



School and Religious Education Program Invitation

Lesson Plan

Kindergarten

Preparation

Personal Reflection: So that you have a better understanding of the need for and purpose of this lesson, read Archbishop Perez's pastoral letter regarding the *Nothing Compares to Being There Initiative*. It can be found at <https://archphila.org/nothingcompares/> Explore the additional information and links found on the web site.

Children at this level can begin to learn short phrases that are used during Mass and see them as ways of talking to God and sharing God's love with others.

Learning Objectives/Goals

- The students will come to realize that the church is a special place where I can talk to God.
- The students will learn that the Mass is a special way to pray and that they should come to pray at Mass each week.

Activities

1. Project a picture of a church (preferably the parish church) on the screen/whiteboard? Ask the children:
 - a. Do you know what the building is? (a church)

- b. Have you ever been in this building or a building like this? (this will give you a sense of how familiar the children are with the church)
 - c. Do you know what people do in this building? (Responses might include: sing, kneel, talk to God, listen to the priest, be quiet, look at the Cross)
 2. Tell the children that when we sing or talk to God, we call it prayer.
 - a. Review with the children the prayers they already know such as the Our Father, Hail Mary and Grace Before Meals.
 - b. Tell the children that there is a very special way of praying when we go to church. It is called the Mass.
 3. Give them a coloring of Jesus with small children. Tell them that this picture will help them to remember one of the prayers that we say at Mass: *The Lord Be With You*. Tell them that another name for Jesus is LORD. Tell them that when Father says, "The Lord be with You!" and we respond, "And with your spirit!" we are asking God to be with us just as Jesus was with the children in the picture. Invite them to color the picture and put it in a place at home where it will remind them to ask God to be with them. Add this to your daily prayers with the children. Encourage them to ask their parents to take them to Mass so they can practice the new prayer that they learned to say at Mass.
 4. Prepare a stack of sentence strips on colored paper with the prayer on it. During Advent, allow the children to build a chain adding a strip every time they attend Mass and say the prayer. They can also add a link to the chain if they are caught doing a "silent" act of kindness for another showing that they want the Lord to be with that person. The growing chain can be used to decorate the classroom in preparation for the holidays. As the chain grows, their awareness of God's presence in their lives should grow.

The Lord Be with You. And with your spirit!



