

Celebrating Christ the King

FOR THE TEACHER:

This lesson introduces the kids to two key ideas: we have to let Jesus tell us who he is and the Christian Calendar of worship is a way for us to let him do that.

Questions marked with an asterisk (*) are part of the Trinitarian Catechism.

FIRST ACTIVITY: Show the clip from the movie "The Lion King" where Timon, Pumbaa, and Simba are resting in the grass out under the stars. Pumbaa asks Timon "ever wonder what those sparkly dots are up there?" A brief conversation then follows about what the stars are: Timon says they are fireflies stuck in the sky but Pumbaa thinks they are big balls of burning gas.

Ask the kids: what are some ways we can determine who is right? (Use a telescope, send a spaceship to investigate, etc.) We have to look at the stars and let the stars "tell" us what they are by their characteristics.

Activity Lesson: We learn what something is by letting it "tell" us what it is instead of us coming up with our own imaginary ideas of what it is.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Ask for a helper to pass out a bible to each child. Have them all turn to Colossians 1:11-20. For older kids, have them take turns reading.

May you be strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience,¹² and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light.¹³ For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,¹⁴ in whom¹⁵ The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.¹⁶ For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him,²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

PRIMARY LESSON: Jesus tells us who he is: he is the King of all Creation and everyone, and everything, has its existence in him. He has put everyone in a right relationship (reconciled) with God the Father.

SECOND ACTIVITY: *Get to know each other. Go around the table and have each kid say his name and one thing he likes. The next person has to repeat the previous person's name and what he said he liked and then say his own name and something he likes. We get to know other people by listening to them tell us about themselves. We get to know Jesus by listening to him tell us about himself and his Father and the Holy Spirit. One way we listen to Jesus is by reading different parts of the Bible during different times in the Christian Calendar.*

Explain to the kids that next Sunday is the beginning of a new year of the Christian Calendar. These are the seasons we will celebrate during the upcoming Christian Year:

Advent (preparing for Jesus to Come)

Christmas (celebrating Jesus' birth)

Epiphany (celebrating Jesus' baptism)

Lent (celebrating Jesus' saying "no" to Satan)

Holy Week (remembering Jesus' washing the disciples feet, introducing the bread and wine, and dying on the cross)

Easter (celebrating Jesus' resurrection and ascension)

Pentecost (celebrating Jesus sending the Holy Spirit)

Activity Lesson: The way we get to know people is by listening to them when they tell us about themselves. We get to know Jesus by listening to him tell us about himself in the seasons of the Christian Calendar.

PRAYER: For older kids, have one of them pray this prayer (or come up with their own). For younger kids, have them repeat after you as you read the prayer.

Father in heaven, thank you for telling us about yourself through Jesus. Thank you, Jesus, for telling us who you really are and who the Father really is. Holy Spirit, please help us understand and believe what Jesus is telling us about himself, you, and the Father. In Jesus' name, Amen.