

The Eucharist Engaged Catechetical Materials for Children

The prayer “Gathering in Jesus’ Name” emphasizes the communal nature of our Eucharistic community. The Father, Son, and Spirit are a community of persons. When we gather together to praise and thank Them, we too are a community of persons. This prayer is appropriate as an opening prayer for sessions with children based on each of the following four themes.

Eucharist in Scripture

The “Jesus Feeds the 5,000” activity uses the story from John 6:1-15 to help children reflect on what they offer to Jesus (hopefully their whole selves!). It is meant to follow a reading, dramatization, or other presentation of the Bible story.

“Back from Emmaus” is a drama that is meant to bring this Eucharistic encounter alive. This script is written to be acted out by teens or adults in front of a group of children. “Back to Emmaus” is simple and not made for professional actors, but for regular people. It is most powerful when the lines are memorized by those playing the parts and carried off in a convincing manner. Fruitful discussion can then follow.

Celebrating the Eucharist

The “Mass Parts Images” may be used in a variety of ways. When expanded to twice their size, they fit well on blank 3x5 cards and can be used to easily create a set of Mass parts flash cards. Here are some ideas for using these images.

- *Go through the pictures, discussing why each symbol represents that particular part of the Mass.
- *Review what happens at each part of the Mass, holding up the cards as you go.
- *Show the cards one by one to a group or a single child and see how quickly the child(ren) achieve the proper positions (sitting, kneeling, standing).
- *Scatter the cards (or for more challenge, hide them around the room) and have the child(ren) put them in the correct order of the Mass.
- *Have the child(ren) call out the names of the Mass parts as you show the cards.
- *Name a Mass part or describe an aspect of it and let the child(ren) find the appropriate card.
- *Have the child(ren) organize the cards into the four main parts of the Mass.
- *Invite the children create their own Mass parts cards.
- *Use the images to create a Mass parts booklet.

Celebrating the Eucharist (continued)

The crossword puzzle helps children reflect on basic aspects of Church teaching with regard to the celebration of the Eucharist. The word box may be left out to create a greater challenge for older children.

The word search is meant to encourage excitement among children about celebrating the Eucharist and to enkindle in them a sense of “Eucharistic amazement.”

Eucharist, the Key to Action

The “Growing in the Son” activity sheet uses an analogy to help children reflect on the nourishment Christ provides in the Eucharist and their response to His grace. Younger children may come up with answers like “Helps me be kind,” “Teaches me about God,” “Meet good friends.” More advanced children are capable of answers like “cleansed from sin,” “grace to follow Christ more fully,” “encouraged by community.”

The “Power Maze” reminds children that Jesus gives us power/strength for service through His gift of Himself in the Eucharist. It compares the surpassing power of the Eucharist to other powerful concepts with which the children are familiar.

Jesus in the World: Sharing Faith

The “Called to Serve in Different Ways” activity sheet familiarizes children with different key figures in the Church, on the universal and local level. It also plants vocation seeds and suggests many different forms of service. This activity sheet may be personalized with your own pastor’s name and would go well in conjunction with a presentation or session on community service.

“We Go to Share God’s Love” invites children to look outwards to their families, friends, and communities and reflect on concretely expressing the love of God they receive at Mass.