

Lesson 4



Theme: Giving Thanks and Praise

Learning Objectives:

By the end of this lesson, your child should be able to:

- Identify God's blessing in their lives
- Recognize the celebration of the Eucharist as a great prayer of thanks and praise.
- Relate their understanding of why the Church thanks and praises God.

Key Words

1. Liturgy of the Eucharist
2. Eucharistic Prayer

Materials Needed for this Week:

- Pencil, colors/markers, drawing paper
- Weekly Mass Questionnaire
- ✓ If your child has to miss Mass, please fill out backside of questionnaire and turn in.

➤ **Looking Ahead:** PARENT ED #4 – March 11, 2015

PARENTS: Keep in Mind

Children at this age have a strong sense of spirituality and are naturally drawn to prayer and a personal relationship to God. They WANT to participate in the Mass, so teach them by example.

GRATITUDE ~ THANKS BE TO GOD

God has given us MANY gifts. The Eucharist is our celebration of thanks and praise to God through Jesus Christ.

- Gratitude translates to 'GRACE'.
- People whose hearts are filled with gratitude are often peaceful people. Despite ups/downs, they know that God is with them. They acknowledge that without the presence of God in their lives, they cannot have anything of worth.
- With God's help = good things happen.
- People are called to reach out to others in loving service in thanks for all He does for us.
- Our prayers should be full of praise and thanksgiving.

Preparatory Thoughts:

- When in your life have you felt especially grateful for God's goodness to you?
- What experiences led you to pray "Thanks Be to God" this week?

Daily Prayer:

God, Creator and provider, help me be a model of praise and thanks by never forgetting from whom all the blessings in my life come. AMEN

PARENT & CHILD LESSON 4

****Don't rush ~ a page (or two) a night & you'll easily be done! ****

Developing a weekly routine will help your child feel comfortable and help them learn. Taking time to review the lesson material throughout the week, by repeating key words and prayers, will help them grow.

Day One: Kelly's Worry

Talk to your child how God blesses everyone with special and unique gifts.

- Read the story & discuss the questions in the gold box.
 - ✓ *Practice the Sign of the Cross and Our Father.*
 - ✓ *This week, ask God to guide you to use your gifts to show His love to others.*

Day Two: All Good Gifts

- Before reading the bible story with your child, explain to them that Jesus wanted all people to know how much God loves them and his love is forever.

After done, discuss these questions & those in LETS TALK box:

- Did you like the story?
 - What did you learn from it?
 - What are your favorite words in the story?
- ✓ *Practice the Sign of the Cross and Our Father*.*
 - ✓ *Pray for the people who are in need of someone to help them.*

Day Three: Thanking God

Read and complete Activity box.

Write a simple prayer:

- Begin with a greeting
- Tell where you are
- Tell what you are doing
- Praise God for something
- End the prayer with AMEN

(Example: God, I am in my backyard and looking at the blue sky. I praise you for blessing me with this beautiful day. Thank you and I love you, AMEN.)

- ✓ *Practice blessing each of by making the sign of the Cross on each other's foreheads.*
- ✓ *Think how you can use your gifts tomorrow and do it.*

Day Four: SHOWING THANKS

- Complete activities in workbook and have you child fill out worksheet on Mass order.
 - Check: ANSWER: 1. gift, 2. praise, 3. thank you
- ✓ *Practice the Sign of the Cross and have your child say The Glory Be*.*

Day Five: Wrap Up

- Home & Family activities are optional, but recommended.
- Check out RCL website where there are games and activities with a special section devoted to sacramental preparation: www.RCLBenzinger.com

{*NOTE: If your child has GLORY BE memorized, feel free to move onto whichever prayer needs work: Lord's Prayer, Hail Mary, Act of Contrition.}