

# What I See in CHURCH

## Teaching Plan

### Teaching Tips

Ahead of introducing *What I See in Church* 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

Walk into any Catholic church anywhere in the world, and you will immediately sense that you are in a uniquely holy place. It's not the statues, flickering candles, or even the crucifix on the altar (although objects like these have an important purpose in drawing us into worship, prayer, and community). A Catholic church is holy because it is the dwelling place of God in our midst. It is built, set apart, and sanctified for the purpose of inviting us into God's loving presence. Here, we are reconciled and united with the Body of Christ in the celebration of the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, and called to *be* Christ's church for the world.

Growing up in a stressful, technology-driven world, children need havens of peace where they know they will always find God's loving, accepting, healing presence. Help them understand that a Catholic church is their home; where Jesus is truly present, loving us immeasurably; and where every object is meant to help us experience and return this love.

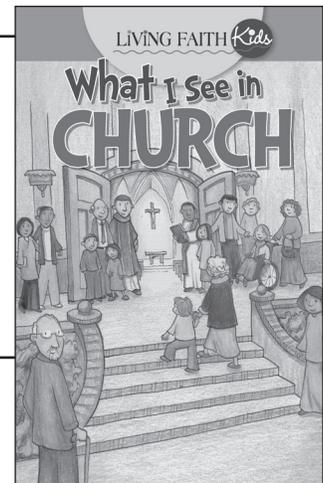
# Opening Prayer

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

**Loving God, thank you for giving us holy places where we can experience your love for us. Help us seek you in always—in church and in each other. Amen.**

# Teaching Steps

Page(s)	
<b>COVER</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Direct the children to look at the cover of their booklets.</b> Ask, <i>What are some things you see when you go to church?</i> Explain that we often see things that we might take for granted or not understand. But here we will learn that everything in a church has a special purpose and can lead us to understand how Jesus himself is truly present with us.</li> <li>• <b>Discuss the art.</b> Ask, <i>What are some ways the picture looks like our/your church? How is it different?</i></li> </ul>



2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Read the header on page 2.</b> Ask, <i>What makes you feel comfortable at home?</i> Accept and affirm answers. Ask, <i>Did you know that your church is your home?</i> Explain that it's Jesus' home, which means it's our home too.</li> <li>• <b>Read the first paragraph.</b> Reaffirm that no matter where we go in the world, we will always be welcome in a Catholic church.</li> <li>• <b>Read the next two paragraphs.</b> Encourage the children to ask questions and share about their own church experiences as you read the booklet together.</li> <li>• <b>Offer help to complete the activity about the parish.</b> Refer to your parish bulletin or website if needed.</li> </ul>
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