

CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD LEVEL II 2011-12

Summary of Presentations for September 2011

COMMUNAL PRAYER:

Doctrinal Content: Prayer is listening and response.

Direct Aims: To support prayer with the help of a structure and to enrich it with new elements. Three children each week will prepare and lead Communal Prayer Time.

Presentation: The children are shown the format for Communal Prayer, discuss what each element is, and in what order to do them.

- Introductory Formula
- Reading from the Bible
- Prayer Intentions
- A Song
- The Dismissal

Children then sign up and lead the closing Communal Prayer.

At Home: Share a time of prayer together as a family such as riding in the car (being thankful for the day and friends), at dinnertime (food and homes), or bedtime (keep me safe overnight). Create a weekly or monthly ritual of praying together.

WHAT IS THE BIBLE? INTRODUCTION TO BIBLE STUDY

Doctrinal Content: Unity of History as told in the Bible. Unity of Author. Unity of God's Plan.

Direct Aims: To help the child see the Bible as many books, making up ONE BOOK. To help the child see that Bible as a long history, ONE HISTORY. To capture the child's wonder at the amount of care and veneration that has been given to the Bible for generations and generations.

Presentation: In the introduction the focus is on the Bible being a precious book to Jews and Christians. It is a long history that is one history and that history begins at the beginning of all creation. Bible means book, it comes from the Latin word: biblia. A brief description is given of the Old Testament and the New Testament. The first five books of the Bible are called the Pentateuch or Torah (teaching of God) or the "Laws of God." The next 16 books are called the Historical Books. The next seven books are called the Wisdom Books or Books of Poetry. The last part of the Old Testament contains the books of the prophets or the Prophetic Books. In the New Testament, the promise was that a Savior had come. The first four books are called The Gospels. In the book of Acts we learn about the history of the Church. Letters (many were written by Paul) were used to communicate and teach throughout the world as the Apostles traveled, sharing the Good News. The very last book in the Bible is called Revelation. John wrote about what God showed him regarding the fulfillment of his plan until the Parousia when "God will be all in all."

At Home: Show your child the family Bible and ask him/her to show you some of the books talked about today in class.

BIBLE STUDY:

Direct Aims: To help the child learn more about the Bible; an exercise to help the child learn to look up Scripture passages in the Bible.

Presentation: This is a continuation of "What is the Bible" from the previous week. The children can look up a variety of scripture passages and complete a corresponding worksheet.

At Home: Read some of your favorite Scripture passages and discuss them with your children.

HOW TO PRAY THE ROSARY:

Direct Aim: Through praying the rosary, the Blessed Virgin Mary will lead us to a closer relationship with her Son, Jesus, and graces from God the Father.

The children hear background information about how the rosary became one of our prayers. A rosary is shown and explained to the children, and then the prayers are practiced. The mysteries are explored. Then the children pray a part of the rosary.

At Home: Pray a portion of the rosary at home and share what the experience was like. Come to Mass 15-20 minutes early and participate in the Rosary before Mass.