

Day 1

Materials and preparation:

- ___ picture of Jesus and children to be colored
- ___ a large picture of your family
- ___ a picture of the Holy Family
- ___ Next to each child's name write at least three good things he/she has done

Behavioral Objective

80% of the first grade students will know that Jesus came into the world to show us how to love God our Father and to love one another. Children will demonstrate their knowledge by coloring a picture of Jesus around children.

Anticipatory Set

How many of you know how to swim. I don't mean how many of you know how to get in the water and play; how many of you know how to swim for real? How many of you know how to throw a ball and catch a ball? How many of you know how to ride a bike?

Keep asking questions like these until everyone has their hand raised.

Someone has to teach us how to do these things. Someone: mom, dad, sibling, relative, friend told us and showed us how to swim, ride bike, throw, catch. Did you know there is someone we can visit who will teach us how to be the best person we can be? I can find out how I am supposed to be the best person. You can find this same person and that person can show you how to be the best you -- you can be. I want to introduce you to this person.

Purpose

Children will know that God the Father sent God the Son into the world to show us to love God and to love one another.

Input

Show a picture of a family (your family would be good) Explain role of Father, Mother, Son, daughter.

Let a couple of them tell who are in their family.

Have a picture of the Holy Family.

Now, Jesus has a Father. Jesus' Father is God in Heaven. Joseph is not Jesus' father. Joseph is just the guy who helped raise Jesus after he was born. But, Jesus' Father is God in Heaven. So, Jesus is God the Son or the Son of God. Mary really is Jesus' mom. So, we call Jesus the Son of Man. Jesus is both Son of God and Son of Man. Now, I want to tell you something very different about Jesus. Jesus said to His Father who is God in Heaven that he needed to come to earth and be one of us. You and I, we aren't able to say whether we want to be here. Our parents say that. Only Jesus agreed to be born and come into the world.

Why would Jesus say He wanted to come into the world? Lots of bad things were happening with people. All sorts of fighting on the playground; brothers and sisters not liking each other and

hurting each other at home; classmates picking on one another when the teacher wasn't looking; wars, -- people doing a lot of things with their bodies they were not asked to do with them. Not enough people doing with their bodies what God created them to do. So, the Son of God said, they need a hero. They need someone to show them how to live -- to do as they were supposed to do. So, Jesus came to be one of us. He came to say stop hating each other - stop hurting each other and start loving each other. Start doing things with your body with yourselves that are helpful and good.

How are we supposed to know what we are to do? Jesus says to do what He does which is to Love. When we love each other, we show that we love God. And, to love God is to love one another.

How do your mom and dad show you love? *Let them answer.* When your mom and dad do that they are living the life Christ wants them to live; they are living their vocation. They are learning from Jesus, the teacher how to be the best mom, dad, parent, husband, wife, they can be.

How does the priest show love? *Let them answer --challenge them to go beyond mass and confession.* When Father does these things he is living the life Christ wants him to live. He is living his vocation. He is learning from Jesus the teacher how to be the best priest he can be.

Religious sisters can bring communion to sick people in the hospitals, they can visit with people in their homes or in the hospital. They can come to the classroom and visit or teach. They can come to your sister's soccer game or your brother's baseball game. They can teach you how to serve mass; they can visit people who have done something bad and ended up in jail or prison. They can make and take food to the sick people. All of these are ways of showing love to another person.

When we show love to another, we show love to God. Jesus came to show us that we are to love one another and to Love God. We can only show we love God in the way we treat one another. God the Father, sent his Son into the world to teach us to love God and one another.

Bible: 1 Corinthians 13:1-7

Catechism of the Catholic Church: 2052-2055

Independent Practice

I want you to color this picture of Jesus hanging out with little children. What would you say if Jesus were next to you? How would you behave and act? Remember, Jesus is here with you at all times. While you are coloring this picture, I am going to name some ways in which I know you have shown love to others. I have been watching. I will say your name and then say some ways you have showed love.

Checking for Understanding and Closure

Who is Jesus' Father? Who is Jesus' Mother? Why did Jesus come to this world? What did he want to show us how to do? How do we know if we are doing it or not? How will you show love today?

Day 2

Materials and preparation

- ___ hammer
- ___ nails
- ___ light bulb
- ___ camera
- ___ picture of a nice house
- ___ picture of a ruined house (from fire, storm etc)
- ___ picture of a nice car
- ___ picture of a wrecked car
- ___ picture of a nice boat
- ___ picture of a wrecked boat
- ___ a sheet for each student with good and bad behaviors on it.

Behavior Objective

80% of the first grade students will know that Jesus came into the world as a human being to show us how to be human beings. To love God and to love one another is to be a real human being. Children will be able to look at pictures of things that are bad for us and see ugly faces; and look at pictures of things good for us and see happy faces. They will then have pictures of other things and will draw the correct face next to each item.

Anticipatory Set

Show the children a hammer and ask them if they know what it is used for. Can we use it with these? Hold up nails or can we use it with these? Hold up a light bulb.

If we use a hammer to screw in a light bulb what do you think will happen to the light bulb? So, Hammers are used for nails. The nails hold things together. We put the nails in with a hammer. Often times if we misuse a hammer, we can break something.

Show the children a camera. What is this used for? What if I took it and set it on top of a stack of paper to keep the papers from blowing away. Now, you would say that it works for that reason. Now, what if you saw a whole bunch of bald eagles coming in and landing in the tree right outside the window and you asked the teacher to take a picture of the bald eagles. And the teacher said I can't because I don't have anything to take pictures with. You might ask about the camera sitting on the desk. The teacher might say, no that is used to hold my papers. So you say, I'll hold the papers while you take the picture. That is not allowed because the camera is used to hold the papers. That would seem very weird wouldn't it? The camera, even though it can hold papers so they don't blow away, it is created it is made to take pictures - especially those really cool pictures of things we don't get to see very often.

Today we are going to learn that we are like the hammer and the camera. We can use ourselves for the right reasons - God's reasons and then we are truly being a human being. We can forget

to ask why God made us - forget to pray --- and then do what we want and not really be a human being even though we look like one. Our Catholic school's purpose - the reason we exist and educate you-- is to get you to be a fully human being doing what God created you to do. Let's be a hammer to hit nails, not light bulbs. Let's be a camera to take great pictures, not to hold down papers on a windy day.

Purpose

Children will learn that to do God's will for them is good and makes them truly human and to sin and not do God's will is to make themselves less than fully human.

Input

Hold up pictures of objects. Have the children name these objects. Then, hold up pictures of broken objects (same objects that were already named, might be more helpful) Examples: a ship; a sunken ship/ an automobile/ a wrecked automobile. A house/ a house blown over by strong winds. Etc. which boat, automobile and house would you rather have?

Let's say you made the house. Would you be happier if your house when it was finished looked like this one (good condition) or this one (bad condition)? What if you gave your friend a model and the two of you worked hard to build it. Then, you said, you can have it, but to keep it this way, you have to keep it away from fire, away from water and away from someone who will smash it. If you wanted your friend to keep the model in good shape should he be told how to avoid having it ruined? Would it also make sense to tell him to keep it on a shelf high above people so they couldn't reach up and take it down? Would it make sense to tell him to put it in a protective shield where people could still see it, but they couldn't get to it. Would it make sense that if the owner wanted to play with it, only he could play with it and not a little brother or older sister who might break it?

So if you worked real hard on making something and really liked it and gave it to your friend it would make sense to tell your friend what to do to make sure it did not get broken and what to do to take care of it.

Remember the hammer that was used to hammer nails or to break light bulbs? You are the hammer. Remember the camera that holds paper or takes pictures? You are the camera. You know the person who made the model? That's God. He told you what you the hammer is for -- your for nails, not light bulbs. He told you what you the camera is for - your for pictures, not holding down paper. He told you what to avoid so your model doesn't break and how to take care of the model.

You see, to be really a true human being, God told you who you are. To keep yourself completely human, he told you what to avoid and what to do, just like you did when you gave your friend that model. God created you and knows what you are to avoid and what you are to do to stay the best human being.

Modeling

I have several pictures here, and some of these are pictures of good things and some of them are of bad things for us. When it is good for us, there is a smiley face next to it. We want to be completely human. When it is bad for us, there are frowns and ugly faces next to it. We don't want to be broken or away from God. Let's see, this looks like it is a picture of two people fighting. Since fighting is bad for us, that gets a frown. And, here is a picture of someone walking with a friend. That is good, so it gets a smiley face.

Checking for Understanding

Let's do a couple together.

Independent Practice

Now try some on your own.

Closure

When we do what God wants us to do, we are living as well as we can. We will be happy and healthy. When we do what God wants us to avoid, we are not living as well as we can. We're like that model that can be broken. Let's make ourselves the best model we can be by doing what our God made us to be.

Bible: Jeremiah 1:4-10

Day 3

___ list of students' birthdays

___ Catholic Missourian insert explaining religious significance of Christmas decorations

___ ideas for planning Christ-centered Christmas and Easter parties

Behavior Objective

80% of the first grade students will know that we celebrate Jesus' birthday on Christmas. We celebrate Jesus' death three days before Easter. On Easter Sunday, Jesus returns from the dead. Students will plan a Christmas and Easter party remembering Jesus as the central figure and reason for the holiday.

Anticipatory Set

When is your birthday? (They may not know, so it is important the birthday list is available) What do you do for your birthday? How do you celebrate at your party? What do you do at Christmas? How do you celebrate Christmas? How do you celebrate Easter? What do you do on Easter? *Ask these questions and let a few students answer each one trying to let each student in the class have a turn answering.*

Purpose

First grade children will know that Christmas and Easter are celebrations of Jesus Christ, the one who came to show us how to live. They are not merely secular holidays.

Input

You have a birthday. That is the day you came into this world. You began your life in this world on this day. When you say you are 7 years old, that means 7 years ago, you began your life in this world. 8 years ago, you weren't here. Remember, from yesterday, we said that you were made for a reason and you were made by God? We also said God the Father sent Jesus into the world to show us how to live. Jesus also has a birthday. We all celebrate his birthday every year. What big holiday/celebration is about Jesus' birthday?

It is Christmas! Christmas is Jesus' birthday. It was on that day --what year is it? 2007? Then, 2007 years ago, Jesus came into our world. His Father is our God in Heaven and his mother is Mary. Joseph just helped raise Jesus after Jesus was born. So just like you, Jesus grew up and showed us how to live our lives. Then, because He showed us how to live, some people got mad and they killed him. That is a very sad day for us; that is called Good Friday. It wasn't a good day the day they killed him, but unlike every other person in the world, He did not stay dead. 3 days later he came back to life. We celebrate that day He came back to life. Do you know what day that is? What do we call that special day when Jesus came back from the dead?

Easter is the correct answer! Now, we look back at Friday (three days earlier) and say, this is Good! He came back! So, when Jesus said I will show you how to live, He didn't mean just until we die, he meant forever. When we do what God wants us to do and live the way he wants us to live, we get to live forever!

Now, wouldn't it be nice to celebrate Jesus' birthday? How would you really plan a party to celebrate his birthday? How would you decorate? What would you buy? Why would you decorate with it and why would you buy it?

Teacher: When it gets closer to Christmas, ask the children why things are done and how it

relates to Christ. Jay Nies at the Catholic Missourian occasionally puts this information in the Missourian.

Now that we have talked about celebrating Jesus' birthday, let's look at how we celebrate Christmas. Let's try to make Jesus the center of his birthday.

Compare with children how to make Jesus the center and how to leave him out completely.

Let's think about how we can make Jesus the center of Easter. What is Easter? We did things bad and so he agreed to die for us. Three days later, He came back to life so we could live forever. How do we already celebrate Easter? How do we decorate? What do we buy? Why? Remember, what Easter is about: It reminds us Jesus is going to live forever. It reminds us if we do what God wants, we are going to live forever. How do we want to make a party to celebrate these things?

Let's plan the party. First we will plan his birthday party. Then we will plan his Easter party. *Have party at some point. --maybe the room parties for these two holidays.*

Closure

We celebrate Christmas and Easter every year. Let's make sure Jesus is at his birthday party when we celebrate his birthday, Christmas. Let's make sure Jesus coming back from the dead so we all can live is the reason for the Easter party.

Bible: Luke 2: 8-20

Day 4

Materials and preparations

- ___ A Bible
- ___ Acts 2:22-29 marked and interpreted for first graders
- ___ a sheet for each student of good and bad behaviors.

Behavior Objective

When Jesus lived before he died He showed us how to use our bodies correctly and do what His Father and our Father want us to do. When He Died, He took away all of those bad things -- times we used our bodies in a way God didn't want us to use them. By looking at pictures, children will be able to know if these pictures cooperate with God's plan or if they are part of Jesus' cross.

Anticipatory Set

This (The Bible) is a very big book. Sometimes we get scared of big books because we don't think we can read them. However, sometimes, they are not meant to be read all at once. There are lots of different stories in this one book. These are Jesus' favorite stories. Jesus is the Son of God. God wants to teach us these stories. The more we hear, read and get to know them, the better we get to know Jesus himself. It is important to know Jesus because He is the one who talks to our Father for us. Our Father is the one who knows what we are supposed to do so we can be happy. Wouldn't you like to be happy? If He has the answers on how to make us happy, let's talk to him and listen to him. Every time we listen to stories from the Bible, we get closer to God.

*Read from children's Bible Acts 2:22-39. Make sure it is understandable to first graders: **
MESSAGE: Jesus was human, sent by God, so He was also God. Jesus is both God and human. He came to show us how to live and in response, we killed him. God the Father did not let Jesus stay dead, but raised him three days later. However, he had to leave earth and now the Holy Spirit is with us. If we want to follow Jesus and find our happiness, we must know when we do something wrong, tell Jesus and ask him to forgive us. But, we want to avoid doing sins and keep doing what God wants us to do.*

Purpose

Children will expand their understanding that things don't just make us more human or less human, but also give us happiness by following Jesus and make us less happy by not following him.

Input

From our Bible story we just listened to we know Jesus wants us to be happy. When we do something bad, when we do something sinful, He gives us a way to take care of that. Next year, you will learn more about this in the sacrament of reconciliation --confession. Right now, I want you to know about what is ok to do and what is not ok to do. You know these things already. Let's look at our classroom rules. If we break them, we sin. We do something bad. When we don't follow the rules on the playground, we do something bad; we sin. Our bodies are able to sin, but when we do these sins, we are taken away from God and that makes us unhappy. When we don't do what our moms and dads tell us to do, we sin. There are rules to be followed. These rules are given to us so that when we follow them we can be happy. When we don't follow

them people are mad and sad. Jesus died on the cross for us because he wanted to take away those times when we sin so we can be happy again. I am going to give you situations and you tell me if they make us happy or if they are events that Jesus died for --- if they are sinful behaviors. Either answer part of God's plan if it is good or answer part of Jesus' cross if it is bad.

Checking for understanding

Walking with friends to a baseball game down the street

Playing a game of soccer and missing a goal.

Praying to God asking him what he wants you to do.

Swearing and listening to someone cuss

Punching your brother or sister

Helping your classmate pick up her crayons

(More as needed)

Independent Practice

Next to each picture draw a cross if it is sinful or draw a smiley face if it is part of God's plan.

Closure

Today we learned that when we do good things, we work with God. God is happy and we are happy about ourselves. When we do something bad, we sin. When we sin, we feel bad; we are unhappy. Jesus did something when He was on earth to take away our sins and to make us happy again. He died for us on the cross. We just have to tell him about our bad things; our sins and he will forgive us. What we want to do is to do what God wants us to do and we will be happy.

Day 5

Materials and preparation

___ pictures of famous people from pop culture the students would know

___ teach this lesson right before recess or build recess as part of this lesson plan

Behavior Objective

80% of first grade students will know that when we act as Jesus, we act the way God wants us to act. So, we want to act like Jesus. Students will act out a play with Jesus on their playground. They will know how to act like Jesus on the playground.

Anticipatory set

Find pictures of famous people. Show them and then ask the students how they would feel if these famous people came to their school and played with them for a day at recess. Give them a few examples: Sport star, cartoon character, President. Let them talk about each for a few minutes.

Purpose

Jesus is always with us and is always wanting us to act a certain way - a good way avoiding sin. When we act this way, we do what God wants us to do.

Input

All this week we have been learning about a really important person in our life: His name is Jesus. Jesus came into this world on Christmas - his birthday 2007 years ago. He showed us how to live and to love one another. He knew that sometimes we would not love each other and we would hurt each other. So, He allowed himself to die. When he died, he took away all of our bad things. He took away all of our sins. He wanted to do this because he knows when we sin, we are not happy and He wants us to be happy. So, after He died, He came back to life and told us we could have this life forever with Him if we did what He wanted us to do. Of course, we want to do what He wants us to do because that will make us happy, not sad or miserable. It will make us happy.

Today, like every other day, Jesus is going to go with us onto the playground. Jesus is right here right now because he says wherever 2 or more are gathered - how many of us are here --see, more than two. He says, where 2 or more are gathered, there I am. That means He is with us. We can't see Him, but we know He is here. Actually we can see Him in the good acts and kind things we do to one another. Because that is love and God is love.

Who in our school or in our church always wants us to be thinking about Jesus? Who always talks about Jesus? We see him on Sunday at Mass. Yes, the priest.

If there are sisters in the parish include them too.

The Priest always wants us looking to Jesus in our lives. That is one of the things priests do - make us see Jesus in our lives all of the time.

So, right now we are going to put together a skit. Someone is going to be Jesus. Who wants to be Jesus?

Make sure it's a boy to not confuse the later messages of Jesus and priesthood.

Who wants to be Mary? Who wants to be Joseph?

The rest of you are going to be yourselves out on the playground. Now, we are going to have recess, And, I want you to show how well you can be doing what Jesus wants you to do and avoiding sin - avoid doing bad things.

Bible: Matthew 2: 13-15 & 19-23.

Catechism of the Catholic Church 1655

Teachers, as you watch this, see what happens when they make mistakes but are not doing something sinful and how the children react - and how Jesus, Mary and Joseph react. Can they tell the difference between missing a ball and name calling? Jesus would probably show compassion at the missed ball and respond differently at the name calling. Talk about Jesus' encounters and the students' behaviors after a short recess.

Come in and discuss

Closure

I have a surprise for you! There was no skit and no acting. Remember before we went to recess I said to you Jesus is always with us; when 2 or more are gathered. Just because we called one of our students Jesus, doesn't mean it was different. When you were treating each other so well and including Jesus into the game, that is what you are supposed to do all the time --because you'll get in trouble if you don't? No! Because you are happier and everyone on the playground is happier when you treat each other well and when you welcome each other. If you want to know where Jesus is, talk to everyone, play with everyone and include everyone. You will be with Jesus.