

Prayer Service: Jr. High Classroom



"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me . . . to bring good news to the poor." Luke 4:18

CATECHIST BACKGROUND

Before gathering the children in the prayer center, prepare the prayer table with a cloth, a Bible opened to Luke 4:18, and a candle.

Gather the children in the prayer center. Invite them to recall what they have learned about Jesus in religion classes, at Mass, and in their families. Then invite each child to name a person who has taught him or her about Jesus. Be prepared to give an example of your own. Explain that today's prayer is a prayer of thanks for all who help us learn about Jesus and grow in faith.

OPENING PRAYER

- Lead the children in praying the Sign of the Cross, and then offer the following prayer:
Lord Jesus, you have given us a model to follow. As your disciples, help us to follow you and bring your Good News to everyone with mercy and love. Thank you for the example of all those who have helped us to know you. Make our hearts like yours so that we bring your love and Good News to all those who need it. Amen.

WORD OF GOD

- Invite a volunteer to read aloud the Scripture passage that is the basis for this year's Catechetical Sunday theme.

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE:

Jesus unrolled the scroll and found the passage where it was written:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to

captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord." (Luke 4:17b-19)

- List on the board or large paper responses to the following questions: "Who has taught you the Good News of Jesus? What does Jesus mean by "glad tidings?" How can you bring Jesus' glad tidings to those in need in your life?"

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Lead the class in offering prayers of thanks for all who help them learn about and love like Jesus. Invite them to respond, "Thank you, Lord."

For all the saints who taught about Jesus through their words and actions, we pray:
"Thank you, Lord."

For those in our parish who help us live our faith by teaching us about Jesus' Good News, we pray: **"Thank you, Lord."**

For our families and all they do to teach us how to follow Jesus, we pray: **"Thank you, Lord."**

For catechists and teachers all over the world who serve those in need, teach others about God's love, and bring the Gospel to those most in need, we pray: **"Thank you, Lord."**

Say: Lord, teach us to be loving and generous. May we teach others with our words and actions so that we bring your "glad tidings" to the world and to those who most need it. **Amen.**

Lead the children in praying the Sign of the Cross to conclude the prayer.