



# RCIC PROGRAMME

## Unit 1 - WHICH WAY?



# Our Life with Jesus

### AIMS

1. To welcome children to the Programme and introduce its purpose.
2. To understand that as Christians we want to make a decision to follow Jesus.



### KEY WORDS

- Jesus
- Christian
- Decision
- Follow
- Symbols

### INTRODUCTION

- Welcome everyone to the session and to this new First Communion and Reconciliation programme. Ask each child in the group to say their name and say something else about themselves. Explain that this is going to be a special year for them. Possibly plan some time for an ice-breaker activity to help children start interact with each other as a group.
- Introduce the concept of 'Our Future' and things we want to do when we grow up. Many children think about this as they grow up. If we are aiming to achieve something in the future we have to made different decisions as we go along. Ask children to provide examples about future decisions we have to make and write these on the signposting poster and the image as shown on top of Worksheet 1. (*example*: subjects we study at school; jobs; where we live; etc.

### RESOURCES

- Images of events from the life of Jesus
- Symbols:  
Alpha and Omega  
Chi Rho  
Ester Candle  
*possible visit parish church to see these and other symbols.*

### MAIN

- Make links to this RCIC programme that is starting today. Explain that we have started this programme because we want to make a big decision in our life. This decision is to **FOLLOW JESUS**. Who is he? Allow the children to give examples of anything they already know about Jesus.
- Go through the second part on the front page of Worksheet 1. Discuss each fact about Jesus to allow children to obtain a clear understanding of who Jesus is. Use images to help illustrate the different events mentioned (eg: Christmas story; Jesus on the cross; etc)
- Explain that so many people have decided that Jesus is such an important person for them and they want to follow him. Such people are called 'CHRISTIANS'. Christians try to follow Jesus by following his teachings (discuss examples) and gather together to listen to his word and to share the Eucharist (sharing his body and blood)
- Show the images/symbols on the second side of Worksheet 1. Go through each one and explain that such symbols tell us something else about Jesus. They help us understand him better. We often see these symbols in Christian churches. (eg. Chi Rho for Christ; Easter candle with Alpha and Omega; images of wheat and grapes) Ask children to write a brief caption for each symbol.
- Read Mark 10: 13-16. Talk about Jesus welcoming children.  
*'People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it'. And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.'*
- Say that through this programme children are to learn about and try to understand how to be good followers of Jesus.

### CONCLUDING PRAYER

- Show and introduce the PRAYER BOOK to the group. Explain that this booklet includes prayers to learn and others to use as children go through this programme.
- Introduce and pray together the Our Father. Explain that Jesus himself told us how to pray using this prayer to show we are one big FAMILY and that God is our FATHER.

### NOTES

Worksheets can be reviewed at the following session and used to revise the main points and to celebrate children's work.

### ACTIVITY

- Refer back to Worksheet 1. Ask children to complete all parts at home and bring with them for the next session. Refer to the last activity of side 2. Explain that they have to draw a picture of themselves in the box on the left and write their own thoughts or prayer to Jesus on what we have talked about in this session - their first prayer to Jesus.
- Say that they can ask a parent or another adult at home for help.