

Second Grade Lesson Plans

Lesson 15: Gathering Rite and Lent

Focus: Our church family gathers to worship at Mass/Lent is a season of penitence.

Materials needed:

- Note cards - write each step of the Gathering Rite (Gathering Song, Procession, Greeting, Sign of the Cross, Kyrie, Gloria, Opening Prayer) on a separate card with black marker. (note cards are in large tub)
- About a yard of burlap (enough to make a small cross for each child in your class. (in large tub)
- Scissors (in Mouse House)
- Small safety pins (in large tub)
- Cross pattern (in catechist notebook)

Before class:

- ✓ Make your note cards with the steps to the Gathering Rite.

Prayer:

Our Father/Act of Contrition

What to say and do:

- ***Have you ever thought about what our Catholic Church was like 2,000 years ago right after Jesus left the earth? No? Well, not many people have so don't feel bad!***

- ***Would you be surprised if I told you that Mass 2,000 years ago was much like our Mass today? It's true!***
- ***After Jesus died and went to heaven, his followers met often to learn from the disciples, to pray and to receive the Eucharist. How is that like what we do today?*** (We meet together at church, share a meal in the Eucharist and pray.)
- ***Everyone shared what they had with those who were in need. These followers of Jesus were very happy (even though they were persecuted) and new members joined every day!***
- ***We have a special time that we come together to worship each week – do you know what we call it?*** (Mass)
- ***Our whole church family gets together each week at Mass and we have a very special meal called “the Eucharist”.***
- ***We’ll be learning much more about the Eucharist because this will be the year you get to receive the Body and Blood of Jesus (called the Eucharist) for the first time!***

As you talk about the following, make a list on the board of each step of the Gathering Rite as you discuss it. (Gathering song, Procession, Greeting, Sign of the Cross, Kyrie, Gloria, Opening Prayer)

- ***What is the first thing that happens as Mass begins?*** (The GATHERING SONG – we stand and sing a gathering song. The altar servers, lectors, deacon and priest all follow the cross down the aisle as we sing together.) ***This is called THE PROCESSION.***
- ***After the procession is done, the priest greets everyone and leads us in making THE SIGN OF THE CROSS.***
- ***Then he says, “The Lord be with you.” We answer, “And with your Spirit.” This helps us remember that Jesus is present and that He speaks through the priest.***

- ***Next, the priest asks us to try to remember any times we may have hurt others. Then we ask for God’s mercy by saying together, “Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.” We call this the KYRIE (keer-ee-ay) which is the Greek word for Lord.***
- ***Sometimes we say the whole Kyrie in Greek!***
- ***Next we sing THE GLORIA. This is a beautiful song that the Church sings to give praise, honor and glory to God.***
- ***The priest then prays the OPENING PRAYER and we are all gathered and ready for the first main part of the Mass.***

Point to your list on the board.

- ***All of these steps of the Mass are called the “Gathering Rite”. Can you guess why?***

Erase your list from the board. form the class into groups of two or three and give each group one or two of the note cards you made before class. Make a number list of 1-7 on the board and have each group place their card(s) in the correct order of the Mass.

Have some fun with this and make it clear you don’t expect the kids to remember it exactly. This is just a reinforcement game. You can play as many times as it takes them to get it right.

- ***Can anyone tell me what very special season in the Church is coming up?*** (Lent)
- ***When you go to Mass after Ash Wednesday, the church will look very different. We’ll talk about that, but first, what can you tell me about Ash Wednesday?***

(Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. We go to Mass and receive ashes on our forehead to help us remember that we should be looking at the way we live our lives and see if there are things we need to change. Are you living as Jesus taught us to live? Are there things you could do better? The ashes are a sign that we are willing to stop any sinful behavior we have and live as Jesus wants us to.)

- ***Can anyone tell me how the church will look different when Lent begins? What will we see?*** (The color purple on banners and flags and the priest's vestments, the cross is often covered with a purple cloth, there are no other decorations – the church can look very bare.)
- ***Why so much purple?*** (Purple is the color for the season of Lent. It is to remind us to look at our lives and make an effort to change the things that are leading us away from Jesus. When we see purple, we should be thinking about our sins and how we can do better.)
- ***Sometimes the cross is covered, why do you suppose that is done?*** (When we look at the cross, we often think about what Jesus did for us. Lent is a time to think more about what we can do for Jesus.)
- ***There is a time coming when we think a lot about what Jesus did for us. Do you know when that is?*** (Holy Week and Easter)
- ***Lent is a very special time in our church that is set aside for us to become closer to Jesus. Let's take a quiet moment and think of what we could change in our lives that would make Jesus happy. What could we do better?***
 - † ***Could we pray more?***
 - † ***Could we be nicer to our family?***
 - † ***Could we be more helpful to others?***

Everyone will have something different when it comes to being better Christians. Let's take a few quiet moments to think about what it might be for you.

Would anyone like to share their thoughts? Whatever you decided, try your best this Lenten season to make it really happen.

- ***Let's make something that might be a good reminder of whatever you would like to change.***

- ***Did you know that some of the people of the early Church wore burlap during Lent?***
- ***I'm not kidding! They wore burlap all forty days of Lent. Have you ever felt burlap before?*** (Show students the burlap and let them touch it.)
- ***Burlap is very rough – do you think it would be comfortable to wear as a shirt?***
- ***Penitents (people who are sorry for their sins) in the early church wore burlap so they would remember to really do the things that would make them better Christians. It was a sign that they were going to change their lives.***
- ***We're not going to dress in burlap, but we will make these small burlap crosses to pin on our clothes.***
- ***Hopefully when we look at the burlap cross, we'll be reminded of what we are sorry for and how we will change our lives for Jesus.***

Help children trace, cut out and pin the crosses on to their clothing. Gather to pray when everyone has finished.

Closing Prayer:

Lord, we ask you to help us change our lives during the Lenten season. Let the crosses we have made remind us to follow you always.

Hail Mary/Glory Be