

FAMILIES FORMING DISCIPLES

YEAR TWO

WHAT'S *THE* STORY? – GOD'S WORD & OUR RESPONSE

INTRODUCTION



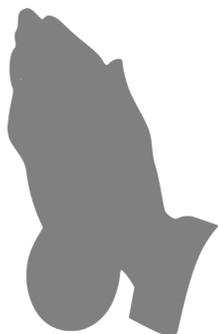
TOPIC: INTRODUCTION TO THE YEAR

GOAL(S):

- To welcome families back to Families Forming Disciples as well as any families new to FFD (e.g., Welcome Back! We've Missed You! sign with balloons and decorations)
- Create a joyful, fun, festive environment (e.g., Family games)
- Have fellowship and food (e.g., snacks/treats/ice cream/potluck)

OPENING PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ,
We entrust our family to you and
ask for your blessing and protection.
We love you Lord Jesus with all our
hearts and we ask that you help our
family become more like the Holy
Family. Help us to be kind, loving,
and patient with one another. Give
us all the grace we need to become
saints and your faithful disciples.
Amen.



ICE BREAKER

- Ask everyone to introduce themselves (including children and what grades they are in).
- What was one thing that you did this summer that you enjoyed?
- Name an activity that you are looking forward to doing this fall.



TEACH

1. Hook/Question

Watch video: Archbishop Hartmayer's Welcome Video



2. Introduce Topic

The Family that Prays (and Plays) Together Stays Together!



3. CONTENT

Play a bible-themed game, or create bible-themed game stations for families to visit together. Be sure to provide “prizes.” Simple and affordable prizes work great!

Here are some easy bible-themed game ideas:

- Bible Bowl of Charades – This is a fun and easy game for a large or small group. Put a list of biblical people, events and objects in a bowl. One person from each family draws a card from the bowl and the family acts it out for everyone, until someone offers the right answer.
Ideas: Jesus, Mary, The Resurrection, Judas, Moses, Parting of the Red Sea, Ten Commandments, Noah’s Ark, Adam & Eve, The Last Supper, David and Goliath, Tower of Babel
- Dance like King David Thrones (Musical Chairs with a twist)– Dance like King David until the music stops, then grab a throne! (Choose fun, upbeat and appropriate music)
- Red Sea Water balloon or egg toss – Use red eggs or red balloons
- Throw Jonah in the Whale – Throw a bean bag (draw a picture of Jonah on it with sharpie) in a hole with a picture of whale on the side (you could use a cornhole set) and take two steps back each time you get “Jonah in the Whale.”

BLESSING OF FAMILY BIBLES

Close the event with a Blessing of the Bibles ceremony. Families can either bring their own Bibles or parishes can provide the families with a Bible. (If families are expected to bring their own Bibles, make sure you send a few reminders before the gathering. Also, it’s a good idea to have a few extra on hand just in case a family forgets.) Ask families to place their blessed Bibles on their home altars and remind them to bring their Bibles to all of the sessions.

The presider should instruct the head of the family to hold their Bibles in their hands during the blessing prayer.

Presider: (Instruct families in these words or in your own words.) The holy Bible you hold in your hands is the inspired word of the Lord. In Sacred Scripture, we encounter Jesus, who is the Word of God. Through the Catholic Church, the canon or list of sacred books of the Bible was established. Sacred Scripture is the story of the family of God, and we are part of God's family, so it is our story too. The Church encourages us to read and reflect frequently on the pages of Sacred Scripture so that we may be continually formed into committed disciples of Jesus Christ. Sacred Scripture reveals the heart of Christ to us. Let us continue the ancient practice of asking the Holy Spirit, who inspired these writings, to help us as we learn and pray these Scriptures. May we listen to the word of God and find our nourishment and strength in its truth.

Hold your Bibles near your hearts, where the Lord Himself dwells as in a temple, and please respond: "Come Holy Spirit, enkindle in us the fire of your love."

Pause for a moment of silence.

Presider: May the Holy Spirit encourage us to give greater honor to this holy Bible, enthrone it in a place of honor in our homes, and commit to frequent reflection on its pages.

Presider: May the Holy Spirit instill in us a deep desire to know God's word so that we will grow as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Presider: Through the Holy Spirit, may our reading of Scripture lead us to a deeper faith, a more lively hope, and a more fervent love for the Lord, for one another and for his holy Church.

Instruct the families to place their hands on their Bibles during the blessing.

Presider: Let us pray: Saving God and loving Father, you have revealed Yourself and Your loving plan of salvation through the lives of our ancestors in the faith and ultimately through Your Incarnate Word. From Abraham and Sarah, Moses and David, to Mary and Joseph, to Peter and Paul, You have spoken your word and called Your people to fuller life in You. We honor You and venerate your holy word in these Scriptures, and we pray that the words of these sacred books may become more deeply and truly the living word of God in our daily lives, forming our thoughts, desires, and actions. We ask Your blessing on these holy Bibles + in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

Adapted from [Blessing of Bibles at Sunday Mass](#) by Stephen J. Binz, biblical scholar and writer at Bridge-B.com

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