our friend Jesus deep within our hearts, it keeps us close to God and helps us to better understand His will for our lives."

- **Say,** "Think back to the passage that I read from the Bible at the beginning of our lesson today. What did you learn from that Scripture about how Jesus prayed? (*Discuss together, affirming appropriate answers and reinforcing lesson teaching points*).
- Separately reflect on these questions: We can talk to our friend, Jesus, anytime and anywhere we wish just by praying. When and where is your favorite time to pray? Why? What is your favorite prayer? How do you think you can get closer to God by spending time with Him in prayer? (After some reflection time, have the children turn and share their answers with a partner or the class).

# **CLOSING PRAYER**

Gather together in your dedicated prayer space and ask the children to quiet their minds and hearts as you pray together. Begin with the <u>SIGN OF THE CROSS</u> and recite a favorite prayer, choose one from the <u>COMMON PRAYERS BY GRADE</u>, sing the <u>OUR FATHER</u> or ask the children to offer up their <u>INTERCESSORY INTENTIONS</u>. Conclude by praying the <u>SIGN OF THE</u> <u>CROSS</u>.

++++++++++++++++++

## **BONUS** (optional)

- What We Pray: In Matthew 6: 9-13, Jesus taught us the Lord's Prayer, also known as the Our Father prayer. Learn to pray the LORD'S PRAYER IN ASL (American Sign Language). Have the children practice it to share with their family and friends.
- Saint of the Week: Saint Monica is best known for a persistent prayer life which exemplifies the power of Intercessory Prayer, or prayer for the benefit of others. Learn more about the life of SAINT MONICA. Discuss the concerns of Saint Monica's life and how God resolved them. Then, have the children write an intercessory prayer for a special family or friend intention and have them make it a part of their daily prayer time with their families.

Want to extend your lesson in class or at home about this topic? Check out these additional resources which can be used at the Catechist's discretion, if desired:

- Catechist Preparation Videos: <u>BEGINNING CATHOLIC HOW TO PRAY</u>, <u>WHAT IS PRAYER</u>, <u>TIPS FOR PRAYING</u>, <u>HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO PRAY</u>, <u>POWER OF PRAYER</u>, <u>FIVE WAYS TO PRAY</u>, <u>BISHOP BARRON ON PRAYER</u>, <u>HOW CATHOLICS PRAY</u> and <u>1ST KEY TO TEACHING CATHOLIC CHILDREN FAITH</u>
- Lesson Plans/Resources: COMMON PRAYERS BY AGE/GRADE, CHILDREN'S PRAYERS, CHILDREN'S MINISTRY: WHAT IS PRAYER?, CLASS PRAYER RESOURCES, THE LORD'S PRAYER, I CAN TALK TO GOD, TEACHING KIDS TO PRAY
- Videos: OBJECT LESSON ON PRAYER (4:45), OBJECT LESSON ON PRAYER (7:45), LECTIO DIVINA (stop at 4:13), HOLY FATHER, TEACH US TO PRAY (2:38), WHAT IS PRAYER? (2:53), THE POWER OF PRAYER (6:04), GOD'S STORY: PRAYER (4:35), TALKING TO GOD (3:34), EXPLAINING THE LORD'S PRAYER TO KIDS (6:43), THE NICENE CREED (1:45), THE LORD'S PRAYER (IN ARAMAIC) (the language Jesus spoke-4:20), JOURNEY TO THE HEART:

<u>CENTERING PRAYER FOR CHILDREN</u> (6:44), <u>HOW DO WE PRAY?</u> (1:04), <u>GUARDIAN</u> ANGEL PRAY & SONGS (5:13), <u>ST. MICHAEL PRAYER AND SONG</u> (3:58

- On FORMED.org: Brother Francis: Let's Pray! A Lesson on Prayer, Cat Chat: Teach Me to Pray, Learning About Prayer (Refer to INSTRUCTIONS FOR ACCESSING FORMED to gain free access to the St. Laurence parish membership subscription).
- Activities/Crafts: LCAN PRAY SPINNER CRAFT, CHILD'S PRAYER JOURNAL, CATHOLIC PRAYER PUZZLES, PRAYER WORKSHEETS, PRAYER CRAFTS, CATHOLIC ICING, PRAYER HANDS, THE LORD'S PRAYER BRACELET, CHILDREN'S PRAYER STARTERS



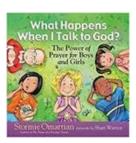






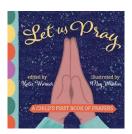


- Picture Books: (Check with Staff for copies)
  - What Happens When I Talk to God? by Stormie Omaritian
  - The Angel God Gave Me by Brother Francis
  - Take it to the Queen: A Tale of Hope by Josephine Nobisso
  - Let us Pray: A Child's First Book of Prayers, by Katie Warner









• Other Resources: LECTIO DIVINA WITH KIDS, LECTIO DIVINA, LECTIO DIVINA FOR KIDS, POPE FRANCIS 5 FINGER PRAYER