

2019-20 Elementary Lesson Guides

Grade 1 – Catechist Guide

Text: Finding God: Our Response to God's Gifts

Finding God Resources: There are also Black-Line Masters in the back of each teacher manual that you can use to reinforce the chapter at the beginning or the end of class. There are also CDs with songs and readings suggested for each lesson. There is an easel of Art prints for every grade level which are referenced in every chapter.

Date	Lesson	Focus
9/7	Open House and Mass	Open House 9:30 Session 1 10:00 Mass Open House 11:00 Session 2
9/14	<i>Unit 1: God Loves Us</i> <i>Unit Saint: St. Francis of Assisi</i> Chapter 1: God Made Everything Make nametags Pass out books and folders	Theme: God is the Creator and loves all that He created. Gathering/Opening Prayer ENGAGE (pgs. 1-3) God Loves Us St. Francis God Made Everything Prayer of Petition (bottom of p. 3) EXPLORE (pgs. 4-7) God is the Creator God Makes Good Things Reading God's Word Take Care of Our World Helping Others Meet a Saint (St. Vincent de Paul) REFLECT (p. 8) Prayer ("Sign of the Cross") RESPOND (pgs. 9-10) Living My Faith Prayer (p. 9) My Response Tear out "Raising Faith-Filled Kids" page for students to take home Closing Prayer and Blessing
__9/21__	Chapter 2: God Cares for Us	Theme: God loves us and wants nothing but the best for us. ENGAGE: Story (being the new person in a group); Short prayer on p. 11. EXPLORE: Showing God's Love (soccer scenario); Link to Liturgy (prayerful hands – refer to "Amen" photo on p. 8); God's Perfect World (Genesis 1:29 on p. 14); Showing God We Care (Mass and Liturgy); Reading God's Word (Scriptural Prayer: Psalm 27:13 on p. 15). REFLECT: Practice prayerful hands and "Sign of the Cross" RESPOND: Living My Faith (Words I Learned); Prayer (p. 17)
9/28	Chapter 3: God Is Our Father	Theme: Jesus tells us that God is His Father and our loving Father too. ENGAGE: Story (birthday celebration); Short prayer on p. 19. EXPLORE: A Special Message (birthday card); God's Message is in

		<p>the Bible; Link to Liturgy (praising God for His messages in the Bible by saying “Thanks be to God” and “Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ” during Mass); God Gave Us His Son (Matthew 3:17 on p. 22); At Home With Jesus (drawing a picture of Jesus in your home); Reading God’s Word (Scriptural Prayer: John 14:23 on p. 23).</p> <p>REFLECT: Listen to Recorded Guided Reflection “God’s Special Child” (CD 1, Track 6)</p> <p>RESPOND: Living My Faith (Words I Learned); Prayer (p. 17)</p>
10/5 & 10/12	NO CLASS	Columbus Day
10/19	<p>Chapter 4: God Gives Us Peace</p> <p>Chapter 5: Unit Review</p>	<p>Confirmation for Grade 8</p> <p>Theme: The Holy Spirit is God’s presence among us.</p> <p>ENGAGE: Discussion (friends help us feel good/feeling peaceful); Short prayer on p. 27.</p> <p>EXPLORE: A Gift of Peace (John 20:19-22 on p. 28); How Can You Bring Peace? (ALL of the people in the world are our brothers and sisters); Reading God’s Word (Ephesians 6:23 on p. 29); All Are One (Trinity); Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (color the spaces that have dots); Did You Know? (Look at picture of St. Francis on pg. 1 – how can we also be peacemakers?).</p> <p>REFLECT: Praying “Glory Be to the Father” and “The Sign of the Cross.”</p> <p>RESPOND: Living My Faith (Words I Learned); Prayer (p. 33); My Response (pass out paper for drawing ways we can help someone who is upset).</p>
10/26	Seasonal Sessions:	All Saints Day. In Back of the Textbook.
11/2	NO CLASS	Fairfax County Holiday
11/9	Chapter 7: Jesus Teaches Us	<p>Theme: Jesus taught us how to pray to our Father as He prayed</p> <p>ENGAGE: Story (parental love); Thinking about our own families; Short prayer on p. 51.</p> <p>EXPLORE: Jesus Prayed to God (Lord’s Prayer, first half); Reading God’s Word (Luke 6:12 on p. 52); Being Kind to Others.</p> <p>REFLECT: Pray the first half of “Our Father”; Listen to “Our Father” (CD 2, Track 5).</p> <p>RESPOND: Living My Faith (Words I Learned); Prayer (p.57); My Response (pass out paper for drawing ways we can serve the Kingdom of God at school).</p>
-----11/16	Chapter 8: Trust in God	<p>-----Theme: Jesus taught us that God wants to know our needs.</p> <p>ENGAGE: Pictures (needs vs. wants); Short prayer (p. 59).</p> <p>EXPLORE: The Lord’s Prayer (second half); Link to Liturgy (praying the Lord’s Prayer at Mass); Story (saying we are sorry); Reading God’s Word (Luke 12:32 on p. 63).</p> <p>REFLECT: Pray the entire “Our Father”; Listen to “Our Father” (CD 2, Track 5).</p> <p>RESPOND: Living My Faith (Words I Learned); Prayer (p.65); My Response (pass out paper for drawing ways we can show God that we can be trusted)</p>

11/23		
	Chapter 23: Jesus Loves Families Seasonal Session: Advent	Theme: Jesus has given our parents to us, and we are called to honor and obey them ENGAGE: Pictures (obeying our parents); Thinking about the rules in our families; Short prayer (p. 179). EXPLORE: Jesus Obeyed His Parents/Finding in the Temple (adapted from Luke 2:41-51 on p. 180); You are a special gift to your parents; Reading God's Word (Exodus 20:12). REFLECT: Evening Prayer (p. 184). RESPOND: Living My Faith; Prayer (p.185); My Response (pass out paper for drawing how we can ask God to bless our parents). See back of textbook
11/30	NO CLASS	Thanksgiving
12/7 + 12/14	Chapter 6: God Sends Jesus Seasonal Sessions: Christmas Lessons and Carols	Theme: Jesus was born in Bethlehem. ENGAGE: Story (St. Joseph); Thinking about our own families; Short prayer (p. 43). EXPLORE: Jesus is Born (the Nativity story); Shepherds Visit Jesus; Reading God's Word (Luke 2:19-20 on p. 46); The Holy Family. REFLECT: Listen to Recorded Guided Reflection "Loving Jesus" (CD 1, Track 7) RESPOND: Living My Faith (Words I Learned); Prayer (p. 49); My Response (pass out paper for drawing ways we can welcome Jesus into our hearts). See Back of Textbook TBD
12/21 12/28 1/4	NO CLASS NO CLASS NO CLASS	Christmas Vacation Christmas Vacation New Years
1/11	<p>-----</p> <p>-</p> Chapter 13: Jesus Teaches Us to Share	<p>-----</p> <p>-----Theme: Jesus calls us to share His love. ENGAGE: Pictures (sharing with others); Thinking about ways we can share with others; Short prayer (p. 99). EXPLORE: After Pentecost (adapted from Acts 2:42-47 on p. 100); We are Christians; Reading God's Word (adapted from Philippians 2:18 on page 101); Our Catholic Church; Who are our neighbors?; Link to Liturgy (Sign of Peace during Mass). REFLECT: Prayer (p. 104) RESPOND: Living My Faith (Words I Learned); Prayer (p.105); My Response (pass out paper for drawing ways we can share our love)</p>
1/18 and 1/25	NO CLASS	Martin Luther King Holiday and Fairfax Co Holidays

2/1	Chapter 12: Jesus Sends the Holy Spirit	<p>Theme: The Holy Spirit gives us gifts of peace, strength, and joy.</p> <p>ENGAGE: Pictures (surprises); Thinking about nice surprises we could do for others; Review of Holy Spirit; Short prayer (p. 91).</p> <p>EXPLORE: Pentecost story (adapted from Acts 2:1-4 on page 92); The Holy Spirit brings courage; Reading God's Word (Galatians 5:22 on p. 93); The Holy Spirit is always with us; Our Parish.</p> <p>REFLECT: Listen to "Come, O Holy Spirit/Wa Wa Wa Emimimo" (CD 2, Track 9); Review "Sign of the Cross."</p> <p>RESPOND: Living My Faith (Words I Learned); Prayer (p.97)</p>
2/8	Chapter 19: Listening to Our Father	<p>Theme: When we pray, we are listening and talking to God.</p> <p>ENGAGE: Pictures (quiet times); Thinking about quiet places for listening to Jesus; Short prayer (p. 147).</p> <p>EXPLORE: Elijah (adapted from 1 Kings 19:9-13 on p. 148); Reading God's Word (John 6:45 on p. 149); Praying to God.</p> <p>REFLECT: Meditative prayer (p. 152).</p> <p>RESPOND: Living My Faith (ways of being like Jesus); Prayer (p.153); My Response (pass out paper for drawing where we can have a "quiet place.").</p>
2/15& 2/22	No Class	<p>President's weekend</p> <p>OLGC Basketball Tournament</p>
2/29	<p>Seasonal Sessions:</p> <p>Lent</p> <p>Chapter 9: Jesus Rises From the Dead</p>	<p>See Back of Textbook</p> <p>Theme: Jesus rose from the dead, making new life possible.</p> <p>ENGAGE: Story (finding something you lost); Short prayer (p. 67).</p> <p>EXPLORE: Jesus is Risen; Listen to Recorded Scripture Story of Matthew 28:1-10 (CD 1, Track 2). Reading God's Word (Matthew 18:20 on p. 69); Define Christ, Resurrection/Easter.</p> <p>REFLECT: Prayer (p. 72); Listen to song "This is the Day" (CD 2,)</p> <p>RESPOND: Living My Faith (Words I Learned); Prayer (p. 73); My Response (pass out paper for drawing times when you might need to talk to Jesus; OR draw picture or write note to surprise a family member)</p>
3/7	Chapter 11: Following Jesus	<p>Theme: Jesus gives us the Church as a sign of his love for us and for the whole world.</p> <p>ENGAGE: Story (St. Peter); Thinking about our own friends; Short prayer (p. 83).</p> <p>EXPLORE: Friends and Followers of Jesus; Reading God's Word (John 15:14 on p. 85); The Church/Our Church; Meet a Saint (St. Michael).</p> <p>REFLECT: Meditative Prayer (p. 88)</p> <p>RESPOND: Living My Faith (Word I Learned); Prayer (p. 89) My Response</p>
3/14	NO CLASS	1st Eucharist Retreat for 2nd Grade
3/21	NO CLASS	Live Jesus!
3/28	Chapter 16: Jesus in	-Theme: Jesus is with us in a special way through the

	our Lives	<p>sacraments.</p> <p>ENGAGE: Story (St. Dominic Savio); Thinking about how we can show our love for God and others; Short prayer (p. 123).</p> <p>EXPLORE: Jesus and the Children (adapted from Mark 10:13-16 on p. 124); Signs that Jesus loves us (the Sacraments); Priests share signs of Jesus' love; Reading God's Word (adapted from Psalm 34:9 on p. 127).</p> <p>REFLECT: Listen to Recorded Guided Reflection "Jesus and the Children" (CD 1, Track 9).</p> <p>RESPOND: Living My Faith (Words I Learned); Prayer (p. 129); My Response (pass out paper for drawing ways we can show signs of love this week.)</p>
4/4 & 4/11	NO CLASS	Holy Week and Easter Sunday
4/18	<p>Chapter 14: God Chose Mary</p>	<p>Theme: Mary, the mother of Jesus, loves and prays for us.</p> <p>ENGAGE: Story (new neighbor); Thinking about ways to make someone else happy; Short prayer (p. 107).</p> <p>EXPLORE: Visitation story (adapted from Luke 1:26-38 on p. 108); God gave Mary the gift of grace; Reading God's Word (Luke 1:48, p. 110); Mary, the Mother of God.</p> <p>REFLECT: Listen to a Recorded Guided Reflection, "Saying Yes to God" (CD 1, Track 8); "Hail Mary" prayer (p. 112)</p> <p>RESPOND: Living My Faith (Words I Learned); Prayer (p.113); My Response (pass out paper for drawing ways we can say "yes" to God).</p>
	<p>Seasonal Sessions: Holy Week and Easter</p>	<p>See Back of Book: Begin with Palm Sunday and discuss each day of Holy Week. Video in CCF Library</p> <p>-----</p> <p>-----</p>
4/25	<p>Chapter 21: Making Good Decisions</p>	<p>-----</p> <p>Theme: The Commandments help us make good decisions.</p> <p>ENGAGE: Story (St. Ignatius of Loyola); Thinking about how we can make good decisions; Short prayer (p. 163).</p> <p>EXPLORE: God's Rules (adapted from Exodus 20:1-17 on p. 164); God will always help us follow his Commandments; Reading God's Word (adapted from Matthew 22:36-39 on p. 167).</p> <p>REFLECT: Morning Prayer (p. 168).</p> <p>RESPOND: Living My Faith (Words I Learned); Prayer (p. 169); My Response (pass out paper for drawing ways we can make good decisions</p>
5/2	NO CLASS	1 st Eucharist Masses for 2 nd Grade
5/9	<p>Chapter 22: Jesus Cares for Us</p>	<p>Theme: We are like Jesus when we care for one another.</p> <p>ENGAGE: Pictures (hurting others); Thinking about how our bad decisions affect others; Short prayer (p. 171).</p> <p>EXPLORE: A Lost Sheep (adapted from Luke 15:3-7 on p. 173); Readings</p>

		<p>God's Word (John 10:11 on p. 174); Sin and Forgiveness.</p> <p>REFLECT: Meditative prayer (p. 176).</p> <p>RESPOND: Living My Faith (Words I Learned); Prayer (p.177); My Response (pass out paper for drawing ways we can show we are sorry when we have hurt someone</p>
5/16	Closing Mass	<p>Closing Mass at 9:00AM. Parents are invited and encouraged to come. Celebration to follow in DeSales Hall.</p>