

First Grade: Lesson 1: Jesus Knows and Loves Me

Lesson Objective:

This lesson increases the children's awareness of the personal love of God and His care and providence over their lives. In this lesson, it is important to create an environment where the child can encounter Christ directly.

Meditation on Sacred Scripture will provide an opportunity for Jesus to speak into their hearts and prayer will help them stay connected to Him.

Learning Outcomes: Students will...

- Recognize that God knows and loves him/her personally (Ps 139, Isa 43:1-4, Jer 1:5)
- Encounter the Lord Jesus Christ through experiential activities such as guided meditations using Sacred Scripture and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (Ps 32:8, John 6:35, John 14:26, Heb 4:12)
- Recognize that Jesus wants to be in a relationship with him/her (John 15:9, John 15:16, 1 John 4:19)
- Retell Bible narratives about Jesus and the little children (Matt 19:13-15; Mark 10:13-16)

Materials Needed:

- Prayer space, pencils, bible, select a Prayer Journal page (located at the end of this lesson plan) that you feel is appropriate for your students and have a copy for each child; copy of an activity for students to do while they wait for class members to arrive.

As Students Enter Class:

- Refer to list of opening class ideas such as prayer cards, coloring sheet, or a simple Question of the Day.
- Since this is the first class, consider having students write his/her name on a folded name plate made out of index cards or card stock. Students can use markers, crayons, and be creative.
- Jesus is the Good Shepherd coloring sheet is attached.

Beginning of Class:

1. Since this is the first class consider playing an introduction game. (See your binder for ideas).
2. Go to your prayer space and open class with a traditional prayer, such as The Our Father or Hail Mary.

Lesson Order	Implementation
Lesson 1: Video	<p>Show this video to the class (4.37). This video links how children make friends with other children to how Jesus wants to be their friend.</p> <p>Highlights: Jesus wants to have a relationship with all of us, grownups and children. Reading the Bible (Sacred Scripture) will help us grow closer to God. We will read the Bible during our class time. We also listen to the Bible during the readings at Mass.</p> <p>Matthew 19:13-15 Jesus told the apostles to “Let the children come to me.” Like your best friend, Jesus wants to be your close friend.</p>
The Good Shepherd	<p>This section is 6:16 minutes long. It uses a visual of Jesus as the Good Shepherd that cares for His sheep. The narrator refers to the visual while reading John 10:11-15. She asks thoughtful questions along the way. You may consider stopping the video and having a discussion with students.</p> <p>If you do not want to watch the video, then read John 10:11-15 out loud to students. Having a picture of a shepherd and sheep will help students in understanding who a shepherd is. Consider explaining that in Jesus’ time, a shepherd had responsibilities. (The duty of shepherds was to keep their flock intact, protect it from predators and guide it to market areas in time for shearing. In ancient times, shepherds also commonly milked their sheep, and made cheese from this milk; few shepherds still do this today.</p>

<p>Psalm 23 Guided Meditation</p> <p>Try an engagement strategy during this section to encourage learning and participation.</p>	<p>This is a nice video that has two points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Listen to Psalm 23 being read and watch the pictures that help explain it. 2) There are 40-45 seconds of guided meditation. Consider reading the words from the screen to the children and explain how these words will help them learn how to spend quiet time in prayer (meditation) with God. <p>Follow Up Discussion: Notice the calm voice and music that was played during Psalm 23 and the meditation that followed. How did that make you feel? (Calm, happy, etc...)</p> <p>Why is it important that we spend quiet time in prayer with God? (Try to incorporate today's learning objectives during this discussion time with students).</p>
<p>Intro to the Prayer Journal project</p>	<p>This video is :42 seconds. It explains what a prayer journal is and asks good guiding questions. What is Jesus saying to you today? What does the Good Shepherd mean to you?</p>
<p>Prayer Journal</p>	<p>Catechist and Aide will need to circulate around and help students with the prayer journal page. They can write and/or draw what and who they want to pray for.</p>
<p>The Good Shepherd Game</p>	<p>Read directions ahead of time to understand how to play. The game is set up and ready for you to play in class. Have fun!</p>
<p>Closing</p>	<p>Relate today's learning back to the main question: Does Jesus know me and want to be my friend?</p> <p>Relate/ask questions to reinforce that Jesus is the Good Shepherd and the children are his sheep.</p> <p>Ask the question: What did Jesus say to the Apostles in Matthew 19? (Let the children come to me). Do you see how much Jesus loves all of you? Consider playing the song from YouTube or singing, <u>Jesus Loves the Little Children.</u></p>

Closing Prayer	<p>Gather around your prayer space and recite a traditional prayer, such as the Our Father or Hail Mary. Consider “echo” praying where you say a line and students repeat it. This will help them memorize prayers.</p> <p>Model what you are thankful for learning from today’s class. Encourage students to share what they are thankful for.</p>
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