



RCIC PROGRAMME

Unit 2 - WE BELONG



We are part of God's Family

AIMS

1. To understand that we are part of God's family (the Church).
2. To be able to reflect on the fact that Jesus gives himself to us in Holy Communion.



KEY WORDS

- Family
- Church
- Tree
- Branch
- Trunk
- Baptism
- Jesus
- Us
- Holy Communion

INTRODUCTION

- Welcome everyone to the session. Ask questions about Session 1 and revise the main points discussed.
- Introduce the idea of BELONGING. Talk about belonging to a family. Then move on to explain that as Christians too we belong to God's family.

MAIN

- If we want to be part of God's family we have to do what he wants of us. Jesus spoke about ways how we can do this. In session 1 we talked about following Jesus. Once he explained belonging to God's family by using the example of a tree. He said, 'I am the vine, you are the branches; if you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing (John 15: 5). We are united with Jesus just as the trunk of a tree is with the branches and the leaves. Use the poster or model of the big tree and place the flashcard JESUS on the trunk and US on the branches/leaves. Hand out a cut out of a leaf to each child. Ask them to write their name on it. Then invite them to stick it on the poster of the big tree.
- Explain how if one branch is cut off the tree it will die. Similarly, if we do not remain united with Jesus we will not be happy. We are not only his friends but we are part of his own family and should always try our best to stay close to him.
- We became members of this great family when we were baptized. **In baptism we become God's children.** (You may want children to repeat this sentence and even learn it by heart.) We become united with Jesus and we must remain with him forever. Explain that this one big family is called the **Church**. (We will be learning more about this in Unit 3)
- Introduce the concept that Jesus gives us food to eat too. Use the story of the multiplication of loaves shown on side 2 of Worksheet 2. Read through and possibly use Roleplay as the story is read. (or read version from the Bible if children are older and able to understand)
- Move on to introduce the idea of SPIRITUAL FOOD. Without food we cannot live. The food that Jesus gives us to help us stay close to him. We cannot truly be Jesus' friends or be members of his big family the Church without this special food. That is why we receive **Holy Communion**. It is the spiritual food that Jesus gives us.
- Say that through this programme children are to learn about and prepare to be able to receive this special and spiritual food.

RESOURCES

- A large poster of a tree (ideally an enlarged copy of the tree shown in Worksheet 2)
- Leaf cut outs for each child.
- Flash cards showing the words "JESUS" and "US".
- Worksheet 2.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

- Lead a prayer thanking God for inviting us to be part of his big Christian Family and asking him to help us as we prepare for our Baptism and Holy Communion.
- Go through a few other prayers from the PRAYER BOOK.

ACTIVITY

- Give out Worksheet 2 to all children. Go through the different parts children have to complete at home until the next session, including the reflection at the back of the sheet. Say that they can ask a parent or another adult at home for help.
- Remind children about the prayer book. Go through a few examples with the whole group and explain how and when we can use these prayers (*example*: Morning offering or prayer before meals etc).

NOTES

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