

PMR First Third Ministry

Online Children's Church

Program Outline: May 17, 2020

Based on John 14:15-21 (Revised Common Lectionary)

Purpose of this Outline:

- This Outline is for you to help run a 'virtual Sunday School' program for your Children in your congregation, feel free to use this just as a jumping off point or as a Program outline

Preparations ahead of Online Gathering:

- Families should be sent an email with the Zoom link for the gathering ahead of time
- If there is anything that they need for this gathering, this should be included in the email as well
 - For this Gathering, Children should bring items that they find give them comfort or love (I.e. Blankets, Stuffedies, toys, etc.)
- You will need to gather the following supplies: Christ Candle, Lighter/Matches,
- Security Measures:
 - When planning a Zoom Meeting it is important to remember the following: enable the waiting room feature so that you are in control of who you allow into your Zoom meeting, require a meeting password for your Zoom meeting so that it is more secure and not at risk for hacking, and email Zoom meeting link to your families and do not post on Social Media sites with the link (it is easier for hackers to find links this way)

Program Outline (30 minutes of total programming)

- **Greeting & Welcome** (5-7 Minutes)
 - Greet each child as they log on to Zoom (by each child's name)
 - As Children arrive have them gather their 'comforting' items with them that they were asked to bring
 - Lighting of the Christ Candle (feel free to say the words that you say as you light the Christ Candle)
- **Check in** (2-3 minutes)
 - Check-in Question
 - If you could have a superpower, what would it be and why? And how could you help to make things better?
 - Children can share their 'comfort' items with the group (and why they find them comforting)
- **Gathering Prayer** (2 minutes)

- Ask Children to stand up as you go through the actions and words of the Body Prayer, repeat twice through together
- Body Prayer (Courtesy of Illustrated Children’s Ministry)
 - **(3 deep breaths)**
 - God, you are above (**reach toward the sky**), below (**touch your toes**), inside (**hands to heart**) and all around (**big arm circles**).
 - I worship you (**reach toward the sky**), and give my life to you (**touch your toes**).
 - And I love you (**hands to heart**) with all that I am (**big arm circles**).
 - **(3 deep breaths)**
- **Share the Story** (3 minutes)
 - Play this Video Clip from **4:07 to 5:08** (courtesy of Sparkhouse “Family Sunday School Lessons”) - Remember to click “Share Screen” on your Zoom meeting so that all the Children can watch and listen to the video together
 - As the children watch the video invite them to create an action that they think can describe the Holy Spirit enveloping them in a comforting embrace
- **Reflection** (6-8 minutes)
 - Pose some questions to the children to help them reflect on the scripture video they have just watched (You are welcome to also come up with your own questions to suit your Children’s ages and abilities)
 - Before you ask the questions, get the Children to gather their “comfort” items so that everyone can see them
 - Questions to ask:
 - Why do you think these blankets are comforting? How does it feel to wrap yourself in a blanket or hug a stuffie?
 - How have you shown love to one another this way? How do you comfort people and remind them they are loved?
 - Statement to Share with the Children:
 - “God tells us that even though we can’t see God, God has given us a gift, the Holy Spirit, so that we know that God is always there to comfort us and we can remember the things that Jesus taught us about loving God and loving others.
 - Breathe Prayer:
 - “As we breathe in, we are breathing in the Spirit of God, and as we breathe out, we spread the love of God to others” (Repeat thrice with the Children)
- **Closing Prayer** (1 minute)
 - Ask the children to repeat the words after you:
 - “Dear God, thank you for teaching us about love, loving you, and each other. In Jesus Name, Amen!”
 - Invite Children to draw some pictures of how they can love one another (and then they can share their pictures with the group the next week)