

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)

Fall (September and October)

Unit I: God Gives Us Life and Love

Lesson 2: "Jesus is God's Best Gift"

- This lesson explains that one way God shows His love for us is by sending His son Jesus to show us how to live. Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead.
- The Sign of the Cross is reviewed.
- The children are encouraged to relate stories about Jesus that they know. Jesus shows us how to live together as God's family on earth and prepares us to live with God in heaven forever.

Scripture: **John 12: 23 – 24 (The seed must die in order to bear fruit.)**
 John 15: 5 – 7 (I am the vine, you are the branches.)
 John 14: 6 – 7 (I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life.)

Class Discussion:

- What do we do together with our family – how do we show love and care for members of our family
- Share experiences of being lost and the joy of being found by loved one
- Share experiences of listening to family stories/looking at family pictures.
- Importance of praying together/going to Mass together as a family
- Students relate one thing that parent/teacher has told them to do and child will explain why he/she did what was asked of him/her out of love. The teacher relates these experiences to Jesus coming to earth and dying out of love for us.

Group Prayer:

- Each student will name something that is hard/that they want to do for God and all pray in support of this effort: "Here I am, Lord. I come to do Your will."
- Students practice the Sign of the Cross.

Ways Family Can Extend The Lesson:

- Take turns telling about something you know about Jesus.
- Read a favorite passage/story from the gospels.
- Take a nature walk and see how life comes from death (Flowers come from seeds)
- Plant some seeds and watch them grow.

Teacher's Note:

This lesson will be easy if the students have had experiences with planting seeds. The patterns of dying and rising can be seen in nature in the changing seasons (leaves fall off the trees as the weather gets cold and stay bare all through the winter cold only to burst forth with new leaves and blossoms in the spring.) In the fall time of the year, it would be good for parents and children to plant some tulip or daffodil bulbs that will grow and bloom next spring. This will correspond to the seeds of faith that are planted now in your child that will grow (perhaps unnoticed) until he/she is ready to blossom by receiving First Communion next spring.