

October 15-16, 2017 Week 1 - Grade 1

“Everything is ready; come to the feast” (Matthew 22:4)

Objective: Each grade will explore the Gospel reading from the weekend Masses. The difference of each class will be in discussion, depth and personality of each group.

Opening Prayer

Welcome

Who is Jesus

Decorate the Journals - names, stickers

God's Word - What is the Bible

Lectionary reading - Our Bible Story: Matthew 22: 1-14

Sign of the Cross

Closing Prayer

Opening Prayer:

Begin

(Prayer will be made large for your classrooms)

Recite:

Blessed are you, O God, our dear friend!

We thank you for everything you give us.

We thank you for Jesus our brother.

Help us now to listen and to learn.

Help us to share and to be your friends. Amen!

Welcome:

As this is the first class spend a few moments introducing yourself and sharing. Invite each student to say her or his name and share something fun - a favorite color, animal, or food.

Invite the students to open their hearts to God and to meet Jesus with joy; He is our friend and always there for us!

Introduction to the year:

Together we are going to have fun learning about our faith, the goodness of God and the love of Jesus. We are all family, God's family!

Who is Jesus?

God gave us a friend to be with us always, his son Jesus. We know all about Jesus from the stories we hear at Mass.

Jesus is the Son of God. Jesus loves us and he shows us how to love his Father - God and one another.

Coloring Page: Son of God, Jesus

Distribute crayons, stickers and have the students glue into their **Journal notebooks**. This is theirs to take home. They must bring it with them every time we gather - weekly and inter-generational.

Jesus is our friend and he loves everyone!



God's Word

We have a very special book, the Bible. There are many stories in the Bible. Some of the stories were written before Jesus was born and other stories are written after Jesus. We love to tell stories and Jesus did too. Today we are going to read a story that Jesus told some people so they we understand how to make good decisions. This story was read today during Mass.

Lectionary Reading - Our Bible Story

“Everything is ready; come to the feast” Matthew 22:4

Scene:

- Jesus tells the story;
- The king tells his servants to invite “whomever you find”;
- The servants went “out into the streets” and “gathered all they could, bad and good alike”;
- The wedding feast is “filled with guests”;

Main Characters:

Jesus;
The king;
The king’s servants;
The guests at the wedding feast;

Show the students the Lectionary or Bible. Before you read the bible story, take a few minutes to ask the group some questions. Follow up on the group’s responses with your own.

Ask:

- How many of you have ever been to a wedding? If no, how about a birthday party?
- At the wedding/party was there a big meal? Did you have cake?
- Did you spend time with friends and family?
- Were there a lot of people at the wedding/party?
- Did you have a good time?

When you are ready to read part of the bible story, invite the group to be as quiet as they can. Then read the passage slowly and clearly.

The Story of a Wedding Feast

Jesus told some people that were with him a story.

Jesus said, 'the Kingdom of heaven is similar to a king who planned a huge feast for his son's wedding.

The king said to his servants, 'The feast is ready.

Go therefore into the main streets,
and invite everyone you can find to the wedding banquet.'

The servants went out into the streets
and gathered everyone they found,

both good and bad people alike.

And the wedding hall was filled with guests.

Ask the group what happened in the story.

Invite the students to retell the story with you. Here's an example:

Leader: Jesus spoke to some people telling a story
"The kingdom of heaven is similar to a king
who gave a...

invite the group to add the next few words. You may need to give them some hints until someone says:

wedding feast

ask the group to say who the wedding feast was for, giving more hints:

for his son.

continue the story:

Leader: The king said to his servants, 'The feast is ready.

ask: "what did the king say to his servants?" give them hints to lead someone to say:

'The feast is ready.

conclude the story:

Leader:

The king said to his servants, 'The feast is ready. Go out into the main roads and invite to the feast everyone you can find.' The servants went out into the streets and gathered all they found, both good and bad people alike. And the wedding hall was filled with guests."

We come to a feast every week when we go to Mass and everyone is invited! God loves all of us and he wants us All to join Him at His table every Sunday!

Invite students to draw the feast at wedding banquet from the bible story. A good alternative, for anyone not familiar enough with weddings is to draw a picture of a big birthday party where everyone is invited and eats some birthday cake!

(Coloring Page option)

You Are Invited



Teaching the Sign of the Cross

Learning to pray by heart. We will start with the Sign of the Cross, a prayer to show our love for Jesus. We make the Sign of the Cross at beginning and end of Mass every Sunday. Practice at home with your family. We will keep using it each week so that everyone can learn it by heart.

Begin:

Our bible story today was about what?

wedding feast

Do you know our parish has a wedding feast almost every day, and we are all invited!

Do you know what wedding feast that would be?

Our Mass

It's great when we can all come to our church for Mass on Saturday afternoon or Sunday mornings to God's table.

We start the Mass by everyone singing a song.

Then we all pray a short prayer called the **Sign of the Cross**.

We pray with our bodies and our words.

At Mass the priest leads us and says most of the words.

Other times, when we pray this prayer, we say all the words.

We start by touching our forehead with all the fingers of our right hand. While we are doing this we pray,

"In the name of the Father..."

Then we move our right hand straight down to our chest, and, while touching our chest,

and of the Son..."

Then we move our right hand to touch our left shoulder 1st and finally our right shoulder.

...and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

Practice with the students. Handout Sign of the Cross Worksheets - 3

Closing Prayer

Begin with the Sign of the Cross

(Prayer will be made large for your classrooms)

Recite:

We thank you, God, for your great love for us.

We thank you for the stories in the bible.

We thank you for inviting us your table Mass.

And, most of all, we thank you for Jesus.

Bless us and help us to live

as Jesus showed us and teaches us. Amen!

Selected Lectionary Reading for Week 1

Full Text

New Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition translation (NRSVCE)

As in The Catholic Faith and Family Bible

- 1 Once more Jesus spoke to them¹ in parables, saying:
- 2 “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son.
- 3 He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come.
- 4 Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’
- 5 But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business,
- 6 while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them.
- 7 The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city.
- 8 Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy.
- 9 Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’
- 10 Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.
- 11 But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe,
- 12 and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless.
- 13 Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’
- 14 For many are called, but few are chosen.”

¹ **them** refers back to “the chief priests and the elders of the people” in Matthew 21:23 NRSVCE