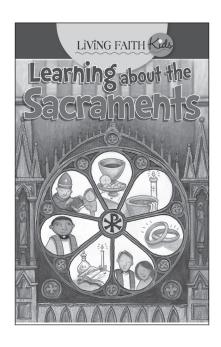
## YLiving Faith Kids



# 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	Direct the children to look at the cover of their booklets.  Say, We will be learning about the Sacraments, and how  Jesus himself comes to live in us through them.	Living FAITH KAN  Learning about the  Sacrament
	• <b>Discuss the art.</b> 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, <b>What does the art all around it remind you of?</b> (Church. You might note that Jesus has entrusted the Sacraments to the Church.)	

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).

\*\*Read aloud the head and first 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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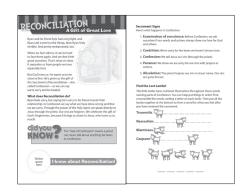
#### 2-3

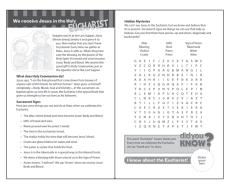
- Read about Sacrament Signs. Ask, What are the signs at the celebration of Baptism? (Water, white garment, oil, candle.) Ask, Why do you think the priest says, "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"?
- **Read "Did You Know?"** Ask the children if they know who their godparents are. If they don't know, invite them to find out. Ask, *If you were to choose someone to be a godparent, what kinds of qualities would you look for?*
- **Complete the activity.** If needed, help the children complete the activity on page 3.

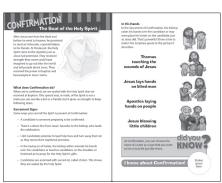
#### 4-5 through 14-15

For each Sacrament page pair (Reconciliation, Eucharist, Confirmation, Matrimony, Holy Orders, and Anointing), follow these steps:

- Read aloud the text and "Did You Know?" facts as children follow along in their booklets. Pause after key terms or phrases about sacramental signs and what the Sacraments do for us. Repeat them, and ask the children to underline them in their booklets. Have the children underline no more than five terms or phrases per page.
- Discuss. Ask questions that connect the Sacraments to Jesus and to children's experience. For example, What does Jesus do for us in Holy Communion? (Jesus gives himself completely— Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity. The Eucharist gives us strength to live as his followers.) Have you ever been to a Mass where Baptism, Confirmation, or Matrimony was celebrated? What do you remember about it?
- Connect. On each page, invite the children to place
  a check mark next to any of the sacrament signs
  they have seen, heard, or spoken (act of contrition,
  altar, chalice, sacred oil, wedding ring, etc.).
   Emphasize that these are the signs God himself
  gives us so that we can know he is present in a
  special way when we participate in the Sacraments.
- Ask if children know when and where they can receive Reconciliation and Eucharist. Point out Mass times and Reconciliation hours in your parish bulletin or website.
- Look deeper. (Optional) If you have access to Bibles, invite the children to read about the scriptural roots of the Sacraments: Eucharist: Matthew 26:26-29; Confirmation: Acts 2:1-4; Reconciliation: John 20:21-23; Anointing of the Sick: James 5:14; Matrimony: Genesis 2:24; Holy Orders: Matthew 10:1-8, Acts 6:3-6.

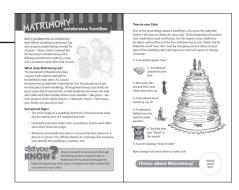


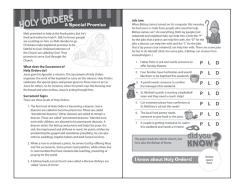


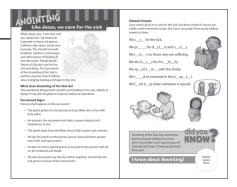


#### 4–5 through 14–15

- **Help.** Offer assistance if needed with the activities and affirm completion.
- Extend understanding by helping children see how the Sacraments are grouped together. Explain that the Sacraments of Christian Initiation are what make us part of God's family and strengthen us as the Body of Christ. They are Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. The Sacraments of Healing are God's ways of making us well when we need spiritual or physical healing. They are Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick. The third group of Sacraments are Sacraments at the Service of Communion and include Matrimony and Holy Orders. These give us God's grace to serve others in Jesus' name.
- Assess Understanding. Before children place each sacrament sticker, have them write or tell you two things they can remember about the Sacrament.



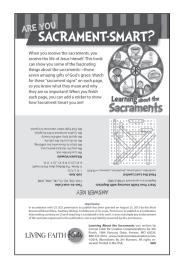




#### **Closing Prayer**

Lead the children in prayer. Close with "Amen. Alleluia."

Jesus, thank you for your gift of the Sacraments. Help us seek you often in them, so that we can receive your strength, wisdom, and grace to help us follow you and live forever in your kingdom. Amen.



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**Learning About the Sacraments** was written by Connie Clark and corresponding Teaching Pages developed by Connie Clark, David Dziena, and Lindsay Taylor for Creative Communications for the Parish, 1564 Fencorp Drive, Fenton, MO 63026. 800-325-9414. www.creativecommunications.com © 2020, 2014. Illustrations by Jim Burrows. All rights reserved. Printed in the USA.