

Queen of Angels School of Religion
Sunday Morning Classes
Grade 2 -- Preparation for First Communion
Student Text: Christ Our Life God Cares For Us Level 2 (Loyola Press)

Unit 3: Jesus Gives Us The Gift of Peace

The Gospel stories show us God's great love for sinners. Jesus extends this same forgiveness to us in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The children will be preparing for this sacrament as well as the reception of the Sacrament of the Eucharist this year. They will receive Reconciliation in January and Eucharist (Holy Communion in April.) Both of these sacraments lead to a deeper relationship with God.

Lesson 11: The Spirit of Jesus Helps Us

The Holy Spirit is always with us, but we are not always aware of his presence. Just as a photograph captures one fleeting moment in time on film as it is exposed to light, the human heart detects imperceptible movements of grace when it is closely attuned to the Holy Spirit. The more receptive we are to the Holy Spirit in our lives, the more we will experience the fruits of his presence.

Scripture: John 14: 16, 26 (The Holy Spirit will remind you of all I have told you.)
John 16: 7 - 16 (I will send the Holy Spirit to you.)
Matthew 22: 37 (The Greatest Commandment)
Ephesians 3: 16 - 21 (The Holy Spirit helps us to understand God's love.)
I Corinthians 2: 7 - 12 (The Holy Spirit makes God known to us.)
Romans 8: 23 - 27 (Prayer makes us receptive to the Holy Spirit.)

Class Discussion:

- We can't see air but we know it is there by what it does (moves branches and flags, blows dust and leaves around -- the Holy Spirit is like air since we cannot see him but we can experience his peace, love and joy in our lives.
- The Holy Spirit helps us to love our neighbor even when it is hard and we want to do something else.
- Tell the story of St. Francis and the leper.
- A mirror helps us know how we look just as the Holy Spirit helps us know how we have shown love or refused to show love to God and others.
- We need the Holy Spirit to help us look into our hearts and see what we have done right and wrong.

Group Prayer: Holy Spirit, help me to know how I have loved God and others. Help me be sorry for my sins and trust in God's loving forgiveness.

Ways to extend the lesson at home:

- Discuss the importance of listening to the Holy Spirit telling us to do good.
- Share with your child a time you changed because you listened to the Holy Spirit.
- Help your child form the habit of looking into his/her heart each day to recognize acts of love or failures to show love.
- Go over pages 10 - 14 in the Reconciliation Booklet.
- When your child quarrels with or is mean to a brother/sister/friend, reflect together on the reasons for the quarrel or meanness and discuss ways to handle the situation.