

The Assumption of Mary, Cycle C

Focus: Mary, Mother of God

Gathering (children find/sit on a carpet square)

Say: *Good Morning everyone, my name is _____. Last week we talked about trusting God and following his treasures. Did anyone say a prayer or discover one of God's treasures last week?*

Today we are going to talk about Mary, the Mother of God.

Opening Prayer

Together we make the Sign of the Cross (do in reverse so children can mirror).

Say: *Now let's put our hands together and bow our heads.*

Dear Mary, Thank you for saying 'yes' to the angel Gabriel when he asked you to be Jesus' Mother. Thank you for listening to our prayers and helping us understand what we need to do. Amen

Song/Movement (Hand out Attendance stickers at this time)

“Rejoice in the Lord Always” track 25 from America's 25 Favorite Bible Songs

Play music, encourage children to stretch or move to the music (clapping, stamp feet march in place to the beat), turn to each other and shake hands, saying hello, etc. Have children sit on their carpet squares when finished.

Rejoice in the Lord always.
And again I say rejoice. (2x)

Rejoice! Rejoice! And again I say rejoice. (2x)

Repeat.

Creative Movement (try it if you feel brave)

Have kids form two equal lines facing each other. To the beat of the music have them take four steps toward each other and clap the hands of the child facing them, then take four steps back and clap their hands together. Repeat.

Memory Verse

Say: *Now let's take a moment together to learn a verse from the bible.*

*My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord-my
spirit rejoices in my Savior.*

-Luke 1:46-47

Have the children repeat the verse after you a couple of times.

Say: *When we know that God is with us and cares for us we feel peaceful inside and can tell everyone how great and wonderful he is, just like Mary.*

Gospel Story

Say: *Today we are reading from the Gospel of Luke.*

Have children make sign of the cross on their forehead, mouth and heart saying. *"Lord, open my mind, my lips and my heart so that I may learn it, speak it and love it."*

Read:

Pages 158-160, Mary Visits Her Cousin Elizabeth, from The Family Story Bible.

Note: Read from Page 158, paragraph 8 (Mary decided that...) to top of page 160 (...go home to Joseph)

After the reading say: *The Gospel of the Lord*

Children respond: *Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ*

Ask: *What has happened in this story? What other time of year do we hear this story? Mary goes to see her cousin-they share their love for God and Mary says an important prayer that praises God and how he takes care of everyone-no matter if they are rich or poor, weak or strong.*

Gospel Activity

(Do not have to complete all of these, any necessary materials will be in cabinet)
See the Filler Options Sheet if you need more activities.

Meditation with Mary:

Say: *Mary was Jesus' mother, she was a very special person. She was the first person to understand about life in heaven. She listens to our prayers and helps us to know God's love for us. Let's take some time to imagine sitting with Mary and Jesus-what do they say to each other, what do they say or do with you?*

Say the Hail Mary with the children

Say the Rosary with the children

See the ABC's of the Rosary for Children (in the cabinet)

Complete the weekly bulletin as a group

Closing Prayer

(Children respond: "We Believe!")

Ask: *Do we believe in God, who we praise in song?*

Do we believe in Jesus, who is the son of Mary?

Do we believe in the Holy Spirit, who helped Mary say yes to God?

Sending Forth

Say: *Practice the 'Hail Mary' with your family.*

Lining Up/Closing Song

Play "Oh, How I Love Jesus" track 7 from "America's 25 Favorite..." while children put away any materials and line up. Hand out weekly bulletins. Remind them it is important that they return to their family quietly so that we may all listen and pray together in church.

Oh, how I love Jesus. (3x)
Because He first loved me.

There is a name I love to hear.
I love to sing its word.
It sounds like music in my ear.
The sweetest name on earth.

Oh, how I love Jesus. (3x)
Because He first loved me.