



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME



UNIT 2

God gives us Gifts

AIMS

1. To help children discover the gifts God gives us and to become more aware of them in everyday situations.
2. To express thanks and gratitude especially through prayer.

KEY WORDS

- GIFTS
- CREATION
- GOD

INTRODUCTION

Show a gift box to the children (preferably with a lid). Put a fruit or vegetable in it. Show the closed gift box to the children and ask them what they think there is in it. Briefly discuss their responses.

Blindfold one of the children. Open the gift box and ask them to feel the "gift" and guess what it is. Then show the fruit to the whole group and ask children whether they think a fruit is a gift or not? Discuss their responses.

RESOURCES

- Wrapped gift box
- Pictures of Creation/nature
- Pictures that show other gifts (see plan).
- Worksheet 2

MAIN

- Ask: What is your best gift ever? Why is it special to you?
- Ask: Have you received any gifts today? Elicit the fact that we have received a lot, not in wrapped gift boxes however.
- Explain that God gives us all these gifts. We read about this in the Holy Bible. Show children a copy of the Bible. Briefly explain that it is our special book in which we find God's written word. Say that it is made up of 73 smaller books organised in two sections, the Old and the New Testaments. Show where the Creation story is found, right at the very beginning of the Bible: Genesis Chapter 1. Read out or tell the story of creation (see Worksheet 2 side B). Talk about the main messages from this story, that is everything COMES FROM GOD and that all creation is GOOD.
- Show pictures that illustrate God's many gifts to us and invite the children to say why are all these important gifts: Some examples could be:
 - ◆ Creation — *trees, flowers, water.*
 - ◆ Other important gifts that God gave us — *parents, family, friends.*
 - ◆ Other less evident gifts — *love, strength, happiness* and other values.
 - ◆ Other people who help us — *nurses, policemen, teachers, catechists, priests.*
 - ◆ Special people who make a difference in other people's lives, work towards peace in the world etc are also God's gifts to us — *Mother Teresa; other famous people.*
- Invite children to think about what our response should be. We should always make sure we are grateful and THANK GOD for giving us all these different gifts. We can do this in our prayer. (Say that children will be able to say their thank you prayers at the end of this session).
- We should ensure we always RESPECT and LOVE others. Humans are created in God's IMAGE and are the most important among all created things.
- We should also make sure we LOOK AFTER God's creation and respect the environment.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Use Psalm 40:5 as a response:
*How wonderful are your works,
they are more than I can count!*

Ask the children to say thank you for a gift and say the response together.

NOTES

ACTIVITY

Time permitting give children outline pictures showing any of the above GIFTS for them to colour in and put on display.

Hand out and go through Worksheet 2. Make sure children can read and understand what they have to do. Remind that it is good to ask the help of a parent or another adult at home. Ask them to bring it with them at the next session and to read out their prayers and reflections.