

## Second Grade Lesson Plans

### Lesson 16: Listen to God's Word

**Focus: The Liturgy of the Word at Mass/Lent is a time for a new beginning.**

#### **Materials needed:**

- Note cards (in large tub) – write each step of the Liturgy of the Word at Mass on a separate card (Liturgy of the Word, First Reading, Psalm, Second Reading, Alleluia, Gospel Reading, Homily, Creed, Intercessions)
- Note cards from last week that listed the parts of the Gathering Rite.
- Hosts and chalice (in large tub)
- 12 inch square of brown paper (in large tub) -1 per student
- Party horns (in large tub) -1 per child
- Glue sticks will work best for this craft (in Mouse House)
- Picture of Hebrew priests with Shofars (in notebook)
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#### **Before class begins:**

- ✓ Make Liturgy of the Word note cards
- ✓ Locate Gathering Rite cards from last week
- ✓ Cut a 12 inch square of brown paper for each child in your class.
- ✓ Print off picture the picture of the Hebrew priests with their Shofars.

Say:

- **This year you will receive your First Communion and receive the Body and Blood of Jesus for the first time. Tonight we're going to watch a movie that will help us as we begin to learn all about the Eucharist.**

- **Last week we learned about the Gathering Rite, that's the part of Mass that gathers all of us together and helps us get ready to celebrate what comes next. Who knows what that is?** (the Readings, the Creed and the Intercessions- called the *Liturgy of the Word*)

As you talk about the Liturgy of the Word, make a list on the board of each part.

(Liturgy of the Word, First Reading, Psalm, Second Reading, Alleluia, Gospel reading, homily, Creed, Intercessions)

- **The Liturgy of the Word is a very important part of Mass. It is during this time that we hear the Word of God from the Bible.**
- **The lector goes to the ambo to proclaim the First Reading which is usually from the Old Testament.**
- **Next, a singer, called a cantor, leads everyone in singing a psalm. Remember, the psalms are prayers of praise found also in the Old Testament.**
- **Then, another reader stands and reads from one of the letters in the New Testament. This is called the Second Reading.**
- **After each reading, the lector says "The Word of the Lord" and we all answer, "Thanks be to God." We stop for a moment and think about what we have heard.**
- **After the second reading, we do something really special! We stand and sing a song with a Hebrew word- does anyone know what that is?** (The Alleluia-it means "Praise the Lord- He is risen! in Hebrew)
- **Why do we stand and sing "Praise the Lord"?** (We are about to hear the words of Jesus Christ in the Gospel reading. We praise God for giving us these words and remember how important they are to our lives. We stand as a sign of respect for what we are about to hear.)

**Note: We do not say “Alleluia” during Lent. We save it for Easter Sunday when Christ is truly risen!**

- **Next the priest or deacon reads the gospel. The Gospels contain stories about Jesus, His words and the stories He told. At the end of the Gospel reading, the priest or deacon says, “The Gospel of the Lord” and we answer “Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.”**
- **After the Gospel reading, the priest gives a short homily or sermon that helps us understand what the readings are about and what they mean in our lives.**
- **Then all the people stand to proudly say the Creed together. We say that we believe in God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. We say that we believe in the Catholic Church and its teachings.**
- **Next, we pray together for the leaders of our church and our country, for those who are sick or who have died, and for people all around the world who have needs at this time.**
- **These prayers are called the Intercessions. We say, “Lord hear our prayer” after each intercession.**

Hand out the note cards again using the ones for this week only and see if the kids can put them in order. For a bigger challenge, add the cards from last week. Have fun remembering what goes where-they will probably need your help.

Say:

- **Do you remember what we discussed about Lent last week? Lent is a time when God’s forgiveness lets us make a brand new start. God forgives the wrong things we have done and we try to change our lives and to make a new start.**

- **What does it mean to say that God’s forgiveness helps us make a new start?**  
(You don’t have to feel guilty for the wrong things you have done. You can have a new chance to obey God and do right things without worrying about the wrong you did. It’s like your sin has disappeared forever!)
- **What are some times that kids your age need to ask God for forgiveness?**
- **How do we know that God forgives us?** (We go to reconciliation and we hear the priest say “I absolve you of your sin” (which means I take away your sin – it is forgiven). We know that Jesus really speaks through the priest so we also know that it is Jesus who forgives us. We can believe what we hear!)
- **Going to reconciliation is a great thing to do during Lent. Ask your parents to take you!**

#### **CHALICE AND HOSTS:**

- \* Begin to practice now with kids on how to receive the host and wine at communion. Save a little time at the end of each class to practice. Hosts and chalice are in your large tub. There is no need to put anything in the chalice – kids can just pretend to drink from the cup.
- \* **Tonight and each week from now on, we are going to practice how to receive the Body and Blood of Jesus. It is a great gift and when you receive it, you show *reverence*, or great care and respect. We will be learning a lot more about Jesus in the Eucharist but how we receive Him is so important that we have to begin early learning how.**
- \* **You walk to the altar prayerfully with your hands folded. The priest will say, “The Body of Christ,” and you will say, “ Amen.” You will receive the Body of Christ in your hand. You may also receive the Blood of Christ from the cup.**

Practice receiving with the children. Emphasize that these are UNBLESSED hosts and therefore, not the Body of Christ. Be sure the kids stand reverently with hands folded while waiting to receive. See if you can get the kids to make a short bow before they receive the bread or the wine but don't make an issue of it if they forget. They should hold up both hands to receive and then use one hand to put the host in their mouths. After they say "Amen" they should make the sign of the cross and move to the cup.

The procedure is the same: the priest says, "The Blood of Christ" and children answer "Amen."

#### **IF TIME, MAKE YOUR SHOFARS:**

- **Did you know that in the Old Testament times, the sound of a trumpet reminded the people of their need for forgiveness?**
  - **The trumpets were called "Shofars".** (Show picture of priests with Shofars)
  - **Shofars were made from the horns of rams, but the important thing about them was that when God's people heard a blast from the Shofar, they would think about all the wrong things they had done and they would remember how much they needed God and how important it was to ask for His forgiveness.**
  - **Do you think it's important to remember how much we need God?**
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- \* Give each student a square of brown paper, a party horn and a glue stick.
  - \* Have kids spread glue on one side of the paper covering most of it.
  - \* Place party horn at one corner of the glue-covered paper and roll the paper around the party horn trimming off excess paper at the end where the horn of blown.
  - \* Bend the other end up and hold for a few minutes while glue dries.