

Joyful Catholic Families

Lesson #3 – The Ten Lepers, More on the Mass, & Advent Chain

Explain leprosy:

I'm going to read you a story. The men in this story have leprosy.

- There was no medicine for leprosy.
- Leprosy easily spread from person to person.
- If someone became sick with leprosy, they had to leave their families and go live with other people who had the disease.
- The leprosy would make their skin turn white and eventually they would lose their fingers and toes.

Read “The Man Who Said, ‘Thank You’” (Read-Aloud Bible Stories, Vol. 1)

After reading the story, ask:

Why did the man go back to Jesus? (to thank Him)

Have you ever forgotten to say thank you?

How do you think Jesus felt when only one man came back and thanked him?

- Happy that the man remembered to thank him
- Sad that the others didn't remember

Do you think Jesus likes to be thanked when he does something? Yes, He does!

Sometimes we don't even think about all the good things that God gives us. It is easy to forget just like the nine men in the story.

There is always something we can thank Jesus for.

Hold up a piece of colored paper (i.e., orange).

- Ask what we can thank God for that is “orange”.
- Repeat with the other colors.

Children help retell the story:

[\(click here for a post with more information and a PDF pattern\)](#)

Now I'd like for you to help me tell this story. (Use the ten lepers puppets.) (Ask the children what happens next.)

Give the children a set of ten lepers puppets and have them tell the story to their parents.

Color the puppets.

Play Musical Chairs Thank You Game

- Place the same amount of chairs in the center of the room as you have children.
- On all of the chairs tape a piece of construction paper – use as many different colors as you have.
- Play some music and have the children walk around the chairs.
- When the music stops all the children should find a seat.
- The children say something they are thankful for that is the color of the construction paper on their chair. For example, if a child sits on a seat with an orange sheet of paper, he must think of something orange that he is thankful such as a pumpkin, orange, orange paper, orange crayon, orange paint, etc.
- When the parents also ask some of the children what they are thankful for, it goes much faster.

Review items from lesson #2:

Put these items or a large picture of the item in a gift bag. Take out the items one at a time. Ask the children the name of the item.

- **Cruet:**
 - What are in the cruets at Mass? (water and wine)
- **Altar servers:** Altar servers help the priest during Mass
- **Roman Missal:** The book that contains the priest's prayers for Mass
- **How many times did you see Fr. Wesley standing with an altar server holding the Roman Missal for him?**
 - When was he doing this? (Opening prayer and Closing prayer)

New Items:

(Look at the bottom of [this post](#) for the pdf of the large pictures used in this lesson.)

Let the children hold and/or touch as many of these items as possible:

- **Altar:**
 - What is on the altar at Mass? (chalice, paten, purificator,...)
- **Ambo:**
 - Where the priest and lector read the readings from.

We use two big books at the ambo during Mass.

- **Lectionary:**
 - Has all the readings read at Mass.
 - The readings are read at the ambo.
 - Let the children hold the lectionary.
- **Book of the Gospels:**
 - Has the Gospel readings.
 - The priest reads the Gospel readings at the ambo.
 - Let the children hold the Book of the Gospels
- **There are 3 times that Father kisses something during Mass.**
 - When does Father kiss something during Mass?
 - Kissing the altar – at the beginning of Mass before he goes to his chair
 - Kissing the book of the gospels – after proclaiming the gospel -- priest says, "Through the words of the Gospel may our sins be wiped away."
 - Kissing the altar – at the end of Mass
 - Why do you think Father kisses the altar and book of the gospels?
 - To show respect
 - The altar is where the bread and wine become Jesus' body and blood
 - The Book of the Gospels contains Jesus' words
 - This month especially watch for when Father kisses the altar and book of the gospels

If you have time, go to the church to see the ambo and altar.

Advent Chains:

[\(click here for a post with more information and a PDF pattern\)](#)

Show and explain Advent chain while sitting on floor with me. Have the children go back to parents to make their chains.

Before our next class, we are going to begin a new Church year. Our church year begins on the First Sunday of Advent.

What is Advent? (A time to prepare to celebrate Christmas)

What do we celebrate at Christmas? (Jesus' birthday)

We are going to make an Advent chain to help you be ready to celebrate Christmas. (Show chain.)

Each day of Advent you will take off one link from the chain and read it.

Hand out Advent chain papers, scissors, and glue sticks.

Each child makes a chain with his/her parents.

(Have Wal-Mart bags to put finished chains in.)

Hand out:

- Home lessons
- Pages for Mass books

Stickers:

- Give each child a sticker as they leave.

Supplies:

Nametags & Permanent markers
Prayers for prayer rings
Home lessons
Snack
Plates, napkins, water & glasses
Stickers (for each child at the end of class)

New pages for the children's Mass booklets: (find the Mass booklet pages in [this post](#))

- Ambo
- Altar
- Lectionary
- Book of the Gospels
- Kissing the altar
- Kissing the Book of the Gospels
- Kissing the altar

Gift bag with these items in it:

- Cruet
- Pictures of:
 - Altar servers
 - Roman Missal
 - Opening and closing prayer

Gift bag with these items in it:

- Lectionary
- Book of the Gospels
- Pictures of:
 - Altar
 - Ambo
 - Kissing the altar – beginning of Mass
 - Kissing the Book of the Gospels
 - Kissing the altar – end of Mass

Read-aloud Bible Stories by Ella K. Lindvall -- Volume 1
Ten lepers puppets – one set for each child & the teacher
Crayons

Pieces of colored paper to use in class and to tape to chairs for musical chairs game
Tape
Children's chairs
CD player
Music CD
Extension cord

Advent chain papers
Stars for Advent chains
Glue sticks
Scissors
Staplers
Walmart bags to carry chains home