

LESSON 14: I Talk to God



AIM

To help the children understand the importance of prayer as a way of growing in relationship to God

OUTCOME

Learners understand prayer as communicating with God.

WHAT YOU NEED

- * 🎵 *Praise Him or The Love of God Is So Wonderful* (1)
- * Pictures of people depicting different facial expressions and/or body language (optional) (2)
- * 🎵 *Here We Go Round The Mulberry Bush* (6)

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- 1 **Sing a hymn or song** that the children know, such as *Praise Him or The Love of God Is So Wonderful!*
- 2 **Communication:** Let the children think about ways we can communicate with each other. We can whisper, call to someone, talk face-to-face, speak on the telephone, or write letters. We can communicate through body language and gestures, such as nodding or waving. Our facial expressions also tell people how we feel. Let the children use different expressions to show different feelings and let them act out non-verbal gestures, such as beckoning to someone, nodding, or shaking the head. The children should come to the conclusion that there are several ways of 'talking'. We can use various 'clues' like facial expressions to see how someone is feeling.
- 3 **Ask the following questions:** Who do we like to talk to? What do we like to talk about? What do we say when we are given a gift? To whom do we talk when we pray? Lead the children to understand that we like to tell people things and so share our experiences with them. We like to share our good news, our discoveries; express our gratitude. Sometimes we ask questions. We also ask for help. We like people to listen to us. We listen when people speak to us.
- 4 **We can talk to God.** God listens to us. We can talk to God anywhere and at any time - when we are afraid, when we are happy, when we have a problem, when we want to say thank you, or when we want to praise God.
- 5 **Pray together:** Dear God, help us to understand what others are saying and thinking. Help us to feel what they are feeling so that we may be able to love and help them. Amen.
- 6 **Singing:** An action song to the tune of *Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush*.

This is the way we smile and clap,
Smile and clap, smile and clap,
This is the way we smile and clap
Each and every morning.

Add more verses, for example:

This is the way we nod and shake...
This is the way we wave goodbye...
This is the way we say our prayers...
This the way we greet our friends...

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 7 Teach the children the **Sign of the Cross**. Teach them also, using the same sign:
From my head to my heart,
From my shoulder to my shoulder,
I will love you, my God.

When asking children to make the sign as an introduction or ending to prayer, consider that there may be learners who are not Christian. In that case, make it invitational.
- 8 Tell the children that they are going to learn a new word. The word is '**Alleluia!**' This is a word we use to tell God we are happy and that we love God. It is something like the word, 'Hooray'.

Give an example of something you are happy or thankful for and let the children respond with, "Alleluia!" Give the children the opportunity to do the same and everyone responds by saying, "Alleluia!"
- 9 **Play a game** of 'telephone', which illustrates the importance of careful listening. Let the children sit in a circle on the floor. Whisper a simple message to the child on your left who will then whisper the message to the next child, till all the children have been told the message. When the message gets back to you, repeat exactly what you hear. Then tell the children what the original message was. Often the message will get distorted along the way and the end result may be quite funny.

LESSON 15: We Pray Together



WHAT YOU NEED

- * 🎵 *Frère Jacques* or *Sing for Life – The Church* (p.16) (1)
- * A Bible (2)

AIM

To help learners enjoy a number of different prayer experiences in particular those related to Sunday worship.(4.5.1, 14.2.3)

OUTCOME

Learners understand the nature and importance of both individual and communal prayer.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- 1 **Sing** the following to the tune of *Frère Jacques* or teach the following song: *Sing for Life – The Church* (p.16)

Now it's Sunday,
 Now it's Sunday.
 Come with me,
 Come with me.
 Let us go to God's house,
 Let us go to God's house.
 You and me,
 You and me.

- 2 **Listen:** When we go to church, we hear God speaking to us through the Bible. Today we will hear a reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke [17: 11-19]

(As in all such cases, prayer responses should be voluntary. Introduce the activity by informing the learners that this is the way the Gospel reading is done in the Catholic Church and that they are welcome to join in the responses.)

RESPONSE: Glory to you Lord.

Open the Bible at the story of the ten lepers, but tell the story in your own words:

As Jesus was walking along, he met ten men who were very sick. They had leprosy. They asked Jesus to help them. "Take pity on us!" they shouted. Jesus heard what they said and he helped them. And they were all well.

A little later, Jesus saw a man come running down the road. The man's face was all shining with great happiness. He was jumping and clapping and saying over and over, "Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord." Then he threw himself down at Jesus' feet and he said, "Thank you. Thank you."

Jesus looked up the road. There was no one else coming; no one else at all. Jesus spoke to the man and said, "God's love has made you and your nine friends well. You are the only one who has come back to praise God and to say thank you. Go now. God has blessed you."

The Gospel of the Lord

RESPONSE: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

- 3 **Discussion:** Give the children an opportunity to talk about the story. Help the children understand that the man in the story received a special gift. He was now strong and healthy. He praised God and thanked God for his gift. When we talk to God in prayer we also praise and thank God.
 - 4 **Prayer:** Invite the children to gather in the prayer corner.
The Lord is with you. (Extend hands.)
(R) And also with you. (Children extend hands.)
Lift up your hearts. (Raise hands)
(R) We lift them up to the Lord. (Children raise hands)
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
(R) It is right to give God thanks and praise.
 - 5 **Song and Dance:** Give each child a crepe paper streamer. Form a circle and wave the streamers while singing the song.

We say thank you; we say thank you
for this day, and our food
and for all the good things
and for all the good things
that we have; that we have.
 - 6 **Shake hands:** At the conclusion of the dance, let everyone shake the hand of the person on either side, and say, "Peace be with you."
 - 7 **Praying:** Remind the children that praying is talking and listening to God with love. We can pray at any time and anywhere. God always listens to our prayers. We also have special times when we pray – in the mornings, before we eat, before we go to sleep. Sundays are days we pray with God's family. The children will experience the rhythm and routine of prayer each day at school as well.
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ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 8 Pray a litany of thanksgiving. The children respond with, "We thank you, God."

For our friends and family...R.
For our Church family ...R.
For our homes...R.
For children round the world...R.
For Sundays and special days...R.
For doctors and nurses...R.

Children might like to add their own petitions.

LESSON 16: My Body Talks



AIM

To have the learners practise various gestures and movements used in prayer and worship (5.3.2)

OUTCOME

Learner are familiar with ways in which the body is used in prayer and worship.

WHAT YOU NEED

- * 🎵 *Our God Is Good* (1)
- * Action rhyme (2)
- * Cross outlines, crayons, glue, bits of coloured paper (8)
- * Finger rhyme (9)
- * 🎵 *Ten Little Indians* (9)

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- 1 **Sing** a song of praise to God that the children already know. A suggestion: *Our God Is Good*.
- 2 Use the **action rhyme** below to convey the message that we can pray in many ways and to allow all the children to participate. Invite all the children to participate in the actions suggested by the words.

I can pray anywhere and every day
 I can stand and I can kneel
 I can tell God how I feel
 I can dance and I can sing
 I can tell God everything
 Sometimes I fold my hands to pray
 And God hears what I have to say.
 I spread my hands out wide
 And I know God is by my side.

- 3 **Greet the children** with, 'The Lord be with you' and let them respond with, 'And also with you.'
- 4 Invite the children to make the **Sign of the Cross**. Teach them the words, 'From my head to my heart, I will love you my God' as they make the sign.

When asking children to make the sign as an introduction or ending to prayer, consider that there may be learners who are not Christian. In that case, make it invitational.

- 5 Tell or read a **Bible story**, for example, Jesus and the Storm.

Jesus and his friends got into a boat. They sailed to the other side of a big lake. Jesus went to sleep. Suddenly a storm started. The wind blew and the water came into the boat. But Jesus was still asleep. Jesus' friends were very scared and they woke him up. 'Lord, save us,' they said. 'The boat will sink and we will die.' Jesus said, 'Why are you frightened? You should trust me.'

Then Jesus stood up. He spoke to the wind and the water, and immediately the storm stopped. Jesus' friends were very surprised. They said, 'Jesus must be a very special man. Even the wind and the water do what Jesus says.'

The boat sailed on and now Jesus' friends were no longer scared and they knew that they could trust Jesus.

- 6 **Meditation:** We are going to close our eyes and imagine we are in the big storm. You hear the loud sound of thunder. You see the big waves hitting the boat. The sky is lit up by the bright lightning. You feel very scared and you feel your feet getting wet. There is water in the boat and the boat is going to sink. You go to Jesus and you tell him you are scared. Jesus stops the storm. The sun comes out. The water is beautiful and still and the boat is all dry again. You sit next to Jesus. Jesus puts his arms around you. You feel safe and happy. You know that you can trust Jesus. You thank Jesus for helping you.
 - 7 **Sign of peace:** Invite the children to open their eyes and to turn and shake hands with someone close by. We say, 'Peace be with you' and we reply, 'And also with you.'
 - 8 **Art and craft activity:** Give each child an outline of a cross. Tell the children that the cross reminds us of Jesus' loves for us. We often start our prayer with the sign of the cross. We are going to decorate our crosses and we are going to take them home to remind us to pray. Give the children a variety of crayons, glue, bits of coloured paper and let them decorate their cross in any way they think fit.
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ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 9 This **finger rhyme** can be sung to the tune of *Ten Little Indians*. The appropriate number of fingers is shown as you sing. Encourage the children to imitate you. If you do not have the tune, you could recite the lines rhythmically.

I say: 1 little, 2 little, 3 little prayers,
4 little, 5 little, 6 little prayers,
7 little, 8 little, 9 little prayers,
10 little prayers to God.

God hears: 1 little, 2 little, 3 little prayers,
4 little, 5 little, 6 little prayers,
7 little, 8 little, 9 little prayers,
10 little prayers of mine.

(Carole MacClennan. 1993. Learning by Doing. Mystic, CT: Twenty-Third Publications)
- 10 **Prayer before meals:** Before the children have their school lunch, have the children join hands and say this prayer:

Thank you for the world so sweet;
Thank you for the food we eat.
Thank you for the birds that sing;
Thank you God for everything. Amen.

LESSON 17: Signs of God's Love




AIM

To help the learners reflect on a variety of signs of God's love, including those used in liturgy (3.2.1, 5.4.1)

OUTCOME




Learners recognise the meaning of a range of signs used in the liturgy.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- 1 Begin with a **song** about God's love.
- 2 Give out the **worksheet**.  Tell the children that we are going to look at some signs and we are going to learn more about how God loves us. After the children have had a moment to look at the picture, ask them if they can see the road winding through the countryside. Tell them that we are going to use our fingers to walk along the road and we are going to look at each sign and think what it reminds us of. Elaborate on what the children say.
 - The GIFT: What does it remind you of? (Mother's Day, Father's Day, any occasion at which a gift might be appropriate)
 - The BIRTHDAY CAKE: What does it remind you of? (parties, growing up, celebrating)
 - The TRAFFIC LIGHT: What does it remind you of? (being careful, travelling, crossing the road)
 - The HEART: What do you think it is a sign of? (Love - God's love and the love we give and receive from others)
 - The CHRISTMAS TREE: (Tell them that God gave us his own Son, Jesus because God loves us.)
 - The EASTER EGG is a sign of new life. (We celebrate that Jesus is alive! We say 'Alleluia!')
 - The FOOD is a sign sharing food with others. (Sharing food is a sign of friendship. God gives us the food we share.)

Let children think of other signs and what the signs remind them of.
- 3 **Liturgical celebrations** are filled with signs of God's love. Some of these signs are visible and can be touched, like the crucifix, stained glass windows, and the vessels on the altar. Others are visible because we do them, like making the Sign of the Cross, genuflecting, and holding hands together in prayer. Still others are audible - we hear them. As an example, pray a Preface from one of the Eucharistic Prayers, teaching the responses. ⇒
- 4 **Prayer**: Dear God, we know you love us very much. We see signs of your wonderful love everywhere we look. Help us to be signs of your love by being kind to our families and friends.
- 5 Sing a **song of joy**. Some suggestions: *If You're Happy and You Know It* or *Give Me Joy in My Heart* ⇒

WHAT YOU NEED

- *  Song – God's love (1)
- *  Worksheet - Signs of God's Love (2) ⇒
- * Liturgical objects (3)
- * Responses (3) ⇒
- *  *If You're Happy and You Know It* or *Give Me Joy in My Heart* (5) ⇒
- *  Soft music (6)
- * Pictures or paintings of Jesus (7)

- 6 Let the children **colour their pictures**. Play soft music and tell the children to think of these signs that tell us of God's love.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 7 **Jesus is the greatest sign of God's love:** Show the class pictures of Jesus. Choose one and use it to tell the story and to show how Jesus is a sign of God's love. Examples of pictures - Jesus with the children, Jesus telling stories, Jesus with his friends, Jesus celebrating, Jesus at prayer. Let the children say what they think is happening in the pictures. Discuss the pictures with the class. Tell the children that Jesus did things that show God's love. We too, can do loving things that show God's love.
- 8 Let the children thank God for **people in their lives** that show God's love for us.

MATERIALS

GIVE ME JOY IN MY HEART

Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising,
Give me joy in my heart I pray.
Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising,
Keep me praising till the end of day.

Sing hosanna! Sing hosanna!
Sing hosanna to the King of Kings!
Sing hosanna! Sing hosanna!
Sing hosanna to the King!

RESPONSES BEFORE THE PREFACE

C The Lord be with you.
R And also with you
C Lift up your hearts.
R We lift them up to the Lord.
C Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
R It is right to give him thanks and praise.

C=celebrant, R=peoples' response

Signs of God's Love



LESSON 18: Being Together



AIM

To help the children understand their need for one another in daily life, and to provide some ways of expressing this need (3.2.1, 7.3)

OUTCOME

Learners show their need for one another by participating willingly in group activities.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- 1 The idea of the lesson is to provide enjoyable activities which reinforce the idea that we do things together. **Play any game** where all the children take part and which involves singing and movement, like skipping. An example of such a game might be *Ring o' Roses*. "What did we do? How do you feel? Was it fun? We have fun playing together. God gives us friends so that we can share time together."
- 2 **Let the children work together** in some co-operative group activity, such as making a collage. Have pictures available of people working, playing, singing, helping, fixing, listening, and eating together, and any other examples showing people actively engaged in doing things together.
- 3 **Let the children pray together.** Invite the children to gather around the prayer table. Open the Bible and say, "God tells us that it is great to have good friends." [Sirach 6:14-15]. Close and replace the Bible on the prayer table. Say: "A friend is someone you can talk to. God is our friend. We talk to God when we pray." Pray the following prayer together:

Thank you, God, for giving me friends. Help me to share my time with them. I like to... with my friends. Encourage the children to complete the sentence by mentioning activities they enjoy doing together.
- 4 **Singing a song together.** Choose a song that has movement and gesture. Percussion instruments may be added, if this is appropriate. Here is a suggestion: *Friends Are Like Flowers*.
- 5 **Listen to a story together.** Tell the story of Jesus visiting Mary and Martha. [Luke 10:38-41] Begin by saying: "Sometimes we need to stop being busy, make ourselves quiet, so that we can be with Jesus and listen to what he is saying to us."
- 6 **End with a song,** or let the children repeat the following: Thank you, Jesus, for being my friend, Thank you, Jesus, for listening to me. A suitable song might be *Our God Is Good*.

WHAT YOU NEED

- * Pictures of people doing things together (2)
- * Large sheets of paper, pairs of scissors, glue (2)
- * Bible, candle, prayer table (3)
- * 🎵 *Friends Are Like Flowers* (4)
- * Percussion instruments (4)
- * Bible (5)
- * 🎵 *Our God Is Good* (6)
- * 🎵 *Circle of Friends* (8)

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 7 **A chain of friendship:** The teacher says, “Being a friend is sharing. What can you share?” The first child responds, “I can share...” and links arms with the next child. Say to the next child, “Being a friend is asking someone to play. Who can you ask to play?” The child responds, “I could ask ...to play,” and then links arms with the next child. Continue the ‘friendship chain’ activity with the other children by asking similar questions, till all the children have linked arms. End by saying a prayer: “Dear God, please help these children to share their time with others. Bless them as they show love and friendship to each other. Amen.”
- 8 A **song** that goes well with the chain of friendship activity is *Circle of Friends*.

LESSON 19: Sundays Are Special Days



AIM

To develop in the children an understanding that Sunday is a special day of celebration for the Christian Church, and to give them an opportunity to participate in related activities. (3.4.3, 5.2.2)

OUTCOME

Learners understand Sunday as a day for gathering as God's family.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- 1 **Song:** Begin with a song such as *God Is Building a House*. We join Jesus, the head of God's household, to give praise and thanksgiving. Alternatively, closer to the theme of the lesson is *Sing for Life – The Family Tree Song* (p.9).
- 2 **Introduction:** We belong to a family. Let the children say a little about their families. Talk about Sundays. Ask the children to share what they do on Sundays. We share meals. We talk to each other. We might sing. We listen to others. We greet people who come to our homes. (If there are Jewish or Muslim learners in the class, invite them to say something about what they do on their special day – Friday (Muslims) or Saturday (Jews).)
- 3 **We also belong to God's family.** The people of God's family come together in church. Let the children say what we generally do in church. Tell the children that when we go to church we pray, we sing, we listen, we shake hands, and we celebrate God's love. Explain each of these.
- 4 **Gather the children round the prayer table.** The children now learn by doing. (If there are learners of other faiths in the class, invite them to participate.)
 - We **bless ourselves** with holy water at the entrance of the church. This reminds us that we are part of God's family. We try to love others.
 - We **genuflect** before we sit down. This is our sign of love and respect for God. Let the children practise genuflecting.
 - We can **pray** quietly before the Mass begins. Light a candle and let the children close their eyes and talk to God.
 - We **sing** songs of praise. Let the children stand and sing a song of praise.
 - We **listen** to God's word. Open the Bible [Matthew 18:20] and tell the children that Jesus said that when two or three come together to pray, he would be there also. Explain this to the children. Jesus is with us when we celebrate God's love for us. Jesus' Spirit of love is all around us and helps us to be kind to others.
 - We **say the Our Father**.
 - We **shake hands** and smile and say, 'Peace be with you'.
 - We **make the Sign of the Cross** when the priest blesses us.
 - We **leave the church** happy that God loves us. God helps us to be kind to other people.

WHAT YOU NEED

- * 🎵 *God Is Building a House* or *Sing for Life – The Family Tree Song* (1)
- * Pictures of the interior of a church (optional) (3) (4)
- * Prayer table or prayer area, Bible and candles (5)
- * 🎵 *Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush* (5)
- * Prepared circles for making a flower, scissors, crayons, sticking tape (7)
- * 📖 Echo pantomime (8) ⇨

GRADE R

- 5 Sing an **action song** to the tune of *Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush*
- This is the way we go to church...
This is the way we sing in church...
This is the way we pray in church...
This is the way we shake hands
-

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 6 Take the children on a **tour of the church**. Talk about the different areas and objects in the church. Let them sit quietly and remember that God is present. Before leaving the church, pray: "Thank you, God, for the church where we can come and pray to you. We can listen to stories. We can sing together, and we can shake hands. We are happy to be your children and to belong to your family. Amen."
- 7 **We celebrate God's Love:** Make a flower using six circles.
- The middle circle says 'God'.
 - A picture of a Bible for 'listen'.
 - Hands for 'pray'.
 - Picture for 'sing'.
 - Picture for 'making peace'
 - Picture for 'me'
- Give the children the prepared circles. The children cut out the circles, colour them and tape them to form a flower.
- 8 If this lesson occurs around the feast of Pentecost, celebrate with the **echo pantomime** found on the worksheet. 📖 ⇒

Pentecost

AN ECHO PANTOMIME

An echo pantomime is a creative dramatic exercise in which the children repeat the lines of the story after the teacher. They imitate the teacher's actions and voice inflexions in an uninhibited way. **Ahead of time**, let the children make flames which they can use during the story dramatisation. Tell the children that the flames were a **sign** that the Holy Spirit had come to the apostles. The wind was another **sign**.

Jesus is alive! Alleluia!

Raise hands above head to show joy.

Jesus tells his friends to go Jerusalem and wait.

Point, indicating Jerusalem.

He promises to send them a helper.

Point to self and then towards others.

They are afraid.

Draw arms towards body in a cowering manner.

They lock all the windows and doors.

Mime closing and locking a door.

And they wait.

Stand still and move only eyes.

They hear something.

Cup ears as if listening.

It sounds like the wind.

Look of amazement.

They hear the wind going right through the house.

Sway as if being blown by the wind.



They look at each other.

Turn to the left and the right.

They see a strange sight.

Rub eyes, wonderingly.

They see what looks like flames above each one's head.

Hold up flames. Look of amazement.

Suddenly all is quiet again.

Now they are not afraid.



They are filled with courage and strength.

Hold arms out as if flexing muscles.

Do you know who made them brave and strong?

Shake head.

It was the Holy Spirit.

Nod vigorously.

They unlock the doors.

Mime action.

They go outside.

Stride purposefully.

They see many people.

Look around, hand shading eyes.

They start telling them about God's love.

Mime talking and gesturing to a crowd.

They tell them about how Jesus loves everyone.

Using two hands make a heart-shape.

They tell the people the Good News!

Smile and mime talking.

The Holy Spirit helps us too.

Point to yourself.

We know the Holy Spirit is with us when we pray and when we are loving and kind.

Fold hands for prayer.

Holy Spirit help us today

To live and love in Jesus' way.

Make the Sign of the Cross and fold hands.

Amen, Amen.

Fold hands, nod twice