

Second Grade Lesson Plans

Lesson 1, Chapter 15: Pray As Jesus Did

Focus: Just as Jesus needed time to pray, we also need to spend time talking with God.

Catechists: *Your handouts will be in your small tub each week. The rest of your materials will be in a larger tub with your name on it. Please take this tub home with you – we have limited space to store tubs and that will help us a lot, thanks! PLEASE KEEP YOUR LARGE TUB ORGANIZED AND RETURN LEFTOVER OR UNUSED ITEMS BACK TO THE TUB SO THEY MAY BE RE-USED AGAIN NEXT YEAR. THANK YOU!*

Materials needed:

- Self-adhesive labels or post-it notes (in large tub)
- Reconciliation cards – 1 per student (in large tub)
- Sharpie marker (in Mouse House on shelf)
- Make labels or post-its that say “mom”, “dad”, “doctor”, “teacher”, “friend”, “grandma or grandpa”, “sister”, “brother”, “police officer”
- Two copies of “The Lord’s Prayer” (in tub)
- “Gifts From Our Loving God” handout – 1 per child (in tub)
- Pattern of Jesus praying (one per student – in tub)
- Popsicle sticks (in Mouse House on shelves)
- Glue (in Mouse House on shelves)
- markers or crayons (in Mouse House on shelves)
- ½ a styrofoam ball (one per student – **catechist please provide**)

Before class begins:

- ✓ Have your labels, copies, patterns and supplies ready before kids come into class.

Prayer:

Before each class begins, please say an ‘Our Father’ and an ‘Act of Contrition’ to help the children learn these prayers. Explain that we will learn all about the Our Father tonight and the Act of Contrition is a prayer we say when we want to tell God we are sorry. We will learn it by heart this year because we will say it at our First Reconciliation. Please end your class with a Hail Mary and a Glory Be.

Act of Contrition – Please pray this prayer each week with students so they will be familiar with it when they receive Reconciliation. The prayer is on the back of the Reconciliation cards that you will find in your large tub. *Give each student a card at the beginning of class and then collect them after you have prayed. We will use the cards as we study Reconciliation. Let students take the card home at the last class before they celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation in December.*

What to Say and Do:

- ***Do you think it’s important to take the time to pray? Why?*** Ask for six or seven volunteers. Have volunteers come forward one at a time. Place a label on the back of each volunteer and make sure they do not see it. The volunteer must ask the class questions about their label to try to identify who it is (example: Am I someone you see every day? Do you see me at school? Do you like me?)
- Play the game for several minutes or until every volunteer has had a turn.
- ***Let’s take a look at our labels. How about parents-how often do you talk to your parents? Why do you talk to them? How often do you talk to your friends or your grandparents? How about your teacher? A doctor or a police officer? You know all these people but which ones do you know the best?*** (The ones we talk to the most!)

- ***God wants us to get to know him too. Talking to God (prayer) is a great way to do that and we can tell by our little game that the more we talk to God, the better we will know him.***
- ***Jesus thought prayer was important enough to give us instructions on how to pray in the Bible. Listen to what he says-*** (Read scripture passage from Matthew on page 162 of the textbook.)
- ***How many of you know the prayer we call the “Our Father”? It’s also called the “Lord’s Prayer” because Jesus taught us how to pray in the same way he did. Let’s say it all together.***
- ***Now let’s hear the prayer again and listen to what the words mean.***

(Use “The Lord’s Prayer” handout that is included in your notebook. Your Assistant should lead the children in saying the prayer line by line and Catechist should follow with the meaning of each line. A student who is a good reader could also take the part of the Assistant in leading the class.)

- ***You might think that because Jesus was God’s Son, he didn’t really have to pray. But if God’s own Son regularly spent time praying, think how much more important it is for us to pray!***
- ***God loves us like any parent would love his or her child and because of this love, God really wants us to talk with us! God wants us to get to know him and be close to him.***
- ***Let’s find a place in the Bible that tells about prayer. The Gospel of Matthew (6:5-14) tells us the things that Jesus teaches all of us about prayer.***
 - † ***Jesus tells us not to pray just so we look “holy” to other people. We should pray to Him quietly, in our own room, in secret.***

- † *Jesus says if we do this, our Father in heaven sees us and will repay us with His love, care and concern about our lives.*
- † *Jesus also says that we don't need to use a lot of words explaining to God everything we want Him to know. God knows what we need before we even ask Him!*
- † *So if God knows what we need, why do we pray?* (When we played our game, who did we find that we were closest to? The people we talk to! God wants us to be close to Him, to know Him well and trust Him. That's hard to do if we don't pray.)
- *There are many other times we hear about Jesus praying to his Father in the Bible. Jesus gave us an example to follow when he talked to God every day.*
- *What are some other prayers you know?*
 - † *Grace before meals (Bless us, O Lord, and these thy gifts which we are about to receive from thy bounty, through Christ our Lord. Amen.) We should always give thanks for our food before meals.*
 - † *Hail Mary, Glory Be: We are learning these prayers every week, but they are good ones to say each day as we honor our mother Mary and the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.*
 - † *The Act of Contrition: A prayer we say when we want to tell God we are sorry. We are also learning this prayer and you will say it at your First Reconciliation.*
- Activity: Give each child a popsicle stick, ½ of a Styrofoam ball, and a praying Jesus pattern. Have markers and glue available. Let children color the pattern, glue it to the popsicle stick and place the bottom of the stick into the Styrofoam ball so that the picture of Jesus praying is upright. ***We have talked about how***

Jesus reminds us of the importance of prayer in our lives. Remember to follow Jesus' example of prayer, especially as we begin this Lenten season.

Please close each class with a Hail Mary and a Glory Be to help the children learn these prayers.