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4th Grade: Lesson 8: What the Bible Tells us About Jesus

Lesson Objective:

These outcomes build on the previous lesson. Children should come to understand that the Gospels are the centerpiece of Sacred Scripture as they are the primary accounts of the life, passion, death, and resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ. When exploring the Gospels in particular, the children should be invited to pray and reflect on the Person of Jesus, His love for them, and the powerful things He can do in their lives.

Learning Outcomes: Students will ...

- Name the four evangelists and identify them as writers of the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John).
- Define the Gospels as narratives of the life of Jesus.
- Cite the Gospels of Matthew and Luke as containing the infancy narratives (Matt 1:18-25; Luke 2:1-20).

Materials Needed:

- Prayer space items, Bible, crayons or colored pencils, pencils, blank paper for opening activity (choice).
- Copies: Bible Narrative Storyboard, Art and Scripture Activity, Journal Page (depending on what you would like to use for students to reflect on).

As Students Enter Class: (Two Suggestions)

- Last week we learned about the Liturgy, gestures, and postures of the Mass. Using a blank piece of paper, encourage students to get creative and draw, write, and color pictures of all the items they saw and learned about last week. Provide time for students who are willing to share at the beginning of class.
- Or consider using the pictures from last week's picture sort and place them in a bag or basket, where students cannot see. Have each student pick one picture and then they can share with the class what they remember about the item or object they have.

At the Beginning of Class:

- Invite students to pray around your prayer space. Have a student pick a prayer for all of you to recite together. Place an intention for the class; such as, Lord, today we offer up our hearts to you and ask for the Holy Spirit to guide our learning today; may we be open to learning about You and grow in our love for You.

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Lesson Order	Implementation Ideas
Lesson 8 Video	<p>This video is 1:29 in length.</p> <p>Highlights: Last week we learned about the covenants in the Bible. The OT had many covenants. In the NT, we learned that Jesus is our everlasting covenant. We enter this covenant with Jesus through our Baptism and when we receive the Eucharist at Mass.</p> <p>Today we will explore the 4 gospels written by Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. These gospels are inspired by the Holy Spirit and contain the narrative (story) of Jesus's life on Earth. While you read and hear the Gospel stories, spend time reflecting. You can write your thoughts on a journal page or a story board.</p>
What is the Gospel Video	<p>This video is 3:31 in length.</p> <p>Highlights: The word Gospel means Good News. The Good News is that Jesus rose from the dead and reigns in Heaven with God. Jesus's resurrection shows that God's love is more powerful than anything else, even death.</p> <p>Jesus is King, a descendant of David. David was a King of Israel that united all the tribes of Israel. Jesus is the new David and the new King.</p> <p>It is not always easy to follow Jesus because we get distracted by other things. However, God wants us to live forever with Him in Heaven and we need to live our best lives by following Jesus and learning about His life when we read and listen to the Gospel.</p>
The Gospels in Song	<p>This video is 1:11 in length. This video is short and drives the point home that Gospel means Good News and the purpose of the 4 Gospels.</p> <p>This is a good time to tell students that the Gospels of Matthew and Luke are referred to as the Infancy Narratives, meaning they cover more of Jesus's childhood.</p>

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The Annunciation	<p>This video is 2:17 in length. Carla reads from Luke 1:26-34. The Annunciation Story.</p> <p>You can listen to the video with your students or read it yourself, inviting students to follow along in their Bibles.</p> <p>Discussion/Reflection: Mary said yes to God. Is there a time when you answered God's call to do something? Think about all the people in the Bible who said yes to God. Moses and Noah from the OT said yes and endured many hardships. Why do you think people have difficult times, even when they are doing God's will?</p>	
The Nativity Story	<p>This video is 3:18 in length. Carla reads Luke 2:1-20, which is the Birth of Jesus. This video has nice illustrations.</p> <p>You can show the video or read it yourself, inviting students to follow along with their Bibles.</p> <p>Discussion/Reflection: An Angel appeared to Mary during the Annunciation and now an Angel appeals to the Wise Men to guide them to Jesus in the Manger. Why does God use Angels to guide people on Earth?</p>	
Feeding of the 5000 and More	<p>This video is 4:30 in length. It is very engaging.</p> <p>Highlights: The video opens showing us where Galilee is located on the globe and the narrator is speaking to us directly from Galilee.</p> <p>She explains why Jesus began teaching people and what led up to the Feeding of 5000. The Bible states:</p> <p>"Jesus had compassion for them because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things."</p> <p>After this miracle, the people believed and said that Jesus is the prophet who came into the world.</p> <p>The narrator then poses the question: Do you believe in Jesus without seeing Him? Because we actually see Him</p>	

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<p>YOU MAY WANT TO PAUSE THE VIDEO AND POSE THIS QUESTION TO YOUR STUDENTS.</p>	<p>every day. Examples: When we see the sunset, a beautiful flower, experience the kindness of a friend, etc...</p> <p>The truth is that Jesus always does amazing things, and you can always ask Him for help.</p> <p>The video encourages students to go ahead and pray to Jesus and ask Him for help. Time is given in the video where music plays but there is no talking.</p> <p>The video ends with the narrator reminding students that Jesus is powerful, He is a provider, and He loves us.</p>	
The Lord's Passion	<p>This is also an animated video and is 4:44 in length. It's a good video to share with students. It is adapted from the Gospel of Mark.</p> <p>Encourage students to find Mark's Gospel in their Bibles and see if they can find the Lord's Passion.</p> <p>Discussion/Reflection: How does the Passion story make you feel? Give students time to write a reflection. Offer sharing time for those who are willing.</p>	
Movement Break	If needed, provide students with time to get a drink of water, use the bathroom, or just do some stretching.	
The Resurrection Video	<p>This video is 3:05 in length. It is animated.</p> <p>Highlights: The classic story of Jesus leaving the tomb and rising from the dead is told.</p>	
Activities	Depending on how you set up this lesson, you may have used some of the options during the class, such as journaling or the story board.	
Art and Scripture Activity	One suggestion, other than writing it out, is to have some volunteers act out the story of the Annunciation.	
Closing Activity	The goal is to present and encourage students to really think about the stories in the Gospels and how they relate to our lives today and what we can learn from them.	

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	<p>Discussion: What stands out to you from the stories we heard today?</p> <p>Why do you think we have the Gospels in the Bible? What do they do for us?</p>
Closing Prayer	<p>Model a spontaneous prayer of thanksgiving, thanking God for giving us Jesus, and the authors of the gospels. May we open our hearts and minds to listen to your word whenever we are reading or listening to the Bible.</p>

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