

LIVING FAITH
RECONCILIATION
Focus Session 1



ROMAN CATHOLIC
ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. JOHN'S

Place:

Time:

Materials needed:

- Name tags
- Markers
- Scissors
- Poster of "Our Father"
- Video of the Good Shepherd story
- Crayons
- Shield-shape for personal crest
- Poster of the "Apostles' Creed"

Handouts for the family:

- The Lord's Prayer (hole punched)

Room set-up:

- Have some low tables set up, on which are the personal crest shields and art supplies.

20 minutes

Gathering:

Welcome families and make sure that each person has a name tag.

As the participants gather, have them personalize a shield shape by decorating it with the following symbols. Parents can help the child in this activity by talking through the symbols and motto with their child, and encouraging the child.

Section 1: A symbol of something you really like to do

Section 2: A symbol for you– who you are

Section 3: A symbol of your family

Section 4: A symbol for what you would like to do or be when you are older

Ribbon below the shield: A motto or phrase that inspires the child.

5 minutes

Prayer:

Pray the "Our Father" together, referring to the poster if necessary.

25 minutes

Theme 3– Jesus shows us what God is like in the Gospel story of Zacchaeus

Read the story of Zacchaeus from the Bible. It is found in Luke 19:1-10

Divide the group into groups of about six children each. They can choose to tell the story in their own words through:

- Puppets
- Acting it out
- Mime

Reflect on the story together by sharing on the following questions:

- What kind of person was Zacchaeus at the beginning of the story?
- What kind of person was Zacchaeus at the end of the story?
- How did he change?
- What do you think Jesus and Zacchaeus talked about at dinner?
- How would you feel about Jesus if you were Zacchaeus?

20 minutes Theme 4– Jesus shows us what God is like in the parable of the Good Shepherd

Show the young people a video of the parable of the Good Shepherd, or read the story from the Bible. When it is finished, ask them what God is like? What might this sheep story have to do with us, with people?

Optional Activity: You might like to make a “Good Shepherd” poster with the children. To do this, use bristol board, and have cut-out sheep and a figure of Jesus, the Good Shepherd prepared. Each child could print his/her name on a sheep, and then glue them on the poster around the figure of Jesus.

10 minutes Closing:

Pray the Apostles’ Creed together. Break it into three parts, and show the children how the three parts are about what we believe about God– Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Remind everyone that our next session is _____.

MY PERSONAL CREST AND MOTTO



**LIVING FAITH
FOCUS SESSION 2
FOR PREPARATION FOR EUCHARIST
FOR PARENTS AND CANDIDATES**



ROMAN CATHOLIC
ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. JOHN'S

<p>Place: Time:</p>	<p>For prayer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer Cloth <input type="checkbox"/> Candle <input type="checkbox"/> Bible
<p>Materials needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Name tags <input type="checkbox"/> 2 tables (or 1 table and the Altar): Family Celebration Table and Table of the Eucharist 	<p>For Family Celebration Table:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Tablecloth <input type="checkbox"/> Napkins <input type="checkbox"/> Silverware <input type="checkbox"/> Candles <input type="checkbox"/> Plate <input type="checkbox"/> Wine Glassware <p>For Table of the Eucharist:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Altar cloth <input type="checkbox"/> Purificator <input type="checkbox"/> Corporal <input type="checkbox"/> Chalice <input type="checkbox"/> Ciborium <input type="checkbox"/> Paten <input type="checkbox"/> Hosts <input type="checkbox"/> Wine <input type="checkbox"/> Cruets

10 minutes Gathering: Welcome each person as they enter, and make sure that each has a name tag.

15 minutes Community Builder:

Fruit salad. Sit participants, or just children if the group is too large, in a circle. Go around the circle, designating each person as either, *apple, orange, pear, grape* or *banana*. Then, invite one of the children to go into the centre of the circle. Remove his or her carpet square. Instruct the group that when the person in middle calls out the name of a fruit, such as *apple*, all the *apples* have to get up and run across the circle to the other side and find a carpet square to sit on. The last person left standing goes to the centre and calls out the name of another fruit, and so on. After a few rounds, tell them that they can get more inventive by calling out the names

of two fruit, or they can get everyone to move by calling out “fruit salad!” The only rule is that you can’t move to the square next to you; you have to cross through the centre of the circle. Play for about 10 minutes.

De-briefing: When the 10 minutes are up, ask the children to talk about the activity. Was it fun? Why? Did it get more interesting when people could call out more than one fruit name, or when they yelled “fruit salad?”

Being part of the family of God is a bit like being in a fruit salad. It would be pretty boring if everyone was a banana or if everyone was a pear. It takes many different kinds of fruits to make an interesting and tasty fruit salad, just like it takes many kinds of people to make the family of God interesting and fun and able to do the work of building up the Kingdom of God and following in Jesus’ footsteps.

15 minutes Theme 1– Family Celebrations– setting the table

Ask the children to talk with their parents for a moment about one thing they do when they invite people into their home for a special meal. Then, share these responses with the large group. Talk about the different family customs, the special foods, the ways we decorate the table. Talk about how they feel when they know a special guest is coming, or when a special event is being celebrated.

Gather the group around one of the tables, and invite the children to help set the table as if for a special meal. Talk about the items that are placed on the table: Tablecloth, Napkins, Silverware, Plate, Wine glass, Candlesticks, Placemat, etc. If any of the items have special significance (e.g. heirlooms), share a bit of the story.

5 minutes **Song:** “His Banner Over us is Love” or any Eucharistic Hymn the families know.

10 minutes Theme 2– The Liturgy of the Eucharist– setting the table for a celebration of the family of Jesus

Turn now to the next table, or altar. Explain that the family of Jesus, the Church, shares a special meal every Sunday. We call it the Eucharist, though sometimes people call it the Mass or the Liturgy. Begin to set the table with: Altar cloth, Linens (corporal and purificator), Paten, Chalice, Candles, Cruets, Hosts, Wine. Talk about each item and what it looks like on the family celebration table. Draw out the many ways in which the two tables resemble each other.

Lastly, place the Sacramentary on the table. This is the Mass Book, the book in which all the prayers are to be found. It is a special treasury for God’s people.

15 minutes Theme 3– The Prayers of the Liturgy of the Eucharist

Go back to the circle. Teach the sung responses to the prayers of the Liturgy of the Eucharist:

- Holy, holy
- Memorial Acclamation
- Great Amen
- Lamb of God

10 minutes Prayer

Sit the group on carpet in a circle, if possible.

Make the Sign of the Cross.

Going clockwise around the circle, ask each person (child and adult) to name something that they give God thanks for. Explain that Eucharist means Thanksgiving. When we gather for the Eucharist, we give God thanks for all the gifts we have named, and especially for the great gift of His Son, Jesus.

Pray the Our Father together.

Make the Sign of the Cross.

Sing “Children of the Light,” or another hymn the families know and like.

Remind everyone that our next session is:

LIVING FAITH
RECONCILIATION
Focus Session 3



ROMAN CATHOLIC
ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. JOHN'S

Place: Holy Redeemer Church and Basement Hall

Materials needed:

- | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Pencils | <input type="checkbox"/> Construction paper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bristol board poster of "Our Father" | <input type="checkbox"/> Stick-on name tags |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bristol board poster "Apostles' Creed" | <input type="checkbox"/> Markers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bristol board poster of "Act of Contrition" | <input type="checkbox"/> Glue sticks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scissors | <input type="checkbox"/> Crayons |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carpet squares | <input type="checkbox"/> Video: "A Child's First Penance" |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cardboard cards: items in the church | <input type="checkbox"/> Video: "The Prodigal Son" |

5 minutes Gathering:

Welcome families and make sure that everyone has a name tag.

15 minutes Theme 5– Jesus shows us what God is like in the Gospel story of the Prodigal Son (The Forgiving Father)

Read, tell or show the cartoon video of the story of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32), focussing in first on the love and forgiveness of the father, and then on the change in the son. Draw out the theme of reconciliation. Relate it to our own lives in families and among friends.

- Do these kinds of things happen?
- Do people hurt other people?
- Do we want our own way sometimes?
- Do we try to stop the people we love from making mistakes?
- Do we forgive them and love them after they have made mistakes?
- How does it feel to have done something you know is wrong?
- How does it feel to know that you have been forgiven?

Human sculpture:

Ask the children, working in pairs, to make a human sculpture of what it feels like to know that you have been forgiven.

25 minutes Theme 6– A Child's First Penance

Show "A Child's First Penance." Ask the group if they have any questions about the video. Introduce the idea of an examination of conscience.

30 minutes Theme 7– The Sacrament of Reconciliation: A Role Play

Explain that when we approach the Sacrament of Reconciliation, no one is there to overhear; it's between us and the priest, who listens as God listens and says the words God needs us to hear. Today, we're going to watch and, if we like, take part in a practice of the Sacrament. We'll have a chance to see how it goes, and ask any questions that we want to ask.

Proceed with the role play, stopping whenever necessary to ask questions, reflect or point things out.

10 minutes Closing:

Pray the Act of Contrition together.

Give the children a copy of the Act of Contrition, if they didn't take one after the previous session.

Announcements