

Grades 3, 4, 5
Session 1

The children's names should be on the desk before you arrive, the parents will be bringing the kids directly to the room so all they have to do is find their name. On their desk they will find their new backpack with their name already on it. If any children arrive without a mask, please remind the parent when they arrive (I will try to keep an eye out too). If we do have a child missing a mask, I will have some spare ones handy in the room.

The most important thing for this session is letting them know who you are and making sure that the kids are comfortable.

After the kids are comfortable and situated, start the class with prayer. By now they should know the Our Father. If they are not able to pray it as a group because they forget how, have them repeat after you line by line. Challenge the kids that are struggling to learn the prayer well. Let them know that we will be praying that prayer at the start of class next time we meet also.

Have the kids get out their Bible which they should have brought with them.

Points to make

- The Bible is a bunch of small books and sometimes letters all in one big book. That's why when we hear the readings at Mass, we hear the the lector say things like "a reading from the book of Mark" or "a reading from a letter to the Colossians"
- It is a long story that tells about God's love for us.
- The books and letters in the Bible have good stories, advice, and lessons that we can use to live a good life.
- The first part is the Old Testament. It has everything that happened before Jesus was born as a human.
- The New Testament is the end part. That is everything after Jesus came into the world to save us from our sins.
- Yes, it is heavy! It is 4.5 pounds.

Hopefully they should know most of this.

If you know some fun facts, this is the place to add them.

- How many books are in the Gospel?
- What are the names of the books in the Gospel?
 - If they don't know, please make them look it up.
- What is the biggest book in the Bible? (Psalms)
- What kind of writing is mostly in the book of Psalms? (Songs mostly written by King David)
- What's the name of last book in the Bible.
- What is your favorite story in the Bible.

Read God's Word

Have the kids turn to page 21 in their Bible.

Read the passages to the kids and take frequent stops to talk to the kids about the passages to make sure they are understanding what is going on. Ask questions to keep them engaged.

Questions for the kids...

1. What was this story all about?
2. Where did we come from? God made us
3. Why did God create the world and everything in it? (He created it for us)
4. Why did God create the Universe? (He created it so he would have a place to put the world that He created for us)
5. Did he create the world for the animals too? (No, he created the animals for us to enjoy, we are his special ones because we are created in God's image)
6. God also gave us a family. Adam and Eve were a family. Who is in your family? (we are all different, but we are all family)
7. God is a family, too. How is God a family? Explain that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are a family who loves and works together. They are all unique but at the same time, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is one God.

Everybody in the whole world starting from the very first people were part of a family. In a family, we learn how to love each other, how to be fair, how to be nice, and how to work together. Has your family ever worked together?

When God created us, he made us part of His family too, to love each other and work together right alongside each other and Him. And since God is so good, as much as we love our families and our families love us, God loves us even more than that.

How do you and your family work alongside God? (to care for our world and each other, in our creativity, in how we love one another)

Have the kids turn to page 22 in their Bibles.

Go over the pages with the kids.

Now let's take another look at the last part of our story and reread Genesis 2:1-4

These verses talk about one of the ways that we are instructed to imitate God. When we see someone we love or look up to doing something good or right, often we do the same thing because it is a good idea. God, who is Good, is showing us that on the 7th day he rested and that He wants us to take a break from our work and enjoy the gifts He has given us, to stop and look around, and to take the time to remember that we are not doing our work alone, that He is with us always.

We know that one of those things that we really have to do on Sundays is go to church, but we are also supposed to take a day off. God knows us best and He knew that we needed that day because it is good for our bodies, good for our minds, and even more, good for our souls.

What are some of the things you and your family do to celebrate the Sabbath?

- Do you go to church?
- Do you go to church online? How many?
- Do you visit family? Who?
- Is there any special thing other than church you always do on Sundays?

If time allows, have the kids take out their prayer books and check out the prayers they should learn this year. They should already have some of these memorized. This is a good time for those kids to show off and encourage the other kids to learn them too.

End the session with the same prayer that was on page 23 in the Bible in the Live It! Section giving Glory to God and finishing with the sign of the cross.