

Lesson 1



Theme: Belonging

Learning Objectives:

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

- Recognize that a Sacrament is a special sign of God's love
- Name the effects of the Sacrament of Baptism
- Identify the (3) Sacraments of Christian Initiation

Key Words

1. Sacraments of Christian Initiation
2. Baptism
3. Confirmation
4. Eucharist
5. Original Sin

Materials Needed for this Week:

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

➤ **Looking Ahead:** PARENT ED #2 – Feb 24, 2016

PARENTS: Keep in Mind

To help our children understand that participation in the Eucharist is to become a full member of the Body of Christ, we must focus on the steps taken to achieve this blessing of God's love and strengthening grace. This week's lesson is focused on belonging: How did we come to belong to the Church? Why do we want acceptance, affirmation, and God's boundless love? How is our parish community calling each of us to a life of holiness and service? Remember: *YOUR* celebration of your child's unique gifts, from God, will help them identify and strengthen those gifts to be shared with the world. They will come to see how the Church cherishes each of them too and welcomes their uniqueness. Together, we are the Church - sent forth to bring the message of God's love to all.

For Catholics, Eucharist is a sign of our unity, hope, and peace. Its is one of the three Sacraments of Christian Initiation, which together, are signs of the presence of Jesus in the lives of people of faith. It is not to be taken lightly. Therefore, we will be looking to you to help us discern your child's readiness for the reception of this Sacrament. As we begin this home study, please keep in mind our program goals for our 1st Communicants:

- Awareness of Church's belief about Jesus Christ
- Knowledge of the difference between Eucharist and ordinary bread/wine
- Desire to receive the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ in Holy Communion
- Active participation at Mass
- An attitude of reverence at Mass

I encourage you to keep holy Sunday by focusing on preparing for and celebrating the Sunday liturgy. **How?** On your way to mass, turn off the radio and ask each family member for whom they will be praying for today? Ask them to think of the things that have upset them or that they've done wrong this week, so they can ask for God's forgiveness and guidance. After mass, stay and socialize with other families of the parish!

Preparatory Thoughts:

- How do you experience a sense of belonging in our parish faith community?
- How does Jesus' presence in you nourish you as you go through you day?

Daily Prayer:

Holy Spirit ~ Guide my words in wisdom and my heart in tenderness. / Amen /

PARENT & CHILD LESSON 1

****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 in confidence in their faith.

Day One: A New Family Member

·Reinforce that we are ALL children of God.

- Read the story & discuss the questions in the gold box.
- Discuss the difference between Church (a group of people who share faith in Jesus and worship God together) & church (gathering place to worship)
 - ✓ *Practice the Sign of the Cross and Glory Be. Pray for the people you belong to: your family, parish, friends, teams, and other groups.*

Day Two: Jesus Welcomes Children

- This is a good time to remind your child that these stories come from the Bible, a holy book, containing the Word of God and should always be treated with respect.
- Read the bible story with your child, ask your child to notice what Jesus does.
- After done, discuss these questions & those in LETS TALK box:
 - What did Jesus do when the children came to him? (put in arms & blessed them)
 - Why did he do this? (Jesus wants us to be free to come to him and be loved.)
 - What was Fr. Brian trying to teach Anna's family? (By Baptizing their child, they are bringing her to Jesus.)
- Practice the Sign of the Cross and Glory Be*. Pray for the people you belong to (again): your family, parish, friends, teams, and other groups. NOTE: Did the list grow?

Day Three: Signs of Belonging

- Ignite your child's senses during the learning process. On a table, place some of the symbols used in the Sacraments of Initiation: bowl of water, small dish of oil, grape juice, crackers.

To begin, talk about some of the signs that show your child belongs to your family (eating meals together, taking trips together, taking care of each other).

- Read & Complete pages #12-17.
- ✓ Consider creating a key word notebook (\$1 spiral) to write the lesson's key words for review.
- ✓ Review & talk about Baptism as the sacrament we are introduced into the Church family.
 - *Practice giving each other a blessing by making the sign of the Cross on each other's foreheads & saying, "God bless you."*

Day Four: Wrap Up

- Discuss 'Home & Family' & 'Remember' pages
- ✓ *Practice the Sign of the Cross and have your child say The Glory Be*.*

***NOTES:**

- *If your child has their prayers memorized, keep practicing w/them= good habit to pray together!*
- *In the back of your child's workbook is a mass guide. Encourage your kids to bring it with them and follow along, so they practice the prayer responses during Mass.*