

Learning about the Sacraments

Teaching Plan

Teaching Tips

Ahead of introducing *Learning about the Sacraments* to the children, take time to familiarize yourself with the contents. Review this handout and how it correlates to the children's resource.

The resource is designed for children to interact with. Have the children follow along as you read aloud, and engage them in hands-on interaction with the resource, as suggested in the teaching steps below.

Background

Instituted by Christ more than 2,000 years ago, the Seven Sacraments of the Catholic Church are not simply rituals and traditions. They are real and powerful ways we connect with Jesus, his divine life, and the infinite and unconditional love of the Father. Through Christ's action and the Holy Spirit's power, God's grace is made present to us in tangible signs—words, actions, and objects—at each sacramental celebration of Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Reconciliation (confession), Anointing of the Sick, Matrimony, and Holy Orders.

Keep this definition in mind as you teach: A Sacrament is an outward sign instituted by Christ to give grace. Help the children look for these outward signs (water, bread, wine, the laying on of hands, etc.). Guide them to discover the Gospel accounts of Jesus giving us the Sacraments. Most importantly, encourage the children to participate regularly in the Sacraments so they can experience God's living, loving, healing grace at work within them.

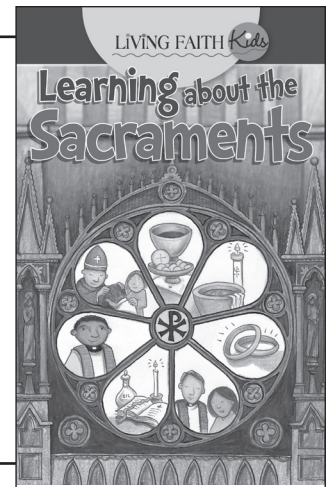
Opening Prayer

Begin your lessons with prayer. Use the following or modify it each time you pray it with the group.

Good Jesus, you have given us the Sacraments because you love us so much and want us to grow closer to you. Open our hearts and make us ready to receive you in the Sacraments so that you can come to live within us. Amen.

Teaching Steps

Page(s)	
COVER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct the children to look at the cover of their booklets. Say, <i>We will be learning about the Sacraments, and how Jesus himself comes to live in us through them.</i> • Discuss the art. Ask if they can identify what is happening in the pictures, or what the objects represent. (For example, the two rings represent Matrimony.) Note the symbol in the center. Explain that these are the Greek letters “Chi” and “Rho,” and that together, they signify Christ, who has given us the Sacraments. Ask, <i>What does the art all around it remind you of?</i> (Church. You might note that Jesus has entrusted the Sacraments to the Church.)



2-3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read aloud the head and first paragraph. Ask, <i>What does it mean to welcome someone?</i> • Read the second paragraph. Ask the children how much they remember about the story of Adam and Eve and review it briefly together. If you have access to a Bible, read one of the Gospel accounts of Jesus’ baptism, such as Mark 1:4-11. Reflect together on this quote: “I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit” (Mark 1:4).
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Everything begins with BAPTISM

Maybe you were baptized as a baby. Maybe you were a little older. No matter when it happens, the Sacrament of Baptism welcomes you into the Church of God, giving you new life in Jesus.

What does Baptism do?

When Adam and Eve chose to turn away from God, sin came into the world. Jesus came to save us from sin. Baptism frees us from all sin and gives us new life by filling us with the Holy Spirit.

Sacrament Signs

- To show that sin is washed away, the priest or deacon pours water over the person being baptized. He does this three times saying, “I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”
- The baptized wear white to show they are beginning a new life in Christ.
- They are anointed with oil as a sign that they will follow Jesus in his ministry as priest, prophet and king.
- A candle is lit to show that they will shine Jesus’ light in the world.

did you KNOW? Godparents promise to help the baptized child follow Jesus. At least one of them must be a Catholic. They are role models for the newly baptized.

Sticker space here

I know about Baptism!

Start Your Faith Journey with Baptism

Not all the letters in this maze will make it to the end of the road. Help the letters get to the boxes to spell out the word that finishes this sentence:

Baptism is a sacrament of _____

C P E Q E M W R O L B