

LESSON PLANⁱ

FORMING DISCIPLES FOR THE NEW EVANGELIZATIONⁱⁱ

PREPARING TO TEACH THE LESSON

Topic: A Very Special Birthday

Grade Level: Pre-K

Methodology: Art and Environment

Standardⁱⁱⁱ 4 LITURGY: Understand and celebrate the liturgical rites of the Church as expressed in the liturgy year and epitomized in the Eucharist as the source and summit of Christian life.

Indicators:

PK.04.03 Identify Christmas and Easter as celebrations during the church year.

PK.04.04 Celebrate Christmas as the birthday of Jesus

Textbook: Bible, Luke 2: 1-18

Environment: Set chairs in circle shape with the Nativity Scene in the middle and work table

Materials: “stained glass” coloring page: baby Jesus, construction paper, various colored tissue paper, glue sticks.

TEACHING THE LESSON

Welcome: Greet each student personally with a positive comment. Ask everyone to come to circle and say a prayer with me.

Prayer: Hail Mary

Review: Who is God? Who is the Son? What is Christmas?

Preview: Ask about when their birthday is. What do you like to do on your birthday? What does your family do for your birthday?

Presentation: Slide presentation on TV screen: various stained glass windows depicting Jesus' birth. Ask children the following questions while viewing the slides:

- Who do you see in the picture?
- Who is the baby? (Jesus, baby Jesus)
- Who is the lady? (his mother, Mary, Mother of Jesus)

Table activity: stained glass coloring page: baby Jesus. Have the students color it using the number-color code.

Read the textbook's version of Luke 2: 1-18.

Use the slide presentation again to ask some more questions:

- Who is the man? (in reference to Joseph, if pictured)
- Why have the other men (shepherds, magi) come to visit Jesus?
- Why is there a star in the sky?

Table activity: students will make their own "stained glass" using a black construction paper cut out of a nativity scene and gluing tissue paper on the back for the stained glass effect.

Have the children come to the sacred area where the Nativity is displayed.

Evaluation/Response: Ask questions:

- When do we celebrate Jesus' birthday?
- Why do we go to church on Christmas?
- Why do we celebrate it?

Assignment: Tell the students to ask their parents to display their “stained glass” scene, and to share with their parents about the birthday of Jesus.

Announcements: See ya next Sunday!!!

Closing Prayer: Blessing of a Christmas Manger or Nativity Scene

Lord,
bless all who look upon this manger;
may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus,
and raise our thoughts to him,
who is God-with-us and Savior of all,
and who lives and reigns forever and ever.
Amen.

Evaluation of the Lesson: I would see by the indicators if I had touched on the concepts successfully and revamp my methods if needed.

ⁱ The language used in this Lesson Planning Outline is geared to work with children and teenagers. When using it with adults, you may want to substitute the word “session” for “lesson,” and the word “participant” for “student.”

ⁱⁱ The AMS Archdiocesan Religion Curriculum Guide, Grades Pre-K. to 8.

ⁱⁱⁱ *Forming Disciples for the New Evangelization* is structured around 14 Standards derived from the 4 pillars of the Catechism of the Catholic Church and the 6 Key Elements of Catholic Life outlined in the National Directory for Catechesis, no 20. The 14 Standards are: 1) Creed, 2) Sacred Scripture, 3) Sacraments, 4) Liturgy, 5) Conscience, 6) Christian Living, 7) Prayer, 8) Catholic Church, 9) Ecumenism, 10) Catholic Principles and Relationships, 11) Vocation, 12) Catholic Social Teaching, 13) Inter-Religious Dialogue, and 14) Missionary Vocation. Please see the chart on pages 3-4 of the Archdiocesan Religion Curriculum Guide.