

The Bible

Preparation : Before class starts place a Bible on each child's desk as well as the Bible scavenger hunt, Lectio Divina worksheet and something to write with.

1. Welcome and Opening Prayer

Welcome children and begin to learn their names. Children love being seen and acknowledged. They feel special when we remember little details about their days or families so try to get to know them throughout the year.

As children take their seats, ask them to read the Lectio Divina handout on their desk quietly.

Once class starts, have the children do the sign of the cross and pray together. You could do an Our Father and/or Hail Mary and ask Jesus to be present in the class so that they can learn more about Him and His love for them.

Before reading the teaching below, try to engage the children by asking them if they know what the Bible is, have they ever seen a Bible? Have they ever read the Bible? Do they know who the Bible talks about? Children get excited to share their knowledge. And after asking such questions you can give the children an overview of what they are going to learn today.

Overview

After today, you will know what the Bible is and how to look up a passage. You will also learn how to read the Bible in a special way called Lectio Divina which you were reviewing as you arrived.

2. Teaching

How to read the Bible (p. 427 of Faith Fusion)

Did you know the Bible is a collection of many books? In fact, the Bible includes 73 books. These 73 books contain many different types of writing, such as poetry, or instructions and sayings, or history. Of all the books in the Bible, the Gospels have a very special place, because they tell us about the life of Jesus.

All the books of the Bible are organized into two main parts: the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament has 46 books and the New Testament has 27 books.

All the books of the Old Testament are from the time before Jesus. They tell about God's saving work before he sent Jesus to us. The books of the New Testament are about the life of Jesus and about the early Church. They teach us about Jesus' life and

teachings, and that he is the Savior. They also tell us how Jesus' followers shared the Good News of Jesus and helped the Church grow.

Even though the books of the Bible were written by people, God is the author of everything in the Bible. That is why we call the Bible the Word of God.

How to find a Scripture Passage.

Each book of the bible, such as the Book of Exodus or the Gospel of Luke, is divided into chapters. Each chapter is divided into verses. To find a story or passage in the Bible, we use the name of the book of the Bible, along with the chapter number and verse numbers.

Here's an example: Luke 10:29-37

Here are the steps for finding the passage in your Bible.

1. Find the Bible book you are looking for. You can use the table of contents to find the page number where the book begins.
2. Find the chapter in the book.
3. Find the first verse of the passage. To find the verse, use the small numbers in the text. The passage includes all the verses between the two numbers, including the last verse. (In this example, you would read verses 29 through 37).
4. Start reading!

Who can find Luke 10:29-37 and read it to us?

If you are with younger children and this is too advanced, you could do the "creation notebook pages activity" instead of the Bible Scavenger hunt.

<https://www.catholicicing.com/creation-notebooking-pages-free-printable/>

3. Activities:

Bible Scavenger hunt

Depending on the age group, split up children into teams of 3-4 and have them complete the Bible Scavenger Hunt Worksheet. You can tell them it's a race to make it a friendly competition. Remind them to use the table of contents. For the younger children, you could just have

Lectio Divina

Hand out Lectio Divina worksheet and go over the steps as a class.

Next have the children open up their Bible to the following passage: Mark 4:35-41 and use the Lectio Divina steps with the children.

Jesus Calms the Storm

23 Then he got into the boat and his disciples followed him. 24 Suddenly a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. 25 The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!"

26 He replied, "You of little faith, why are you so afraid?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm.

27 The men were amazed and asked, "What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!"

Go through the steps of Lectio Divina with the children emphasizing that the word of God speaks to us. What stood out to them? Can they picture themselves in the boat? How would they feel? What would they tell Jesus? What do they think Jesus would say to them?

4. Summary and Closing Prayer

Summary

Review all that you learned today as a class. Remind children that the Bible is the Word of God and it is a beautiful way to pray. Encourage them to ask their parents to choose a Bible passage to read before bed (you could also reach out to the parents and ask them to do this as an activity or "homework" for the week).

Make the connection from the passage of Jesus Calming the Stormy Sea that Jesus is always with us, and that He wants us to trust Him and that He can do anything!

Closing Prayer

Thank Jesus for the time together and for all that they learned. Ask Him to accompany them during the week and pray for any intentions as a class.

Extra Links to Resources on the Bible for Children:

<https://www.thereligionteacher.com/bible-activities/>

<https://www.catholicicing.com/bible-crafts-for-kids/>

<https://www.catholicicing.com/bible/>

For more information on Lectio Divina you can click here :

<https://www.looktohimandberadiant.com/2020/02/lectio-divina-with-kids-printable.html>