



Genuinely
Lutheran
Learning

Sunday School Curriculum

Third Grade

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Welcome to Genuinely Lutheran Learning's Sunday School Curriculum

The following overview and introduction to this curriculum provide essential knowledge to utilize this unique learning opportunity. Please read it carefully in order to make full use of this material.



I. Goals and Objectives

1. The Genuinely Lutheran Learning Sunday School Curriculum seeks to:

- A. Provide a basic knowledge of many important Bible stories
- B. Provide a basic knowledge of elements of Martin Luther's *Small Catechism*
- C. Lay a solid foundation for entry into catechism / confirmation instruction
- D. Offer maximum learning for children with minimal preparation by teachers
- E. Offer children and teachers opportunities to tailor lessons to each congregation's needs
- F. Offer a curriculum with rich learning experiences *free of charge*

2. The Genuinely Lutheran Learning Sunday School Curriculum hopes to:

- A. Assist, equip, and encourage each child and teacher to communicate the Word of God confidently and competently to other people as a witness to God's love revealed to us in Jesus Christ, his Son and our Lord.

II. Textbook and Catechetical Materials

1. Textbook(s)

The textbook for this Sunday School Curriculum is not the curriculum itself but the Bible. With the aid of the curriculum, children and teachers are led through the given Bible stories twice. In grades/years one through three (1 - 3), both the Old Testament and the New Testament are covered. Then, in grades/years four through six (4 - 6), the same material is learned a second time but more in-depth. Again, the Bible is the textbook.

- A. School grades/years one through three (1- 3) use *The Beginner's Bible* as their primary textbook:

The Beginner's Bible - Timeless Children's Stories, a Zonderkidz publication is produced by Zondervan of Grand Rapids, Michigan, 2005. This children's Bible is readily available online or at Christian bookstores. (Note: An earlier version of *The Beginner's Bible* was published by Zonderkidz in 1989. As most of the stories in both versions are the same, with the exception of accurate page references, this earlier edition could be used for most of the GLL Sunday School Curriculum.)

- B. School grades/years four through six (4 - 6) use a regular Bible as their primary textbook:

A regular Bible, with the version to be selected by individual congregations or individual Sunday school teachers, is the text for the second, more in-depth study of the stories in the curriculum. Teachers are encouraged to continue to use *The Beginner's Bible* for its easy overview of the stories and for its colorful illustrations.

The curriculum itself uses biblical material from the *Revised Standard Version* (RSV), the *New Revised Standard Version* (NRSV), and the *New International Version* (NIV), mainly for the memory verses. Other Bible versions may be used for the memory verses.

2. Catechetical Material

The catechetical material is paraphrased or translated from Martin Luther's *Small and Large Catechisms* as found in the ninth edition of the *Bekennnisschriften der evangelisch-lutherischen Kirche* (Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 1982), published in English either as *The Book of Concord* or *The Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church*, depending on the edition.

III. Curriculum Outline

1. The curriculum is, as indicated, based on six age groupings: Grades or years 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, with an approximate age range of 5 to 12 years.
2. For each grade, the Sunday school material comprises 30 lessons divided into three 10 lesson terms covering the periods Autumn, Winter, and Spring.
3. The first lesson of each grade/year begins with the topic of baptism and seeks annually to communicate to each child the centrality of baptism for Lutheran faith and theology. As Luther once wrote, "Whoever has crawled out of the water of baptism can boast, that he (she) has been consecrated a priest, bishop, and pope, although not everyone is suited to exercise such an office" (WA 6: 408, 11-13).
4. The subsequent lessons are based on biblical stories and are supplemented with catechetical material, drawn chiefly from the *Lord's Prayer* (Grades 1 and 4), the *Ten Commandments* (Grades 2 and 5), and the *Apostles' Creed* (Grades 3 and 6). As indicated above, each lesson is accompanied by a memory verse taken from the Bible (RSV or NRSV or NIV) and, where possible, by a craft.
5. Repetition of lesson material for the grades 1 and 4, 2 and 5, and 3 and 6 is intentional to reinforce learning. Memory verses, however, are not repeated and will be assigned per individual grade/year with the intention of expanding each child's mastery of biblical material.
6. The format is flexible to allow deviation from the curriculum to prepare for Christmas and Easter children's services and for "Ask the Pastor" lessons as negotiated between the teachers and the pastor.

IV. Curriculum Explanation by Section

1. Curriculum Logo

The curriculum logo incorporates Luther's Rose and the words "Truth - Christ - Freedom - Being Lutheran."



A. About his rose, Luther wrote,

The first thing expressed in my seal is a cross, black, within the heart, to put me in mind that faith in Christ crucified saves us. "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness."

Now, although the cross is black, mortified, and intended to cause pain, yet it does not change the colour of the heart, does not destroy nature- i.e., does not kill, but keeps alive. "For the just shall live by faith," -by faith in the Saviour.

But this heart is fixed upon the centre of a white rose, to show that faith causes joy, consolation and peace. The rose is white, not red, because white is the ideal colour of all angels and blessed spirits.

This rose, moreover, is fixed in a sky-coloured background, to denote that such joy of faith in the spirit is but an earnest beginning of heavenly joy to come, as anticipated and held by hope, though not yet revealed.

And around this ground base is a golden ring, to signify that such bliss in heaven is endless, and more precious than all joys and treasures, since gold is the best and most precious metal. Christ, our dear Lord, He will give grace unto eternal life.

B. About the words "Truth - Christ - Freedom - Being Lutheran":

In the course of 1517-1518, the young monk *Martin Luder* began to change the spelling of his name to *Martin Luther* to reflect the Greek word *eleutheros* meaning "free." John 8:32 says that "the truth will make you free." When *Martin Luder* learned of the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ, that sinners are made right with God by faith alone, he was set *free (eleutheros)* to live for Christ alone. Thus, "Being Lutheran" is first and foremost being like Luther, being set free from the powers of sin, death, and evil to live by faith alone in the truth of the gospel and in those truths congruent with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Taken together, the curriculum's logo is meant to signify that Christian freedom in Christ is at the heart of the Lutheran faith and witness to the liberating power of Christ's gospel.

2. Teacher Preparation

The curriculum is designed to save teachers much time and energy trying to navigate and understand complicated lessons. All that is required of teachers is to read each lesson's story in *The Beginner's Bible*, to read the same story in greater context and depth in their own Bibles, and to use the discussion questions and suggestions to guide them through each lesson. That is it.

3. Memory Verses

The memory verses seek to reiterate the lesson of the day by quoting Bible verses from the story itself or from passages with a related message. These verses can be copied and pasted from the curriculum to paper or card or other media as creatively as teachers desire. Teachers know their pupils best. So, teachers are encouraged to help children learn as creatively as teachers are able. Please, have fun creating ways for children to learn their memory verses.

4. Craft / Activity (optional)

Different settings and different teacher abilities and aptitudes will determine whether each lesson is or is not accompanied by a craft or activity. A craft or activity allows teachers the opportunity to use their creative abilities to help reinforce the message of each lesson. Teachers are encouraged to use their own resources or supplemental books or the Internet to find and develop crafts and activities for each lesson. For example, one could copy and paste the memory verse to a sheet of paper and asked the children to draw a fitting picture. Alternatively, one might use words from the story or memory verse to make a word search or crossword puzzle with an online resource. Also, one might recall an activity from one's own Sunday school and introduce it to a new generation. If one does not consider oneself to be very creative, try team teaching with someone who is and let her or him assume responsibility for this portion of each lesson. If in doubt, one might simply ask the children what activities they might like to do. Again, please be creative and have fun.

5. Catechetical Material

The catechetical material, namely the *Lord's Prayer*, the *Ten Commandments*, and the *Apostle's Creed*, are respectively stressed in grades 1 and 4, 2 and 5, and 3 and 6. The Autumn term allows the children to explore the catechetical material for themselves. The Winter term introduces them to Luther's explanations of the material mainly from his *Small Catechism*. The Spring term then gives the children the opportunity to relate the catechetical material to the Bible stories. Where fitting, portions of Luther's *Large Catechism* are also incorporated into the lessons.

6. Each Grade's/Year's Cover Page and this Overview/Introduction

- A. For ease of use, it is suggested that each grade's/year's lessons are printed and placed in a ringed binder or other suitable folder. Each grade/year of the curriculum begins with a cover page which can be placed in the binder or slotted into the front cover of so designed binders. This allows for easy identification of various grade levels.
- B. Teachers are expected to read the information in this Overview and Introduction. Those responsible for parish education in any given congregation are encouraged to guide their teachers through the Overview and Introduction to orient them to the curriculum's goals, objectives, and logistics. Such orientation also allows time for sharing of ideas and teaching strategies.

7. Cost of the Curriculum

The Genuinely Lutheran Learning Sunday School Curriculum is offered free of charge. At great cost to himself, Jesus Christ gave himself to us for our salvation. In that spirit, please offer this material richly and freely to the children in your care. The entire curriculum is available online at St. Luke's Lutheran Church's website (address below) under "Curricula" on the "Academy" page. Each teacher should also be supplied with the curriculum in electronic (CD or DVD) and print formats. Please feel free to copy and paste any portion of the curriculum on to other media (paper, card, disk, etc) as needed for teaching purposes. This curriculum is, however, under copyright and is not for sale, resale, or gainful distribution for any reason or any purpose by anyone at any time.

8. Feedback

The developers of the curriculum welcome feedback on all aspects of the lessons, from typing to format to content. Please communicate feedback via the "Contact Us" page on the website of St. Luke's Lutheran Church, La Mesa, California, USA available on the Internet at <http://www.st-lukes-la-mesa.org>

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Sunday School Curriculum Third Grade



Autumn Lesson One - Baptism

(Teacher Preparation - read Luke chapter 3; or Matthew chapter 3 or Mark chapter 1)

Opening Prayer (by teacher)

Opening Discussion:

-Ask the children which of them has been baptized and what they think baptism is and means.

A. Read *Beginners Bible Story* - "John Baptizes Jesus" pages 303-307

Discussion Questions:

1. What was John the Baptizer telling people to do?
2. Whom did John say was coming soon?
3. What can you easily do to be like John?
4. What happened when Jesus was baptized and what did God say about Jesus?
5. What happened when each of you were baptized?

B. Memory Verse

"You are my beloved son, with you I am well pleased" (Mark 1:11 - RSV updated)

C. Catechetical Material - *Baptism*

Discussion Questions:

1. What is baptism?

Answer: Baptism is being washed with water and God's Word. In baptism, God gives us his Word of promise to be with each of us forever. Jesus tells us to go into the world and to teach all people about Jesus and to have them baptized in the name of God, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit (see Matthew 28:19).

2. What are the gifts or benefits of baptism? (Why is baptism good?)

Answer: In baptism, God promises to be with us forever (forgiveness of sin), to protect us from all evil (death and devil), and to let us live in heaven with Jesus (eternal life). With his Word, God promises that everyone who

believes in Jesus and is baptized will be with God forever (see Mark 16:16).

3. How can water do such great things?

Answer: Water cannot do these great things all by itself. So, God gives us his Word of promise with the water. God's Word makes water powerful. When we are baptized, God uses the water to touch each person with his promise of love and to wash away everything that would take us away from God's love.

4. What does baptizing with water mean? (Why do we baptize?)

Answer: Baptism means that Jesus has made each one of us part of his life. In baptism, God promises each day to wash all badness (sin) from us and to make us clean and right so that we can live with God forever.

D. Craft / Activity (optional)

E. Closing Prayer - *The Lord's Prayer*

Our Father who art in heaven.
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those who trespass against us
And lead us not into temptation.
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory,
 forever and ever. Amen.

Lesson Two - Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand / Jesus Walks on Water

(Teacher Preparation - Read Matthew chapter 14, Mark chapter 6, and Luke chapter 9)



Opening Prayer (by teacher)

Opening Discussion:

-Ask the children how many people they might invite to a picnic and swimming party. Ask the children what sort of food they might eat. Ask the children if they prefer to swim in a swimming pool, in a lake, or in a river. Ask which of them has ever gone water skiing. Ask them what it is or might be like to be out in a boat when the water was or is very rough. Ask the children what happens if they are too far from shore and cannot swim or cannot swim very well enough to return safely to shore.

A. Read *Beginners Bible Story* - "Jesus Feeds Thousands" pages 357-363
Beginners Bible Story - "Jesus Walks on Water" pages 364-370

Discussion Questions:

1. How did Jesus feed 5,000 people with five loaves and two fish?
2. How could Jesus feed 5,000 people with five loaves and two fish?
3. After eating, why did Jesus' friends (disciples) start across the lake without Jesus?
4. Why did Jesus friends have a hard time getting to the other side of the lake? How did they feel?
5. What did Jesus do to help his friends?
6. What did Peter want to do after Jesus came to the boat?
7. Why was Peter not able to do the same as Jesus did on the water?
8. What happened after Jesus rescued Peter?

B. Memory Verse

"Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full" (Matthew 14:19-20 - NRSV).

C. Craft / Activity (optional)

D. Catechetical Material - *Apostles' Creed*

First Article: "*I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.*"

1. Ask the children to give a definition of the words "God" and "Father" and "almighty" and "maker of heaven and earth."
2. Ask the children what it mean to believe.
3. Ask the children to write a definition what they think the first article of the Apostles' Creed means.

E. Closing Prayer - *The Lord's Prayer*

Lesson Three - Jesus Heals the Blind / The Temple Tax

(Teacher Preparation - Read John chapter 9 and Matthew 17)



Opening Prayer (by teacher)

Opening Discussion:

-Ask the children to describe their favorite scene or picture or room, etc. Ask them what it might be like to be blind. Ask the children how they might imagine the world if they had been blind from birth. Ask for a volunteer (or more) to be blindfolded and then to find an object in the room (try not to draw attention to the object prior to blindfolding). You may also invite other pupils to call out directions to the blindfolded person. Discuss how it felt following directions and the faith need to try and find the object.

A. Read *Beginners Bible Story* - "Jesus Heals a Blind Beggar" pages 371-374

Discussion Questions:

1. How do you think the blind man in the story lived his life?
2. Why do you think that Jesus wanted to help the blind man?
3. What do you think of how Jesus cured the blind man?
4. What did the blind man do after he could see?

Opening Discussion (second story):

-Ask the children what it means to pay taxes. Ask them to list the types of taxes most people have to pay (sales, income, property, estate, duty, licence fees, etc). Ask them why it is important to pay tax. Ask them what happens if people do not pay their taxes. Ask the children to decide whether a fishing licence is a type of tax.

A. Read *Beginners Bible Story* - "Money in a Fish" pages 375-378

Discussion Questions:

1. For whom did the tax collectors in the story work?
2. What might happen to Jesus and Peter if they did not pay their taxes?
3. How did Peter get the money to pay the tax for Jesus and him?
4. What might you do if you found money in a fish that you caught?

B. Memory Verse

"However, so that we do not give offense to them, go to the sea and cast a hook; take the first fish that comes up; and when you open its mouth, you will find a coin; take that and give it to them for you and me" (Matthew 17:27 - NRSV).

C. Craft / Activity (optional)

D. Catechetical Material - *Apostles' Creed*

Second Article: *"I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord"*

1. Ask the children who Jesus Christ is.
2. Ask them what it means that he is the Son of God.
3. Ask them what it means to have a "lord" and what it means to have Jesus as lord.

E. Closing Prayer - *The Lord's Prayer*

Lesson Four - The Good Samaritan

(Teacher Preparation - Read Luke chapter 10)



Opening Prayer (by teacher)

Opening Discussion:

-Ask the children what the word "neighbor" means [from the word "nigh" meaning "near"]. Ask the children what a neighbor is. Ask the children who their neighbors are. Ask them who God thinks that their neighbors are.

A. Read *Beginners Bible Story* - "The Good Samaritan" pages 379-384

Discussion Questions:

1. How do act or react when you meet someone different?
2. How do people act or react when they meet you?
3. Which playmates or siblings or even adults have you helped?
4. Who are the people who have helped you when you were hurt?
5. If you saw a stranger hurt along the road, who do you think is best to help?
[The children should be encouraged to find a responsible adult to assist. This is not for children]

B. Memory Verse

[Jesus] answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself" (Luke 10:27 - NRSV).

C. Craft / Activity (optional)

D. Catechetical Material - *Apostles' Creed*

Second Article: *"He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried,..."*

1. Ask the children what they think that it means to be "conceived" by the Holy Spirit.
2. Ask the children who the virgin Mary was.
3. Ask them who Pontius Pilate was.
4. Ask them how we know that Jesus was crucified, died, and was buried.
5. Ask them what these four things tell us about the nature of Jesus' life.

E. Closing Prayer - *The Lord's Prayer*

Lesson Five - Mary and Martha

(Teacher Preparation - Read Luke chapter 10)



Opening Prayer (by teacher)

Opening Discussion:

-Ask the children what they are asked to do to help around the house, i.e. clean their room, help outdoors, wash dishes, fold clothing, etc. Ask the children which things they like to do most or least. Ask them to describe why it is fair or not that they are asked to do what is asked of them. Ask the children who should help them with their tasks or chores.

A. Read *Beginners Bible Story* - "Mary and Martha" pages 385-390

Discussion Questions:

1. Who were the two sisters whom Jesus visited when he was in their town?
2. What did Mary do when Jesus came to visit?
3. What did Martha do when Jesus came to visit?
4. Was it fair or not that Martha seemed to do all the work while Mary sat around?
5. Why did Jesus say that Mary had chosen to do the best thing?

B. Memory Verse

"Martha had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying" (Luke 10:39 - NRSV).

C. Craft / Activity (optional)

D. Catechetical Material - *Apostles' Creed*

Second Article: *"He descended into hell,
"On the third day he rose again,
"He ascended into heaven,"*

1. Ask the children what they think that it means to "descend into hell."
2. Ask the children why they think that Jesus went to hell.
3. Ask the children what they think that it means when the "third day" was. [Easter]
4. Ask the children when Jesus "ascended into heaven." [Ascension Day]
5. Ask the children how Jesus could do all these things.

E. Closing Prayer - *The Lord's Prayer*

Lesson Six - The Sheep

(Teacher Preparation - Read Luke chapter 15)



Opening Prayer (by teacher)

Opening Discussion:

-Ask the children what kinds of things that they have lost and could not immediately find. Ask them what difference it makes whether they lose something important or something unimportant. Ask them if they have ever had a pet and what they liked best about the pet. Ask them if the pet ever went missing or died and how they felt about that.

A. Read *Beginners Bible Story* - "The Lost Sheep" pages 491-496

Discussion Questions:

1. How do you think it is to be a shepherd?
2. What kinds of things does a good shepherd do?
3. How does a good shepherd act if one of the sheep goes astray and gets lost?
4. What might happen to a sheep if it gets separated from the flock?
5. Why does Jesus sometimes talk about human beings as being like sheep?
6. Why does it make God happy when we return to him after straying?

B. Memory Verse

"The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake" (Psalm 23:1-3 - NRSV).

C. Craft / Activity (optional)

D. Catechetical Material - *Apostles' Creed*

Third Article: *"I believe in the Holy Spirit, ..."*

1. Ask the children who they think that the Holy Spirit is. [HS is how God makes relationships].
2. Ask them what name describes the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. [Trinity]
3. Ask the children how the Holy Spirit relates to God the Father and God the Son.
[through creative love]
4. Ask the children how the Holy Spirit relates to human beings. [witnessing to the truth through the Word of God]

E. Closing Prayer - *The Lord's Prayer*

Lesson Seven - The (Prodigal) Son

(Teacher Preparation - Read Luke chapter 15)



Opening Prayer (by teacher)

Opening Discussion:

-Ask the children how their parents (guardian) express worry or concern that they not wander off and get separated from their parents (guardian). Ask the children what they would like to do or where they would like to travel when they are ready to leave home. Ask the children what kind of adventures they might like to have. Ask them what their parents (guardian) hope that they will do. How might their parents (guardian) be willing to help them when they leave home?

A. Read *Beginners Bible Story* - "The Lost Son" pages 397-404

Discussion Questions:

1. Why did one of the two sons in the story want to leave home?
2. How did the one son spend his time and money once he left home?
3. How did the son live when he ran out of money?
4. How did the son feel about returning home to his father?
5. How was the son received by his father when he returned home?
6. How do you think God reacts when a sinner returns to a life with God?

B. Memory Verse

"For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live" (Ezekiel 18:32 - NRSV).

C. Craft / Activity (optional)

D. Catechetical Material - *Apostles' Creed*

Third Article: [I believe in] *"the holy Christian [catholic] church,*
"the communion of saints,
"the forgiveness of sins, ..."

1. Ask the children why Martin Luther, the Lutheran Reformer, translated the word for "catholic" as "Christian" in his version of the creed.
[so not to confuse the Roman church with Christianity]
2. Ask the children what "saints" are? [anyone who believes in Jesus Christ]
3. Ask the children what they think that "forgiveness of sins" means.
[turning away from false believe and trusting in Jesus Christ as God declaring us "right" or "forgiven our sins".]

4. Ask them what these three phrases have in common.
[the "church" is the fellowship of believers in Jesus Christ who trust their their sins are forgiven for Christ's sake through his life, death, and resurrection]

E. Closing Prayer - *The Lord's Prayer*

Lesson Eight - Jesus Heals the Lepers

(Teacher Preparation - Read Luke chapter 17)



Opening Prayer (by teacher)

Opening Discussion:

-Ask the children how they feel when they are ill. Ask them how they might feel if they had an illness that could not be cured. Ask them how they might feel if because of their illness people did not want to touch them or even be near them. Ask them how they might feel if they were not well and forced to be with other sick people or alone until they died.

A. Read *Beginners Bible Story* - "Ten Lepers" pages 405-408

Discussion Questions:

1. Have you heard of leprosy?
[It is a bacterial disease that affects the skin and nerves, causing mutilations and deformities. Until antibiotics there was no cure, and even today it is not always easily treated.]
2. Why did the ten lepers call to Jesus when he was passing near them?
3. What did Jesus tell the lepers to do?
4. What happened to the lepers on their way to see the priest?
5. How many lepers returned to thank Jesus for being cured?
6. How often do you thank God for all the good things that you receive from God?

B. Memory Verse

"Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved; for you are my praise" (Jeremiah 17:14 - NRSV).

C. Craft / Activity (optional)

D. Catechetical Material - *Apostles' Creed*

Third Article: [I believe in] *"the resurrection of the body,
"and the life everlasting. Amen."*

1. Ask the children what the resurrection is and who was first resurrected.
2. Ask them why they think that the text talks about the "resurrection of the body."
3. Ask them what they imagine "life everlasting" to mean.
4. Ask them who they think will be resurrected and have life everlasting.

E. Closing Prayer - *The Lord's Prayer*

Lesson Nine - Jesus Loves the Children

(Teacher Preparation - Read Matthew chapter 19, Mark chapter 10, and Luke chapter 18)



Opening Prayer (by teacher)

Opening Discussion:

-Ask the children how they feel if they are going to see a favorite friend or relative. Ask them why they look forward to Christmas and Easter. Ask them what they might expect if Jesus were coming to visit them or if they were going to visit Jesus. Ask them what they would want to do with Jesus. Ask them how they might feel if they went to see Jesus and then were turned away by someone whom they did not know.

A. Read *Beginners Bible Story - "Jesus and the Children"* pages 409-412

Discussion Questions:

1. Who are the people going to see Jesus in the story?
2. How do they feel about going to visit Jesus?
3. What happens when the children finally arrive where Jesus is?
4. What did Jesus do when he found out that the children were prevented from visiting him?
5. What did Jesus do with the children who came to him?

B. Memory Verse

"But Jesus called for them and said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs'" (Luke 18:16 - NRSV).

C. Craft / Activity (optional)

D. Catechetical Material - *Infant Baptism*

1. Ask the children what they understand baptism to be.
2. Ask them why we baptize infants.
3. Ask them why they think that baptism of infants, who may not believe, is still a valid baptism.
4. Discuss the following from Martin Luther's *Large Catechism*.

"We say further that it does not primarily concern us whether the one being baptized believes or does not believe; for baptism does not thereby become invalid, but rather everything depends upon God's Word and command. That is certainly a finer point but rests upon what I have said that baptism is nothing other than water and God's word about and with one another. That is, when the

Word si about the water, so is baptism valid, even of faith is not added; for my faith does not make baptism, but it receives baptism. Now baptism does not thereby become invalid whether it is rightly received or used because it is, as said, not bound to our faith but to the Word" (*The Large Catechism*, 4:52-53).

E. Closing Prayer - *The Lord's Prayer*

Lesson Ten - Zacchaeus

(Teacher Preparation - Read Luke chapter 19)



Opening Prayer (by teacher)

Opening Discussion:

-Ask the children how they would feel if someone were serving something to eat or giving out treats and gave one person more than the rest. Ask the children what they like best and least about sharing what they have. Ask the children why they like to get more of something than others receive. Ask them how they feel if they receive less than others.

A. Read *Beginners Bible Story - "A Short Man" pages 413-417*

Discussion Questions:

1. How did Zacchaeus get his money?
2. Why did people not like Zacchaeus?
3. Why did Zacchaeus have a hard time seeing Jesus?
4. What did Zacchaeus do to see Jesus?
5. What did Jesus do when he saw Zacchaeus?
6. How did meeting Jesus change Zacchaeus' life?

B. Memory Verse

"When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, 'Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today'" (Luke 19:5 - NRSV).

C. Craft / Activity (optional)

D. Catechetical Material - *The Lord's Supper*

1. Ask the children what they understand the Lord's Supper to be.
2. Ask them why Jesus went to Zacchaeus' house and ate with other sinners and outcasts?
3. How and where does Jesus share a meal with sinners today?
4. Ask them why Jesus gave us the Lord's Supper and what makes it valid and proper?
5. Discuss the following from Martin Luther's *Large Catechism*.

What is the sacrament of the altar?

Answer: It is the true body and blood of the Lord Christ, in and under the bread and wine through Christ's Word, commanded to us to eat and drink. ... For it is not founded on human holiness but on God's Word. Just as no saint on earth, nor even an angel in heaven, can make the bread and wine into

Christ's body and blood, so too can no one either alter or change this, even if it is misused. For neither the person nor one's lack of faith can falsify the Word through which it is instituted and becomes a sacrament. For he [Jesus] does not say, "When you believe or are worthy, then you have my body and blood." Instead, "Take, eat, and drink. This is my body and blood." Likewise, he says, "Do this" (namely, what I now do, institute, give to you, and tell you to take). This is as much as saying, "God gives whether you are unworthy or worthy. So here you have his body and blood by the power of this Word which has come to the bread and the wine. ... It is, then, given as a daily 'pasture and feed' so that faith is refreshed and strengthened in order that it should not retreat in the battle but rather become ever stronger and stronger" (*The Large Catechism* 5: 8, 16-19, 24).

Winter Lesson Eleven - Lazarus



(Teacher Preparation - Read John chapter 11)

Opening Prayer (by teacher)

Opening Discussion:

-Ask the children how many brothers or sisters they might have. Ask the children what happens if they or if their siblings becomes ill. Ask about how someone might have cared for them when they were ill. Ask if the children how they might feel if one of their siblings became ill and had to go to hospital. Ask the children how they might feel if someone they knew was seriously ill and God seemed to do nothing to help.

A. Read *Beginners Bible Story* - "Lazarus Lives Again" pages 418-422

Discussion Questions:

1. Why did Jesus decide to go and visit Mary and Martha?
2. How long did Jesus stay where he was before going?
3. How might Martha have been feeling when she met Jesus on his way?
4. What did Martha think would have happened if Jesus had come earlier?
5. How did Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead?
6. What happened when the people saw Lazarus alive again?

B. Memory Verse

"Jesus wept" (John 11:35 - RSV).

C. Craft / Activity (optional)

D. Catechetical Material - *Apostles' Creed*

First Article: *"I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth."*

What does this mean? **

Answer: I believe that God has created me with all creatures, and that he has given me and still preserves my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all limbs, reason and all intellectual senses, and additionally he richly and daily supplies me with clothes and shoes, food and drink, house and farm, spouse and children, field, livestock, and all goods, and with all necessary things and sustenance for the body and life. He shields me from all dangers and protects and keeps me from all evil. He has done that out of pure, fatherly, divine goodness and mercy without my merit and worthiness. For all this I

am obliged to thank and praise him, to serve and obey him. This is certainly true.

** The meanings for the *Apostles' Creed* in the second portion of the year are taken from Luther's *Small Catechism*.

1. Ask the children to rewrite the above answer in their own words so that a friend would easily understand it.
2. Ask the children how Mary and Martha might have been different had they believed that God would care for their needs.
3. Ask the children how they might act differently towards others knowing that God cares for their needs and has given them all that we human beings have.

E. Closing Prayer - *The Lord's Prayer*

Lesson Twelve - The Perfume

(Teacher Preparation - Read John chapter 12)



Opening Prayer (by teacher)

Opening Discussion:

-Ask the children why people use perfume. Ask the children why perfume might have been important in times when people did not bathe as regularly as most people do today in the USA. Ask the children where on the body people use perfume. Ask the children what sort of "perfume" men wear [aftershave or cologne].

A. Read *Beginners Bible Story - "A Gift for Jesus" pages 423-426*

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think that Martha and Mary had a dinner party for Jesus and his friends?
2. What did Mary do for Jesus that was a bit unusual?
3. Why might Mary have thought that this might have been nice to do to Jesus' feet?
4. Why did Judas complain that the perfume should have been sold?
5. What might you do for Jesus as a gift to him?

B. Memory Verse

"Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume" (John 12:3 - NRSV).

C. Craft / Activity (optional)

D. Catechetical Material - *Apostles' Creed*

Second Article: *And in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
born of the Virgin Mary
suffered under Pontius Pilate
crucified, died, and was buried
descended into hell
on the third day he rose from the dead
ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father almighty,
whence he shall come to judge the living and the dead.*

What does this mean?

Answer: I believe that Jesus Christ, truly God born of the Father in eternity and also truly human born from the Virgin Mary, is my Lord who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned human being, who has secured and won me forgiveness of all sins and freed me from death and from the power of the devil. He has done this not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death so that I may be his own and live under him in his kingdom and serve him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he is resurrected from the dead, and lives and reigns in eternity. This is certainly true.

1. Ask the children to rewrite the above answer in their own words so that a friend would easily understand it.
2. Ask the children why Jesus said that the perfume which Mary had purchased would be needed for his burial.
3. Ask the children why Jesus death was so important.
4. Ask the children how Jesus' death brings us closer to him even though his is not present in a way that would allow one to apply perfume to his feet.

E. Closing Prayer - *The Lord's Prayer*

Lesson Thirteen - Make Way for the King

(Teacher Preparation - Read Matthew chapter 21, Mark chapter 11, Luke chapter 19, and John chapter 12)



Opening Prayer (by teacher)

Opening Discussion:

-Ask the children what sort of parades they have seen. Ask the children what sort of people they might see in a parade. Ask the children what they like best and like least about watching parades and, where applicable, about being in a parade. Ask the children what sort of a parade they might have for Jesus to show that he was special.

A. Read *Beginners Bible Story* - "The True King" pages 427-432

Discussion Questions:

1. What did Jesus ask two of his friends to fetch for him near a village gate?
2. What sort of a saddle did Jesus have when he rode the donkey?
3. What were the people shouting as Jesus approached Jerusalem?
4. What does "Hosanna" mean? ["Hosanna" means "help" or "save".]
5. What did people lay on the road as Jesus rode into Jerusalem?
6. How did the church leaders of Jesus' day react to how Jesus entered Jerusalem?

B. Memory Verse

"Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!" (Mark 11:7-9 - NRSV).

C. Craft / Activity (optional)

D. Catechetical Material - *Apostles' Creed*

Third Article: *I believe in the Holy Spirit
the holy Christian* church
the communion of saints
the forgiveness of sins
the resurrection of the body
and the life everlasting. Amen.*

*Luther substituted "Christian" for the word "catholic" meaning "universal" so that Protestants would not confuse the Christ's universal church with the Roman Catholic

Church based in Rome.

What does this mean?

Answer: I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to him, but the Holy Spirit as called me through the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, and kept and sanctified me in the right faith, just as calls, gathers, enlightens, sanctifies, and keeps the whole of Christianity in the one, right faith. In this Christianity, he daily and richly forgives me and all believers of our sins, and on the last day he will raise me and all the dead, and he will give me along with all believers in Christ eternal life. This is certainly true.

1. Ask the children how Jesus came to Jerusalem and why the people treated him like a king?
2. Ask the children how Jesus comes to people today and how people react to him today?
[Jesus comes to us through the pure preaching and teaching of the gospel and in the right administration of the two sacraments of Holy Baptism and the Lord's Supper.]
3. Ask the children to explain why and how the Holy Spirit brings Jesus and human beings together.

E. Closing Prayer - *The Lord's Prayer*

Lesson Fourteen - The Widow's Coins

(Teacher Preparation - Read Mark chapter 12 or Luke chapter 21)



Opening Prayer (by teacher)

Opening Discussion:

-Ask the children why it is important to give money to the church. Ask them what other projects need money to serve people both in the USA and abroad our church supports. Ask them why some people give more and some people give less money to the church. Ask them how God judges who gives the most to serve God's ministries.

A. Read *Beginners Bible Story - "A Poor Widow's Gift" pages 433-436*

Discussion Questions:

1. Why did people put money in the money boxes in the temple?
2. Why did Jesus think that the woman who put two coins into the money box gave more to the temple than those who put much money into the money boxes?

B. Memory Verse

"Then he called his disciples and said to them, 'Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on'" (Mark 12:43-44 - NRSV).

C. Craft / Activity (optional)

D. Catechetical Material - *Apostles' Creed*

Second Article: *And in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
born of the Virgin Mary
suffered under Pontius Pilate
crucified, died, and was buried
descended into hell
on the third day he rose from the dead
ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father almighty,
whence he shall come to judge the living and the dead.*

What does this mean?

Answer: I believe that Jesus Christ, truly God born of the Father in eternity and also

truly human born from the Virgin Mary, is my Lord who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned human being, who has secured and won me forgiveness of all sins and freed me from death and from the power of the devil. He has done this not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death so that I may be his own and live under him in his kingdom and serve him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he is resurrected from the dead, and lives and reigns in eternity. This is certainly true.

1. Ask the children who gave more in service to God: (a) a wealthy person giving a small percentage of his money to the church, (b) a poor widow giving all her money to the church, or (c) Jesus giving his life and blood to save all humanity from everything that would separate us from God, our Father?
2. Ask the children what sort of healing Jesus brings to all humanity through his death on the cross and his resurrection from the dead.
3. Ask the children how they share in Jesus' giving and healing activities.
[Through baptism and by remembering their baptism every day.]

E. Closing Prayer - *The Lord's Prayer*

Lesson Fifteen - Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet

(Teacher Preparation - Read John chapter 13)



Opening Prayer (by teacher)

Opening Discussion:

-Ask the children what they like most and least about helping their parents (guardian) or teacher or other adult in their lives. Ask the children what they like most and least about helping one of their siblings or friends. Ask the children what they would not want to do to help someone else. Ask the children what would and would not want to do to help Jesus.

A. Read *Beginners Bible Story* - "Washing the Disciples' Feet" pages 437-441

Discussion Questions:

1. How did many people, including Jesus' church leaders, feel about Jesus?
2. Who were some of the disciples who were still friends with Jesus?
3. Why do you think that it was unusual for Jesus to wash the feet of his disciples?
4. Why do you think that Peter did not want Jesus to wash his feet?
5. Why did Jesus say about his wanting to wash the feet of his disciples?

B. Memory Verse

"Jesus ... got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him" (John 13:3a, 4-5 - NRSV).

C. Craft / Activity (optional)

D. Catechetical Material - *Apostles' Creed*

Third Article: *I believe in the Holy Spirit
the holy Christian* church
the communion of saints
the forgiveness of sins
the resurrection of the body
and the life everlasting. Amen.*

*Luther substituted "Christian" for the word "catholic" meaning "universal" so that Protestants would not confuse the Christ's universal church with the Roman Catholic Church based in Rome.

What does this mean?

Answer: I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to him, but the Holy Spirit as called me through the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, and kept and sanctified me in the right faith, just as calls, gathers, enlightens, sanctifies, and keeps the whole of Christianity in the one, right faith. In this Christianity, he daily and richly forgives me and all believers of our sins, and on the last day he will raise me and all the dead, and he will give me along with all believers in Christ eternal life. This is certainly true.

1. Ask the children to rewrite the above answer in their own words so that a friend would easily understand it.
2. Ask the children why Jesus came to his disciples to wash their feet instead of wanting them to come and wash his feet.
3. Ask the children how Jesus has washed them and asked them to follow him and to serve others. [Jesus has done this in their baptism.]

E. Closing Prayer - *The Lord's Prayer*

Lesson Sixteen - The Passover in the Upper Room

(Teacher Preparation - Read Matthew chapter 26 and John 13-14)



Opening Prayer (by teacher)

Opening Discussion:

-Ask the children what the word "betray" means to them. Ask the children how it felt if they told someone a secret only to have the other person tell their secret to someone else. Ask the children how it felt if someone promised to do something for them and then that person did not fulfil the promise. Ask the children how someone might betray God.

A. Read *Beginners Bible Story* - "The Last Supper" pages 442-445

Discussion Questions:

1. What plan did Judas make so that he could get more money?
2. How much money did the church's leaders of Jesus' day pay Judas?
3. How did Jesus know that one of his disciples would do something bad to him?
4. How did Jesus show who was going to betray him?
5. Why did Jesus share a cup of wine and some bread with his remaining disciples?
6. What did Jesus promise his disciples?

B. Memory Verse

"When Jesus had thus spoken, he was troubled in spirit, and testified, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.' ... 'It is he to whom I shall give this morsel when I have dipped it.' So when he had dipped the morsel, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. Then after the morsel, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, 'What you are going to do, do quickly'" (John 13:21, 26-27 - RSV).

C. Craft / Activity (optional)

D. Catechetical Material - *Apostles' Creed*

First Article: *I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.*

What does this mean?

Answer: I believe that God has created me with all creatures, and that he has given me and still preserves my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all limbs, reason and all intellectual senses, and additionally he richly and daily supplies me with clothes and shoes, food and drink, house and farm, spouse and children, field, livestock, and all goods, and with all necessary things and sustenance for the body and life. He shields me from all dangers and

protects and keeps me from all evil. He has done that out of pure, fatherly, divine goodness and mercy without my merit and worthiness. For all this I am obliged to thank and praise him, to serve and obey him. This is certainly true.

1. If God gives us all good things that we need, like it says above, ask the children why all these things were apparently taken away from Jesus when he was betrayed.
2. Ask the children what Jesus gave to his disciples even after he was betrayed.
[He gave bread, wine, his promise to return, his life on the cross, and through these his love to all people from God.]
3. Ask the children what God wants to give us that is more important than our bodily needs.

E. Closing Prayer - *The Lord's Prayer*

Lesson Seventeen - Betrayal and Crucifixion

(Teacher Preparation - Read John chapters 18 and 19)



Opening Prayer (by teacher)

Opening Discussion:

-Ask the children what it is like to be left alone. Ask the children how they might have felt when shopping or elsewhere, and they could not find their parent (guardian) or anyone else whom they knew. Ask the children what it is like when their friends or schoolmates do not want to play with them.

A. Read *Beginners Bible Story* - "Jesus is Arrested and Crucified" pages 446-452

Discussion Questions:

1. What kind of a friend did Judas become to Jesus?
2. What was Jesus doing when Judas came with soldiers to arrest Jesus?
3. Why was Jesus supposed to die?
4. Why did the leaders of Jesus' church think that he should die?
5. How was Jesus killed?
6. What do you think the surprise was that God had in mind?

B. Memory Verse

"So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons" (John 18:3 - NRSV).

C. Craft / Activity (optional)

D. Catechetical Material - *Apostles' Creed*

Second Article: *And in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
born of the Virgin Mary
suffered under Pontius Pilate
crucified, died, and was buried
descended into hell
on the third day he rose from the dead
ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father almighty,
whence he shall come to judge the living and the dead.*

What does this mean?

Answer: I believe that Jesus Christ, truly God born of the Father in eternity and also truly human born from the Virgin Mary, is my Lord who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned human being, who has secured and won me forgiveness of all sins and freed me from death and from the power of the devil. He has done this not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death so that I may be his own and live under him in his kingdom and serve him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he is resurrected from the dead, and lives and reigns in eternity. This is certainly true.

1. Ask the children why they think that God gave his Son to die for all humanity? [John 3:16]
2. Ask the children how humanity's relationship with God has changed because Jesus died on the cross.
3. Ask the children why the cross of Christ makes Christianity different from other religions.

E. Closing Prayer - *The Lord's Prayer*

Lesson Eighteen - The Resurrection

(Teacher Preparation - Read Matthew chapters 27 and 28)



Opening Prayer (by teacher)

Opening Discussion:

-Ask the children what it is like when a pet dies. Ask the children how they felt if a close relative has died. Ask the children what sort of things they remember from the funeral service. Ask the children what God has done about death for all time.

A. Read *Beginners Bible Story* - "Jesus is Risen!" pages 453-458

Discussion Questions:

1. Who was the man who came and put Jesus in the grave?
2. What kind of a grave did Jesus have?
3. Why were there guards in front of Jesus' tomb?
4. What happened on the Sunday morning after the Friday when Jesus was crucified?
5. What did Mary find when she came to the tomb?
6. What did the angel tell Mary?
7. What did Jesus' disciples think of Mary's story?

B. Memory Verse

"After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow" (Matthew 28:1-3 - NRSV).

C. Craft / Activity (optional)

D. Catechetical Material - *Apostles' Creed*

Third Article: *I believe in the Holy Spirit
the holy Christian* church
the communion of saints
the forgiveness of sins
the resurrection of the body
and the life everlasting. Amen.*

*Luther substituted "Christian" for the word "catholic" meaning "universal" so that Protestants would not confuse the Christ's universal church with the Roman Catholic Church based in Rome.

What does this mean?

Answer: I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to him, but the Holy Spirit as called me through the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, and kept and sanctified me in the right faith, just as calls, gathers, enlightens, sanctifies, and keeps the whole of Christianity in the one, right faith. In this Christianity, he daily and richly forgives me and all believers of our sins, and on the last day he will raise me and all the dead, and he will give me along with all believers in Christ eternal life. This is certainly true.

1. Ask the children why it is hard for human beings to believe that God loves us so much that he would allow Jesus to die on the cross.
2. Ask the children why we teach in baptism that we are united with Christ in a death like his and that we will be united with him in a resurrection like his (see Romans 6:1-11).
3. Ask the children how Christians should live their lives knowing that God promises to forgive all their sins, to raise them from the dead, and to give them eternal life.

E. Closing Prayer - *The Lord's Prayer*

Lesson Nineteen - Jesus' Surprise Visit / Jesus Helps His Friends

(Teacher Preparation - Read John chapter 21)



Opening Prayer (by teacher)

Opening Discussion:

-Ask the children if they have ever tried to hide from someone. Ask the children if they have a secret hiding spot. Ask the children if Jesus knows where their hiding spot is. Changing topics, ask the children if they have ever gone fishing. Ask the children about the biggest fish that they have ever caught or would like to catch. Ask the children about the biggest fish that one of their parents (guardian) or other relative has caught. Ask them to say what a "fish story" or a "fish tale" is and if they have told one themselves.

A. Read *Beginners Bible Story* - "Jesus Returns" pages 459-461
 Beginners Bible Story - "A Net Full of Fish" pages 462-465

Discussion Questions:

1. Why were Jesus disciples hiding?
2. At first, what did Jesus disciples think that he was?
3. How did they know that Jesus was not a ghost?
4. Why do you think that Jesus disciples returned to fishing after Jesus was crucified?
5. How many fish did Peter and his friend catch when they went fishing?
6. What do you think that Peter and his friends might have thought after fishing all night when the man on the shore told them to throw their nets in the water?
7. How did they disciples know that the man on shore was Jesus?
8. What did Jesus ask Peter to do?
9. Do think that the reports of Jesus being raised from the dead are true or just a "fish story"?

B. Memory Verse

"Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus.

Jesus said to them, 'Children, you have no fish, have you?' They answered him, 'No.' He said to them, 'Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.' So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish" (John 21:4-6 - NRSV).

C. Craft / Activity (optional)

D. Catechetical Material - *Apostles' Creed* - Place parts of the Creed in their proper order

*suffered under Pontius Pilate
the communion of saints
and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father almighty,
born of the Virgin Mary
maker of heaven and earth.
and the life everlasting. Amen.
I believe in God, the Father almighty,
ascended into heaven
I believe in the Holy Spirit
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
the resurrection of the body
whence he shall come to judge the living and the dead.
And in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord,
the holy Christian church
on the third day he rose from the dead
descended into hell
the forgiveness of sins
crucified, died, and was buried*

E. Closing Prayer - The Lord's Prayer

Lesson Twenty - Jesus Goes to Heaven

(Teacher Preparation - Read Matthew chapter 28, John chapter 14, and Acts chapter 1)



Opening Prayer (by teacher)

Opening Discussion:

-Ask the children what the difference is between the word "descend" (to go or come down) and the word "ascend" (to go or come up). Ask the children to think of ways in which one can use these two words, such as going up stairs, how an airplane takes off and lands, how a hot-air balloon behaves, etc. Ask the children which word one might use to describe how Jesus got to heaven. Ask them where Jesus also descended.

A. Read *Beginners Bible Story* - "Jesus Goes to Heaven" pages 466-472

Discussion Questions:

1. What did Jesus do to his disciples before he left them?
2. What did Jesus tell his disciples to do before he left them?
3. Where did Jesus go when he left his disciples?
4. Who appeared to the disciples after Jesus ascended?
5. What kind of a "house" does Jesus have?
6. Why should you also tell others about Jesus?

[So that they might believe in Jesus and live with him forever.]

B. Memory Verse

"Let not your hearts be troubled; believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?

And when I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also" (John 14:1-3 - NRSV).

C. Craft / Activity (optional)

D. Catechetical Material - *Apostles' Creed*

-Which part of the Apostles' Creed best fits this story and why it is important to include this in the creed?

[The children select one or more aspects of the creed and explain their choice.]

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

*And in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
born of the Virgin Mary
suffered under Pontius Pilate
crucified, died, and was buried
descended into hell
on the third day he rose from the dead
ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father almighty,
whence he shall come to judge the living and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit
the holy Christian church
the communion of saints
the forgiveness of sins
the resurrection of the body
and the life everlasting. Amen.*

E. Closing Prayer - The Lord's Prayer

Spring Lesson Twenty-One - Pentecost / The Church is Born



(Teacher Preparation - Read Acts chapter 2, and Matthew chapter 28 and John chapter 20)

Opening Prayer (by teacher)

Opening Discussion:

-Ask the children what happens when we breathe. Ask the children what happens if we stop breathing. Ask the children what word "spirit" means ["breath" or "spirit"]. Ask the children what the word "inspire" means ["to breathe into"]. Ask the children what the word "expire" means [from ex-spire "to breathe out", "to die"]. Ask the children how they think that God's word "inspires" people [through the work of the Holy Spirit]. Ask the children how they think that the Holy Spirit helps the church to grow.

A. Read *Beginners Bible Story* - "The Holy Spirit Comes" pages 473-479
 Beginners Bible Story - "The First Church" pages 480-483

Discussion Questions:

1. For what were Jesus' disciples waiting in Jerusalem to happen?
2. What do you think that the word "Pentecost" means?
[Greek word for the Jewish Feast of Weeks (harvest festival) celebrated 50 days (Pentecost meaning 50) after the second day of the Passover on which the ceremony of the barley sheaf was observed when the first fruits of the harvest were offered to God (Leviticus 23:15-17).]
3. What happened to Jesus' disciples when they gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate Pentecost?
4. What could Jesus' disciples do after they had received the gift of the Holy Spirit?
5. How is the story of Pentecost a remedy of the story of the Tower of Babel (see *Children's Bible*, pages 36-40).
6. Why did many people come to believe in Jesus because of the Holy Spirit's work on Pentecost and in the first churches?

B. Memory Verse

"And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability" (Acts 2:2-4 - NRSV).

C. Craft / Activity (optional)

D. Catechetical Material - *Apostles' Creed*

-Which part of the Apostles' Creed best fits this story and why it is important to include this in the creed?

[The children select one or more aspects of the creed and explain their choice.]

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

*And in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
born of the Virgin Mary
suffered under Pontius Pilate
crucified, died, and was buried
descended into hell
on the third day he rose from the dead
ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father almighty,
whence he shall come to judge the living and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit
the holy Christian church
the communion of saints
the forgiveness of sins
the resurrection of the body
and the life everlasting. Amen.*

E. Closing Prayer - *The Lord's Prayer*

Lesson Twenty-Two - Peter Heals the Beggar

(Teacher Preparation - Read Acts chapter 3)



Opening Prayer (by teacher)

Opening Discussion:

-Ask the children what sort of physical activities they like to do best and least. Ask the children what it might be like not to be able to do those activities because they became paralyzed. Ask the children who would help them get out of bed, get dressed, get to school, and so forth if they could not walk. Ask them how they would manage if that helping person was not there to help them with their daily lives.

A. Read *Beginners Bible Story* - "The Lame Man" pages 484-487

Discussion Questions:

1. Why did the man at the temple beg?
2. For what sort of things did the lame man beg?
3. What did Peter and John do when the man asked them for money?
4. What happened when Peter told the man to walk in the name of Jesus?
5. Whose power cured the lame man?
6. What did the people do when they saw that the lame man was able to walk?

B. Memory Verse

"But Peter said, 'I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk.' And he took him by the right hand and raised him up; and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. Jumping up, he stood and began to walk, and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God" (Acts 3:6-8 - NRSV).

C. Craft / Activity (optional)

D. Catechetical Material - *Apostles' Creed*

-Which part of the Apostles' Creed best fits this story and why it is important to include this in the creed?

[The children select one or more aspects of the creed and explain their choice.]

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

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on the third day he rose from the dead
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and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father almighty,
whence he shall come to judge the living and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit
the holy Christian church
the communion of saints
the forgiveness of sins
the resurrection of the body
and the life everlasting. Amen.*

E. Closing Prayer - *The Lord's Prayer*

Lesson Twenty-Three - Saul's Conversion

(Teacher Preparation - Read Acts chapter 9)



Opening Prayer (by teacher)

Opening Discussion:

-Ask the children what a bully is. Ask the children what sort of things a bully does to be mean or nasty. Ask the children what it is like to bully someone else. Ask the children what it is like to be bullied by someone else. Ask them what they think is the best way to deal with a bully.

A. Read *Beginners Bible Story - "A Changed Man"* pages 488-493

Discussion Questions:

1. What sort of a person was the man named Saul?
2. What did Saul want to do to those who loved Jesus?
3. What happened to Saul as he traveled to Damascus?
4. What did Jesus tell Saul to do?
5. What did Jesus tell Ananias to do?
6. Why do you think that Ananias was not afraid to go to Saul?
7. What did Saul, now Paul, start to do after he was baptized?

B. Memory Verse

"Now as he journeyed he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed about him. And he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' And he said, 'Who are you, Lord?' And he said, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting; but rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do'" (Acts 9:3-6 - RSV).

C. Craft / Activity (optional)

D. Catechetical Material - *Apostles' Creed*

-Which part of the Apostles' Creed best fits this story and why it is important to include this in the creed?

[The children select one or more aspects of the creed and explain their choice.]

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

*And in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
born of the Virgin Mary*

*suffered under Pontius Pilate
crucified, died, and was buried
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and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father almighty,
whence he shall come to judge the living and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit
the holy Christian church
the communion of saints
the forgiveness of sins
the resurrection of the body
and the life everlasting. Amen.*

E. Closing Prayer - *The Lord's Prayer*

Lesson Twenty-Four - Paul the Missionary / Paul Arrested for Jesus

(Teacher Preparation - Read Acts chapters 9 and 16)



Opening Prayer (by teacher)

Opening Discussion:

-Ask the children how often they tell others about Jesus. Ask the children what a "missionary" is [one who is sent]. Ask the children if they would be willing to travel to another country to tell people about Jesus. Now, ask the children why people go to jail. Ask the children what sort of activities might lead to time in jail. Ask the children how people get out of jail. Ask the children if believing in Jesus is a reason to go to jail. Ask them whether they would believe in Jesus if it meant that they might be put in jail.

A. Read *Beginners Bible Story* - "Paul's Journeys" pages 494-499
 Beginners Bible Story - "Earthquake in Prison" pages 500-503

Discussion Questions:

1. What ways did Paul travel to tell others about Jesus?
2. Can you name some of the places that Paul traveled to tell people about Jesus?
3. Why are followers of Jesus called Christians?
[from the word Greek word "Christos" meaning "God's anointed one," which is the same as the word "Messiah" in Hebrew.]
4. What happened to Paul and Silas for telling people about Jesus?
5. How did Paul and Silas behave once they were in jail?
6. What happened one midnight at the jail where Paul and Silas were being held?
7. Why was the jailer surprised to find Paul and Silas still in jail after the earthquake?
8. What happened then to the jailer?

B. Memory Verse

"About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened" (Acts 16:25-26 - NRSV).

C. Craft / Activity (optional)

D. Catechetical Material - *Apostles' Creed*

-Which part of the Apostles' Creed best fits this story and why it is important to include this in the creed?

[The children select one or more aspects of the creed and explain their choice.]

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

*And in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
born of the Virgin Mary
suffered under Pontius Pilate
crucified, died, and was buried
descended into hell
on the third day he rose from the dead
ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father almighty,
whence he shall come to judge the living and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit
the holy Christian church
the communion of saints
the forgiveness of sins
the resurrection of the body
and the life everlasting. Amen.*

E. Closing Prayer - The Lord's Prayer

Lesson Twenty-Five - A New Heaven

(Teacher Preparation - Read Revelation chapters 1 and 21)



Opening Prayer (by teacher)

Opening Discussion:

-Ask the children what it means to reveal something. Ask the children why they might like or dislike having a secret of theirs revealed. Ask them why they might like or dislike having something revealed that they have done wrong. Ask them what they can hide from God. Ask them what do not know about God that they would like revealed to them.

A. Read *Beginners Bible Story* - "Jesus is Coming!." pages 504-508

Discussion Questions:

1. What did John see and hear when he was on the island?
3. What did Jesus want John to do?
5. What happened to the bad things on the earth?
6. With whom does God promise to live?
7. How will life with God be different from life now?

B. Memory Verse

"And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband" (Revelation 21:2 - NRSV).

C. Craft / Activity (optional)

D. Catechetical Material - *Apostles' Creed*

-Which part of the Apostles' Creed best fits this story and why it is important to include this in the creed?

[The children select one or more aspects of the creed and explain their choice.]

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

*And in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
born of the Virgin Mary
suffered under Pontius Pilate
crucified, died, and was buried
descended into hell
on the third day he rose from the dead*

*ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father almighty,
whence he shall come to judge the living and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit
the holy Christian church
the communion of saints
the forgiveness of sins
the resurrection of the body
and the life everlasting. Amen.*

E. Closing Prayer - *The Lord's Prayer*

Lesson Twenty-Six - The Lord's Prayer

(Teacher Preparation - Read Matthew chapter 6 and Luke chapter 11)



Opening Prayer (by teacher)

Opening Discussion:

-Ask the children who first taught the Lord's Prayer. Ask the children who taught them the Lord's Prayer. Ask them how often they prayer the Lord's Prayer at home.

A. Read Regular Bible Story - Matthew 6:5-15 and Luke chapter 11:1-4

Discussion Questions:

1. Why did Jesus want his disciples to pray differently from those who pray in public places?
2. Why did Jesus advise his disciples not to use lots of words in their prayers?
3. Who is able to see us whatever we do whenever we do it?

B. Memory Verse

"Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him"
(Matthew 6:8 - NRSV).

C. Craft / Activity (optional)

D. Catechetical Material - *The Lord's Prayer*

On a sheet of paper divided into three columns, ask the children to write the text of Matthew 6:5-15 in the first column and the text of Luke chapter 11:1-4 in the third column. In the center column, have the children write the Lord's Prayer. Then, have the children draw lines from the biblical texts to the corresponding petitions of the Lord's Prayer. Ask them for their observations.

*Our Father who art in heaven.
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us
And lead us not into temptation.
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.*

E. Closing Prayer - *The Lord's Prayer*

Lesson Twenty-Seven - The Ten Commandments

(Teacher Preparation - Read Exodus chapter 20)



Opening Prayer (by teacher)

Opening Discussion:

-Ask the children how the people of God received the Ten Commandments. Ask the children on what the Ten Commandments were first written. Ask the children who brought the Ten Commandments from God to God's people. Ask the children where the people of God were before they received the Ten Commandments. Ask them why God gave them the Ten Commandments.

A. Read Regular Bible Story - Exodus 20:1-20

Discussion Questions:

1. What would happen to people if they had other gods from the one, true God?
2. What does God show to those who keep his commandments?
3. What is the Sabbath?
4. Why were the people afraid as Moses received the Ten Commandments?

B. Memory Verse

"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them" (Exodus 20:2-51 - NRSV).

C. Craft / Activity (optional)

D. Catechetical Material - *Ten Commandments*

From Exodus 20:1-20, have the children formulate the Ten Commandments as closely as they can to the version used in the catechism.

1. *You shall have no other gods.*
2. *You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.*
3. *Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.*
4. *Honor your father and your mother.*
5. *You shall not kill.*
6. *You shall not commit adultery.*
7. *You shall not steal.*
8. *You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.*

9. *You shall not covet your neighbor's house.*
10. *You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant, or his maidservant, or his ox, or his ass, or anything that is your neighbor's.*

E. Closing Prayer - *The Lord's Prayer*

Lesson Twenty-Eight - The Apostles Creed

(Teacher Preparation - Read Acts chapters 4, 10, and 13)



Opening Prayer (by teacher)

Opening Discussion:

-Ask the children how the Christian faith is passed from one person to another. Ask the children who has taught them about God the Father, Jesus his Son, and the Holy Spirit. Ask the children what makes the life of Jesus different from the lives of all other people. Ask the children what aspects of Jesus' life they would think most important to communicate to others.

A. Read Regular Bible Story - Act 10:34-48

Discussion Questions:

1. What kind of a speech did Peter give in this Bible passage?
2. What aspects of Jesus life did Peter tell to the people?
3. Why was Peter preaching to the people?
4. What is the relationship between what Peter was saying and where the Holy Spirit fell?
5. What did Peter command happen to the people who believed in God because Peter told them about Jesus?

B. Memory Verse

"While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word" (Acts 10:44 - NRSV).

C. Craft / Activity (optional)

D. Catechetical Material - *Apostles' Creed*

The following biblical passages correspond to elements in the three articles of the Apostles' Creed. Divide a sheet of paper into two columns. In one column, have the children write out the Apostles' Creed. In the other column, have the children look up the verses and then list the verses in the second column opposite the article of the creed to which the verses correspond. Please, mix the verses and make them available on a board or sheet of paper. See if the children can ascertain which element of the creed is not found in the Bible.

First Article: Exodus 20:11, Psalm 121:2, Luke 10:21

Second Article: I John 4:15, John 20:31, Mark 1:9-11, Galatians 2:16, Luke 1:34-35, Acts 13:26-

31, Luke 24:51, Acts 7:55, Romans 8:34, Acts 10:34, I Corinthians 15:3-4

Third Article: II Thessalonians 2:13, Acts 9:31, II Corinthians 13:13, I Corinthians 1:2, Acts 5:31, Acts 10:43, I Corinthians 15:20-22, John 3:16

E. Closing Prayer - *The Lord's Prayer*

Lesson Twenty-Nine - Holy Baptism

(Teacher Preparation - Read Luke chapter 3, Acts chapter 10, and Romans chapter 6)



Opening Prayer (by teacher)

Opening Discussion:

-Ask the children how old they were when they were baptized. Ask the children what it means to be baptized. Ask the children how they would tell their friends why baptism is important.

A. Read Regular Bible Story - Romans chapter 6

Discussion Questions:

1. How are those who are baptized united with Jesus Christ?
2. After baptism, how should we consider ourselves in relation to God and to sin?
3. From what does baptism set us free?
4. What are the wages of sin?
5. What is the free gift from God?

B. Memory Verse

"Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:4 - NRSV).

C. Craft / Activity (optional)

D. Catechetical Material - *Holy Baptism*

Luther On Baptism

"For to be baptized in God's name is not to be baptized by human beings but by God. Therefore, although it happens through human hands, it is nonetheless truly God's own work. From this each one can well conclude that it is a much greater work than that done by human beings or saints" (*The Large Catechism*, 4:10).

"Thus you can clearly see that this is no work done by us but a treasure which he gives and faith grasps, just as the Lord Christ on the cross is not a work but a treasure held in the word and presented to us and received through faith" (*The Large Catechism*, 4:37).

"Therefore, regarding baptism, each Christian has enough to learn and to practice

for a lifetime; for one always has enough to do to believe firmly what it [baptism] promises and brings: victory over the devil and death, forgiveness of sins, God's grace, the whole Christ and the Holy Spirit with his gifts" (*The Large Catechism*, 4:41).

"Now in baptism, everyone is brought to the door for free to receive such a treasure and medicine which swallows death and keeps every human being alive. Therefore, one must look well on baptism and make use of it so that it will strengthen and comfort us when our sin or conscience weighs down on us. Despite that, we say, "I am baptized, and if baptized, then I have the promise that I shall be blessed and have eternal life, both in soul and body" (*The Large Catechism*, 4:43).

E. Closing Prayer - *The Lord's Prayer*

Lesson Thirty - Telling Your Favorite Bible Story



(Teacher Preparation - Review the Table of Contents for Grades One through Three to gain an overview of the stories that have been covered. This will allow you to help the children find their favorite Bible story either in the *Beginner's Bible* or in the curriculum.)

Opening Prayer (by teacher)

A. Read Ask the children to read their favorite Bible story.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is this your favorite Bible story?
2. What do you like best about this story?
3. What is God telling you about himself in this story?
4. How would you tell this story to your family and friends?

B. Memory Verse

Ask the children to find and write out their favorite memory verse.

C. Craft / Activity (optional)

D. Catechetical Material

Ask the children who can recite the Ten Commandments or the Lord's Prayer or the Apostles' Creed. Ask if anyone is able to recite all three. Ask them to say why the Ten Commandments and the Lord's Prayer and the Apostles' Creed are important for their lives as Christians.

E. Closing Prayer - *The Lord's Prayer*

Acknowledgments

Elements of the baptismal service found in lesson one of each grade/year have been adapted from the *Lutheran Book of Worship* (Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House / Philadelphia: Board of Publication Lutheran Church in America, 1978).

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Bible verses from the *Revised Standard Version* (RSV), the *New Revised Standard Version* (NRSV), and the *New International Version* (NIV) have been incorporated as published in *The Holy Scriptures for Windows* (on compact disc), version 1.02 (Independence, Missouri: Christian Technologies, 1995).