



SOLEMNITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI LESSON PLAN FOR PREK-GRADE 4 LEARNERS

Jesus is Alive!

Lesson Objectives

1. To acknowledge that the Real, substantial Presence of Jesus Christ–Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity– is contained in the Eucharist.
2. To understand that the Corpus Christi Procession is a public act of worship that invites us into an encounter with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament in order to grow in faith and devotion.

Lesson Overview

Aren't the best moments when we are close to the people we love–our family and our friends? Just like we want to be close to others on earth, our hearts really want to be close to those who are in Heaven–especially Jesus! He loves us so much that he found a way to be closer to us than anyone else ever could–through the Eucharist.

Doctrinal Elements

CCC 1324 : *The Eucharist – The Source and Summit of Ecclesial Life*

“The Eucharist is ‘the source and summit of the Christian life.’ The other sacraments, and indeed all ecclesiastical ministries and works of the apostolate, are bound up with the Eucharist and are oriented toward it.”

CCC 1374, 1378: *The presence of Christ by the power of his word and the Holy Spirit*

“In the most blessed sacrament of the Eucharist the body and blood, together with the soul and divinity, of our Lord Jesus Christ and, therefore, the whole Christ is truly, really, and substantially contained.”

“In the liturgy of the Mass we express our faith in the real presence of Christ under the species of bread and wine by, among other ways, genuflecting or bowing deeply as a sign of adoration of the Lord...but also outside of it, reserving the consecrated hosts with the utmost care, exposing them to the solemn veneration of the faithful, and carrying them in procession.”

Archdiocese of Chicago Religion Curriculum Standards

PK.01.A, PK.01.C, PK.01.B, PK.03.A, PK.03.C, K.02.C, K.06.C, 1.01.B, 1.02.B, 1.03.B, 1.05.A, 2.01.B, 2.02.B, 2.02.C, 2.03.C, 2.05.C, 3.06.A, 3.01.A, 3.03.C, 4.01.C, 4.03.C, 4.05.A

Materials Needed

Digital devices for teacher, speakers to listen to meditation, print copies of lesson handouts, access to the internet, information for local Corpus Christi Processions, colored pencils, paper;

**for PK-K learners: SEL smiley face icons to identify feelings.

Lesson Day 1

Tasks and Activities

Opening Prayer (3 min.)

Prayer together (A repeat after me prayer): "Jesus (Jesus), you said (you said): "Let the little children (Let the little children) come to me (come to me)." We choose (we choose) to come (to come) to you (to you). Help us love you (Help us love you). Help us (help us) open our hearts (open our hearts) to you (to you). Amen. (Amen.)

Can integrate some simple sign language/hand motions with the prayer

Explore and Engage (30 min.)

PART ONE: How much does Jesus love us?

Pre-recorded Audio Meditation, Matthew 16:26-28

[franciscansoftheeucharistofchicago.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Matthew-2626-28_K-4.m4a](https://www.franciscansoftheeucharistofchicago.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Matthew-2626-28_K-4.m4a)

Time Stamps:

~ 0-1:40 is settling exercise

Reflection Starts at ~1:40

Scripture Starts ~ 4:40

Meditation Ends at 11:15

~ 11:15 and following are instructions for the original assignment/not applicable

Slide Show: docs.google.com/presentation/d/1nMshMbDSYeBIXfeB3Wp4ShKe5-Hlm9N9TIZ59SGw9Kc/edit?usp=sharing

Read and Reflect on Matthew 26:26-28a

1. First: Give background about this moment in the life of Jesus
 - a. He is nearing the end of his life, he is about to give his life for us on the Cross
 - b. This is his last and most special meal with his friends. It is called the Last Supper.
 - c. At the Last Supper, Jesus shows us how much he loves us by giving us a very, very special gift. Let's listen, pray and imagine together to discover what this gift is.
 - i. ****Note:** For learners who already are familiar with the last supper and the Eucharist, language can be adjusted to pose questions to elicit the responses and/or as a 'going deeper' into what they have already discovered/learned.

Think and Discuss (before assessment)

1. How does it feel to be in the room of the Last Supper?
2. Where do you see yourself in the room? Are you close to Jesus? Far from Jesus? Why?
3. What does Jesus do with the bread? What does it become?
4. What does Jesus do with the wine? What does it become?
5. Why would Jesus do this? How does it show us Jesus' love?
6. Do you know the name of the most special prayer we have in our Church where we relive the Last Supper? (the Mass)

Assessment for younger learners:

Draw a picture of him/herself sitting at the last supper table with Jesus.

For PK-K Learners:

- Have a row of smiley faces from SEL on the board. Allow students to come write their name by the smiley that identifies how they felt while praying together about the last Supper.
- Provide learners with a sheet of paper to draw their picture. Encourage them to be creative.

For 1st Grade Learners:

- Include colors or symbols that express how you feel when Jesus gives you the Bread, which is his Body, to be your food as you imagine yourself at the Last Supper

Assessment for older learners:

Draw a picture that expresses how it feels to sit with Jesus at the last supper table and receive His Body and Blood.

For First Communion Year Learners:

- Include colors or symbols or words that express how you feel when Jesus gives you the Bread, which is his Body, to be your food. Write a letter to Jesus either thanking him for your First Holy Communion or sharing how you feel about your First Holy Communion that will soon happen.

For Learners who will not make First Communion this year:

- Include colors or symbols or words that express how you feel or would feel when Jesus gives you the Bread, which is his Body, to be your food. Write a short letter to Jesus about why the Eucharist is important to you.

Close/invite into application by helping students make a connection between the amazing event of the Last Supper and how that same encounter/presence of Jesus is available to us at every Mass!

Lesson Day 2

Tasks and Activities

Opening Prayer (3 min.)

Prayer together (A repeat after me prayer): "Jesus (Jesus), you said (you said): "Let the little children (Let the little children) come to me (come to me)." We choose (we choose) to come (to come) to you (to you). Help us love you (Help us love you). Help us (help us) open our hearts (open our hearts) to you (to you). Amen. (Amen.)

Can integrate some simple sign language/hand motions with the prayer

Grow and Go (25 min.)

PART TWO: Who can we learn from and emulate?

Eucharistic Procession

Activity: View Video, God in the Streets of New York

Intro to the Video:

We are going to watch a video about how some people showed their love for Jesus by having a special parade to honor him in New York City. New York City is a big city that is pretty far from Chicago--it would take us 14 hrs to drive there, which is like three whole school days at one time! Just like Chicago, New York is a very big city with lots of buildings and streets and cars and people. To show their love for Jesus, some priests and their friends had a special parade for him, called a Eucharistic Procession. Let's watch the video to see what we can learn!

After the Video:

- How did you feel as you watched the video?
- What did you notice?
- Did you see the priest holding the special Golden object? That is called a monstrance (have them repeat the word). Monstrance comes from the Spanish word that means “To show”. Did you see the tiny circle? What did you see? Yes, that was the Eucharist–Jesus was in the monstrance! He was truly part of the procession.
- Did a lot of people see Jesus that day? How do you think their hearts felt?
- Do you think this Eucharistic Procession can help people get to know and love Jesus?
- Would you like to be part of a special procession with Jesus like this?

Briefly explain that on Sunday June 11, when school is over, there is a special day we celebrate in our Church called Corpus Christi. These words mean “Body of Christ”. On this special day after Mass is celebrated, there is a Eucharistic Procession. Anyone can join!

For younger learners:

Color a printable invitation for them/their family to participate in the parish (or other local Church) Eucharistic Procession June 2023.

drive.google.com/file/d/1KRhlbcncmKoTXPONxLvrvKW-rBXXrYg/view?usp=share_link

For older learners:

Similar printable resource, but with a section where students write about why they desire to go to the Corpus Christi Procession with their family.

drive.google.com/file/d/1KRhlbcncmKoTXPONxLvrvKW-rBXXrYg/view?usp=share_link

PART TWO: What can we do?

Share your invitation with your family. Teachers send a digital invite with the details and URL to the page on parish website if one is available.