

## **Prayer**

Prayer Services – children continue to pray at the prayer table, and begin planning and leading prayer services for the entire class using familiar songs, readings and prayers.

Song and Art – music and art continue to support the curriculum at this level with more advanced songs, including “part” singing and rounds. At this age children learn about illuminated masterpieces and calligraphy. Frequently their art synthesizes work they have seen.

## **Bible**

Books of the Bible – this lesson helps the child understand that the Bible is one book – made up of many books - which reveal the history of the Kingdom of God, it also begins to give the children a structure to locate various books in the Bible.

Bible Study – the children begin to read the Bible and participate in group studies of New Testament stories. This is favorite work for children once they begin to be comfortable with reading. Some of the Bible passages explored during these years include the announcement to Zachariah (Luke 1:5-25); the Birth of John the Baptist (Luke 1:57-80); the Baptism of Jesus (found in all the Gospels); the Feeding of the 5000 (Mark 6:30-44 or parallel text); the Healing of the Man born Blind (John 9); the Healing of the Paralytic (Mark 2:1-12 or parallel text) and various resurrection appearances in all four Gospels.

Land of Israel – a pin map is used to highlight additional cities and geographic features important in the Gospels. The children also use the Bible to locate biblical accounts of events which occurred in these cities or at these geographical locations.

**Infancy Narratives:** the lessons presented in Level I are represented in more depth. The Flight into Egypt (Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23) is presented for the first time with figures, the Biblical narrative and time to wonder at the work of God as seen through the actions of Mary and Joseph. The infancy narratives are looked at thematically as the children begin to see how they work together to demonstrate the love of God for his people through the gift of Jesus, and the response, still continuing, of all to this gift.

### **Paschal Narratives:**

Passion Narrative Study – (Matthew: 26:57-68, 28:1-8; Luke 19:29-38, 23:1-12, 33-46; John 18:1-14, 28-37, 19:16; Acts 1:4-12, 2:1-11) this work includes a series of readings from the Bible associated with the Passion of Christ and the gift of redemption.

### **History of the Kingdom of God:**

History of the Kingdom of God – this lesson begins by introducing the children to the three great moments in sacred history – creation, redemption and Parousia (a time when God will be all in all, no more war or sickness, etc.). Once these terms are understood, the lesson progresses by unrolling a timeline of history and telling the story, rooted in the Bible, of creation over the expanse of time, focusing on the wonder of the preparation of our world for us, God’s creatures; the coming of Christ; where we are today; and, what we know about the time of Parousia.

Unity of the History of the Kingdom of God – this more individual work helps the children personalize the information learned in the History of the Kingdom of God work.

Gifts of God – this lesson shows how over time, God has slowly, carefully and lavishly prepared earth to receive and nourish humanity. The gifts of God for humankind culminate in Christ and continue until Parousia. In response, humanity has a special responsibility to assist God, with both hands and heart, in the transformation of the world, bringing it into the fullness of the life that God desires.

### **Parables:**

Wolf and Hireling – (John 10:11–16) this parable is read and wondered about to call the child’s attention to the steadfast, protective and sacrificial love of the Good Shepherd.

### **Kingdom Parables:**

Synthesis of the Kingdom of God Parables – this work revisits the parables heard in Level I and encourages the child to focus on two aspects of the Kingdom: its beauty and preciousness; and its growth and transformation.

### **Moral Parables:**

Good Samaritan – (Luke 10:29–37) this familiar parable is read and wondered about to explore the idea of compassion and actions taken in response thereto.

Found Coin – (Luke 15:8-9) this parable is read and wondered about to deepen the child’s understanding of God’s love which is unconditional, active and unfailing even when we are separated from God. It also continues the theme that when we

are in unity with God and the people of God it is a time for celebration.

Insistent Friend – (Luke 11:5–8) the parable is read and wondered about to begin to explore persistent intercessory prayer.

Pharisee and Tax Collector – (Luke 18:9–14) this parable is read and wondered about to explore our posture before God as one of humility and relationship.

Ten Bridesmaids – (Matthew 25:1–12) this parable is read and wondered about to announce the invitation to the banquet of the reign of God and the necessity of individual responsibility for preparation for Jesus' coming.

Forgiving Father – (Luke 15:11–24) (also commonly known as the Prodigal Son) this parable is read and wondered about to announce that God's gifts are freely given and God's forgiveness is unconditional.

Wedding Feast – (Matthew 22:1-13) this parable is read and wondered about to announce the universal invitation to the Kingdom of God and the call to respond and prepare for it, it also begins to introduce the message of God's judgment.

Maxims and Summary of the Law – (Matthew 5:48, 5:42, John 13:24, Matthew 5:44, Luke 10:27, Matthew 7:12, Matthew 6:6, I Corinthians 6:19, Matthew 5:37, Matthew 18:21) this lesson introduces some of the passages from the Sermon on the Mount that give us the guidelines for forming our moral codes. It also highlights and explores the meaning of the most important law – "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul, and with all your mind and all your strength and love your neighbor as yourself."

## **Prophecies**

Star and Scepter II – (Numbers 24:17) this revisiting of one of prophecies from Level I focuses anew on the child who Jesus is and what the kingdom He rules over is like.

Synthesis of the Prophecies – encourages the children to look again at the Level I prophecies as a whole to answer the question, "Who are you Lord?"

Valleys and Mountains – (Isaiah 40:35) through prophets, God prepares people for His gifts – including the vision of Parousia and in return, God's people are called to prepare themselves and their world to receive God's gifts.

The Peaceable Kingdom – (Isaiah 11:6-9) this prophecy provides a vision of the peaceable kingdom as an image of the Parousia that Advent anticipates.

The Shoot of Jesse – (Isaiah 11:1–3a) through the prophet Isaiah, God foretold the birth, lineage and spiritual gifts of Jesus.

## **Liturgy**

### **Eucharist:**

Mystery of Faith – this lesson explores the words of the liturgy, "Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again" and encourages the child to connect to these words in a personal way.

The Lord's Prayer – the children are introduced to this familiar prayer that Jesus prayed and begin to meditate on it line by line.

Synthesis of the Eucharist – this lesson shows the structure and order of the Eucharist, including our response to each other and to God within the liturgy.

Origin of the Eucharist – this lesson traces the development of the Eucharist from the Last Supper to today and encourages us to enjoy the continuity of the gift of the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.

Prayer Book – the children begin working on their own, handwritten, version of essential prayers from the Prayer Book.

Liturgical Calendar - this lesson builds on the presentation in Level I and teaches the children how to find the date for Easter, a date set by the lunar calendar.

Gestures:

Fraction – this lesson introduces the breaking of the bread as a sign of Jesus' sacrifice for our unity.

Lavabo (Washing of the Hands) – the lesson focuses on the gesture as a symbol of purification of the whole person as well as the community in preparation for the sharing of the Eucharist.

Preparation for Solemn Communion – these meditations on several different parables are presented to the children over a five week period and are intended to deepen their understanding of the connection between the Bible and liturgy, strengthen their desire for the Eucharist and introduce the Rite of Reconciliation.

True Vine – (John 15: 1-11) presented in two different settings, the first meditation focuses on our union with Christ and one another and our call to remain in Him with God's help; the second study focuses on our personal obstacles to this union and God's desire to work with us to remove those obstacles.

Found Coin – (Luke 15:8–9) this parable announces that God's love is active, unconditional and diligent and that unity with God and the people of God is to be celebrated.

Forgiving Father – (Luke 15:11–24) this parable announces God's unconditional love and forgiveness when there is repentance.

Centurion's Servant – (Matthew 8:5–13) this parable explores faith as trust, belief in God's authority, power, love and mercy.

### **Baptism:**

Rite of Baptism – this work introduces the prayers that accompany the liturgical signs used in the Rite of Baptism.