

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Note: Traci Weis prepared this document for www.CatholicMom.com. Please feel free to share and reproduce this document freely, but not to alter its contents in any way. We thank Traci for sharing her gifts to support and encourage those involved in Children's Liturgy of the Word. Please visit www.CatholicMom.com for additional resources to assist you in your religious education efforts. Lisa Hendey, Founder and Editor of www.CatholicMom.com.

Weekly Learning Objectives:

Children will know:

1. the parts of the Liturgy of the Word
2. where the Old and New Testaments are located in the Bible
3. why we stand for the Alleluia
4. why we sing alleluia
5. the four gospels
6. how to find the chapter and verse for the gospel reading for that day
7. how God wants us to live according to that day's gospel

Classroom Activities:

1. "Welcome! My name is _____. Let's get ready to hear the Liturgy of the Word!" Play the music and sing the song:

"The Liturgy Song" by The Dogma Dogs (See <http://www.amazon.com/Songs-Catholicism-Kids-Dogma-Dogs/dp/B00121HUZ4> for a sample of the song.) The song is fast...it would be great to slow it down and definitely to write the words big so all the kids who can read and the teachers can follow along.

Alternate song: "The B-I-B-L-E. Yes that's the book for me. I stand alone on the Word of God. The B-I-B-L-E."

Then mention the parts of the Bible that we use in the Liturgy of the Word: "The Liturgy of the Word comes from the Bible! The two main parts of the Bible are the New Testament and the Old Testament. The first part of the Liturgy of the Word is the first reading from the Old Testament (except during Easter when it is taken from Acts). Then we read or sing a psalm – poetry/songs of concern, prayer, praise. Then we hear the second reading – a letter from the New Testament, and then the gospel – the good news of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ." (Hopefully in time, the children will be able to recite the underlined words!!)

2. "Now it's time for the Liturgy of the Word. This is the time that we read from the Bible and find out how God wants us to live. We will read the Gospel." (*I feel there just isn't enough time to read the first or second readings during Children's Liturgy of the Word AND make sense of them to apply them to the children's lives. So, if you want to drive home one point, why not center every lesson on the gospel?? Above, the teacher mentioned the other parts to the Liturgy of the Word, so I feel that we're covering all the information here.*)
3. "Let's find out what clues to today's gospel are in the Bible bag!!!" (*The "Bible bag" can be as simple as a grocery bag! But it is very exciting for the kids to know that something special is awaiting them in the Bible bag! It's a concrete way to get the kids' attention and get them thinking about the gospel.*)

Possible song: (Tune: "Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush") *Let's see what's in the Bible bag, the Bible bag, the Bible bag. Let's see what's in the Bible bag to find our Gospel clue!*

4. Have someone pull out the item from the Bible bag. "What could this item have to do with today's gospel???" (take suggestions) *See below for more info.
5. "Before we find out if any of your guesses are correct, we need to know from which gospel we are reading today. The Gospels are in the New Testament. Who are the four gospel writers? (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) Today, our Gospel is from the Gospel of _____.
6. Show how to find the gospel: "We go to the New Testament in the second half of the Bible." Show how to find its chapter and verse.
7. "Now, let's find out how the (item) from our Bible bag relates to the gospel! Let's stand to show honor and respect and sing Alleluia to praise God! (Suggested song EXCEPT during Lent when we don't say *alleluia*: "Sing Alleluia, sing alleluia, sing alleluia to the Lord (clap, clap). (Repeat.) Sing His praise. Sing His praise. Sing alleluia to the Lord (clap clap).")
8. "A reading from the Gospel of _____. Glory to you Lord. May the Word of the Lord be on my mind (trace the cross on your forehead), on my lips (trace the cross on your lips), and in my heart (trace the cross on your heart)."

9. Read gospel and show visual, if one is provided (puppet or other picture). At the end of the gospel, say [“Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.”](#)
10. [“So, how does the item in the Bible bag relate to the gospel?”](#) Take answers. Affirm answers.
11. [“Let’s sing a song about it!!”](#) (Possible related song or activity to further imbed learning) (See also all the wonderful links for gospel activities on catholicmom.com!!!)
12. If time, do a profession of faith that states what we believe (Nicene Creed or Apostle’s Creed) and intercessions/petitions (These are the last two parts of the Liturgy of the Word). [“Because God is our friend, He wants us to share our concerns and our thankfulness with him.”](#) The Five-Finger Prayer is a good visual to teach kids how to pray. You can go around the classroom and ask for a few children’s requests on each finger.
 - a. Thumb = Pray for family
 - b. Pointer = Pray for teachers and doctors
 - c. Middle = Pray for leaders
 - d. Ringer = Pray for the sick and dying
 - e. Pinky = Pray for those who are sad and lonely
13. Hand out children’s bulletins (if your church offers them). If there is extra time, have kids start working on them in class.
14. End Liturgy of the Word with a song. Suggested song: [“Jesus Loves the Little Children. All the children of the world. Red and yellow, black and white. They are precious in His sight. Jesus loves the little children of the world.”](#)
15. [“Remember that Jesus loves YOU! Let’s line up at the door to go back to church for the Liturgy of the Eucharist! Line up if...you came with a brother, sister, cousin...if you’re wearing tennis shoes...if you are five years old, etc.”](#)

***Items in the Bible bag could include:**

- A picture or clip art of a fisherman (related to the gospel when Jesus told the disciples to cast their nets on the other side of the boat)
- Shoes (symbolize peace from the armor of God listed in Ephesians)

- A picture of flames or a dove (illustrates the Holy Spirit)
- A shell (for the Baptism of Jesus)

The “Good News” (a.k.a. benefits) to keeping the same format for Children’s Liturgy of the Word every week at every Mass:

1. Kids thrive on routine and predictability.
2. Kids will learn the songs and the learning objectives and be able to participate!
3. Kids will experience better recall and retention because multiple intelligences are engaged. (They will hear, see, say, and move to learn the lessons.)
4. Kids will participate more because they know what to expect in the schedule, song, and activities. (Another way of saying this...predictability and repetition equals less student distractions and wayward attention spans.)
5. Teachers can pick up the lesson plan and use it right away! Minimal planning or prepping required. (The teacher only has to decide what to put in the Bible bag.)
6. Teacher absent? Another children’s liturgist can easily fill in since there is little prep work and the format of children’s liturgy is always the same.

My hope is that the children get a better understanding of the mass and of the gospel to truly live God’s word!

Peace and blessings,
Traci L. Weis ☺
mom and teacher