

## **February GIFT Lesson Plan: Kindergarten**

**Theme:** We Believe in Baptism and the Forgiveness of Sins

### **Materials:**

Beginners Bible (p. 310-315)

Doll, water, oil (pretend), candle, towel

Construction paper

Crayons, markers

Glue sticks

Handouts: *Jesus is Baptized Maze*, *Jesus' Baptism* coloring page, Tour of Church (one copy for teacher), map of St. Mary's (one copy for teacher)

Bible Action Songs CD

### **(5-10 minutes) Arrival and coloring page:**

If you'd like, have the music CD playing while the kindergarteners come into class. They may work on Jesus' Baptism page.

### **(5-10 minutes) Opening Prayer:**

Gather in a circle to begin praying. Have them practice the Sign of the Cross. Then pray the *Our Father*. This is one of the prayers required by the Diocese for Kindergarteners to know. Encourage them to say any parts of the prayer that they know with you out loud. End with the Sign of the Cross. As a way of introduction have each child show their picture of their Baptism and say their name. If they do not have a picture then they can just tell you something they know about their special day.

### **(15 minutes) Field trip to the church:**

If there is an adult session in the church take the kids through the west overflow room. Inside the church point out the font of holy water at the entrance. Have each child practice blessing them self. We do this each time we enter church as a reminder of our baptism and of how we are a part of God's family. If time permits show the children other points of interest: the alter, the cross, the pictures along the walls, the statue of Mary, and any other spot you want to include. Inside the chapel you can show them the tabernacle and the Stations of the Cross pictures.

### **(10 minutes) Bible Reading and discussion:**

Read pages 310-315 from the Beginner's Bible, *In the Jordan River*. This section is based on the part from Luke that talks about Saint John and Jesus' baptism. Spend some time talking about the children's own Baptism. Do they have a picture? What are the names of their godparents? What was some memory their parents shared with them about the day? Where were they? What did they wear? Was it a special outfit? Who was there with them? What did they do when the water was poured on their heads? Allow each child to share some memory of their special day.

**(15 minutes)Activity: Thank you cards to godparent(s)**

After discussing the children's Baptisms explain that they are to make a thank you card for their godparents. It is to thank them for being there on their special day. They can glue their picture on the card and decorate it. Help them to write the words "Thank You" on their card. They should try to sign the card themselves. If they do not have a picture they may draw one of their own Baptism. Also, they may choose to make their card for their parents (if they do not know their godparents' names). Encourage them to take their time and make the card very special. Also encourage them to have their parent(s) help them mail it later.

**(10 minutes) Activity: Baptism Role-Playing**

Tell the children that they are going to role-play the Sacrament of Baptism. Choose about volunteers to act as priest, parents, and godparents. Some of our smaller groups may only have enough for one parent and one godparent. **You may want to act as the priest** as this is the role that pours the water. Explain that the priest will pour water on the "baby's" head while the "parents" and "godparents" look on. Let the godparents hold the doll. A "parent" or "godparent" may hold the candle while the other uses the towel to wipe any extra water. Then the "priest" can make the sign of the cross on the doll's head with oil. You can talk through the role-playing and instruct the children on what to do. Discuss at the end what each symbol represents. Water represents life. The candle shows the way. And the oil anoints us with strength. After one time, see if any others want to volunteer for a different role. Remind the children that although we were acting, a real Baptism is a way to welcome a new baby/person into our church family.

**Free play time:** Please have the children clean up the room before closing prayer.

**Closing Prayer:**

Pray together the *Hail Mary*. This is also one of the prayers that is required by the Diocese for Kindergarteners to know. Encourage them to say it with you.