



CHILDRENS LITURGY LESSON PLAN DECEMBER 22 ,2019

**THEME: DO NOT BE
AFRAID; EMMANUEL
'GOD IS WITH US'**

GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-24

18 Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19 Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. 20 But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." 22 All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

23 "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, "which means, "God is with us." 24 When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife

ENTERING AND WELCOMING

- *Make the children to stand in a circle and hold their hands together.
- *Bring to their mind that Jesus is standing in middle of the circle. Wish Him. Prompt them to close eyes for talking to Jesus in prayer.
- *Say a prayer in children's own words or do '**Our father**' and '**Hail Mary**' together
- * **The Sorry Prayer: (Optional)**
Ask the Children to reflect on the past week and reflect on whether they would like to say sorry for anything they have done or said to someone, that must have hurt Lord Jesus.
(After each prayer, respond: Lord have mercy.)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

WELCOMING THE GOSPEL: ALLELUIA

A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. MATTHEW

ST. MATTHEW 1:18-24

Response: Glory to you, O Lord

READ THE GOSPEL (given in the side)

The gospel of the Lord

Response: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

ACTIVITY: 1. The children must shout out 'EMMANUEL' when they hear teacher saying, 'do not be afraid' and 'JESUS' when they hear teacher saying, 'saved us from our sins'. Make it faster as you proceed.

2. Secret passing: Make children sit in a circle and say words like EMMAUUEL, JESUS, GABRIEL etc in on child's ears. Ask them to pass it on and as it ends asks the last child to say what she heard aloud. Repeat it.

GOSPEL REFLECTIONS

Last week, in the Gospel we heard John the Baptist who was in prison had doubts on Jesus and he send messengers to Jesus and asked him. Jesus said, GO AND TELL WHAT YOU SEE AND HEAR and 'blessed is the one who has no offence because of what I do.'

Prompt children to narrate what they know about the birth of Jesus Prompt them with a question like 'do you have dreams?'

In today's gospel, we hear the Birth of Messiah- Jesus and about a dream from God that cleared doubts of Joseph.

Jesus was conceived in Mary's womb by the power from heaven- the Holy spirit. Joseph, Mary's husband was surprised to know this. but he was a very righteous person. He didn't want to put Mary to public shame. So, Joseph decided to leave Mary quietly. God was watching over Joseph. Understanding his secret intentions, God send his Angel to Joseph in his dream.

Angel said to Joseph 'do not be afraid.' Mary conceived the baby through Holy Spirit and he must be named Jesus.

These all were pre-planned by our Father in heaven and has been revealed through prophets (Isaiah 7:14) that a son is going to come to the world who should be named **Emmanuel**-meaning God is with us and 'he will save his people from their sins'. Yes, God came down to us and saved us from all our sins and to be with us forever.

How baby did Jesus, son of God came into Mother Mary? Yes, by the power of Holy spirit. He came to world and died for us, taking all our sins away and he ascended to heaven. He came into us to be with us forever by sending down Holy Spirit upon us, to be with us. God is with us always.

As we are preparing to celebrate Christmas, when God send his son to this world by power of holy spirit ,through Mary when she said yes to the word send by God through angel, let us also pray, Oh Jesus, as we read through the gospel, send us more of your Holy Spirit and let your words be made flesh in us and we conceive, bear and deliver and transform as living JESUS.

Each moment we read your words let it be Christmas for us, amen.

Let us realize, god talks us through dreams too. So let us pray before sleeping 'lord talk to us even in our sleep through dreams'

'celebrate the feast of Christmas everyday, even every moment in the interior temple of your spirit, remaining like a baby in the bosom of the

heavenly Father, where you will be reborn each moment in the Divine Word, Jesus Christ. - St. Paul of the Cross

VERSES TO REMEMBER (WRITTEN ON THE WHITE BOARD):

*'the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him **Emmanuel**', which means, "God is with us." - (Matthew 1:23)*

INTERCESSION PRAYERS:

If children have any personal prayer intentions, we pray for them.

And in response we pray: **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers.**

In this month of December let us pray for all to know more about Jesus and to tell about Him as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus.

FINAL PRAYER:

Dear Father, thank you for giving us your son Jesus. Like mother Mary, help us to say Yes to Your word that send to us through your messengers and fill us with the power of your Holy spirit for the Living word 'Jesus' to be made flesh in us, to be with us and us to be in Him and deliver Jesus to the world as joy of our salvation. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

HAVE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS

Children re-join the Holy Mass.