

First Grade: Lesson 6: The Story of the Nativity

Lesson Objective:

This lesson builds on the previous two lessons to help children learn how Jesus came into the world. The Guardian Angel Prayer is taught in this lesson as angels figure prominently in the Annunciation and birth stories. Children can be reminded that angels are a part of their lives as well.

Learning Outcomes: Students will ...

- Retell Bible narratives about Birth of Jesus (Matt 1:18-25; Luke 2:1-20).
- Recognize the Holy Land as the place where Jesus lived, worked, died and rose from the dead.
- Discuss Joseph as the husband of Mary.
- Recite traditional prayers independently, specifically the Guardian Angel Prayer.

Supplies Needed:

- Prayer space items, Bible, scissors, glue, crayons, brown bags for each student (precut)
- Copies Needed: Guardian Angel Prayer; Nativity scene for each student to make and to use to retell the story of the Nativity. (Cut out the brown bags ahead of class time). See example on the page for guidance.

As Students Enter:

- Consider having them start coloring the Nativity scene page, encouraging them to take their time and to do their best work.
- Another thought, is to have them color a picture of a Nativity Scene or Guardian Angel prayer of your choice.

Beginning of Class:

- Gather students around your prayer space and model a spontaneous prayer to the Holy Family. Thank Mary for saying yes to God and for being Jesus's mother and thank St. Joseph for also saying yes to God and being Jesus's earthly Father.

Lesson Order	Implementation Ideas
Lesson 6 Video	<p>This video is 1:17 in length.</p> <p>Carla reviews that last week we learned about the Holy Family: Mary said yes to God and became Jesus's mother. Joseph also said yes to God and became Jesus's Earthly father. Together, the 3 of them make up the Holy Family. (Holy Family Catechists, consider taking students to the Narthex and show them the Holy Family statute). An Angel announced to Mary that she was chosen by God to be Jesus's mother. Angels were also present at the birth of Jesus, called the Nativity. Ask students if they know that we all have a Guardian Angel given to us by God?</p>
The Holy Family Song	<p>This video is 1:38 in length. It is a Christine in Action Video with Sign Language movements.</p>
The Nativity Story from the Bible	<p>This video is 4:34 in length. There is a manager scene in the background to help students understand the story.</p> <p>Highlights: Carla reads from Luke 2: 1-20. You can show that portion of the video or read it yourself to your students.</p> <p>All the angels sang praises to God in response to the joy of Jesus's birth. In mass we say the Gloria and we say the same words: Glory to God in the Highest. God has a whole army of angels. God wants to love and protect you, too. We all have a Guardian Angel given to us by God. We can talk and pray to our Guardian Angel. We can thank them for keeping us safe. They are intercessors – they can take our prayers to God on our behalf.</p>
Christine in Action Guardian Action Song	<p>This video is 1:05 in length. It sings the Guardian Angel prayer.</p>

The Guardian Angel Cartoon **Consider showing this as the last activity in class, since it is long**	This video is 23:10 in length. It is an EWTN video. The opening (not really needed) is long so you can start the video at 1:48. However, the part about Guardian Angels enters at 3:20 into the video. This video uses time travel, with imagination to go back to the time of Jesus and hear Him talk about guardian angels.
The Holy Land Art Response	Read the directions and make sure you have some pictures from a Bible or Catholic resource book that will help students with this activity. (I tried to find some on line but they were more map- based).
Link to Prayers	This link is to Loyola Press and has many prayers for children and families. For those teaching in person, consider giving students a copy of the Guardian Angel activity; have them draw in a face for their Guardian Angel and encourage them to think about a name for their Guardian Angel. Read the prayer for the children once, then have them echo each line of the prayer, which will encourage them to memorize the Guardian Angel Prayer.
Manger Scene Example	Show students the example of the Manger Scene they are going to make. Make a note of how nicely it is colored and how carefully they need to cut.
Manger Scene Activity	Give each student the two pages and provide quiet time for them to color. As you circulate around the room, make note of the names of the people and the type of animals in the manger scene. Consider keeping up the sample slide so students can use it as an example. Make sure students understand they can use their manger scene at home to retell the story they learned in class.
Closing Activity	Invite students to pray the Guardian Angel prayer with you one more time.