

Forma 2019

## Helping Families to be Rooted in Jesus: Beyond the Sunday Morning Box

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### Partnering & Teaching Parents

- What are the needs? Goals? Vision?
- How busy is the family, how can we help them fit spirituality in their lives?
- What education do they need?
- How can you build on what was done previously?
- Reading List for each season (3-5 books to choose from for families with young children)

### Ideas for Year

#### Advent

- Workshop-where they pick one or two (read list of what I did)
- Advent Home Kits (show two years examples)
- Rituals-
  - wreaths with worship-give instructions on how to use
  - creche-blessings, add figures weekly with prayer time & devotion
  - Devotionals-lots of free ones available for download
    - make one (show sample)
      - Holy Pause in Advent-read children ideas, for adults labyrinth, icons, etc.
      - Stocking for Jesus-put good deeds or deliberate acts in stocking for Jesus (can be done by placing in a manger to line for baby Jesus)

#### Christmas

- Children are off for two weeks, but everyone is tired, so great to do outreach ideas
  - Like art projects for the homebound, etc,
- Bethlehem Village
  - Explain idea
  - Sample Market place booths
  - Passports (kids will do anything for stickers. Make stickers out of Avery circles)

#### Epiphany

- Chalking the Door-bless chalk in service, give out with instructions
- Three Kings-before Christmas & move kings towards. In New Zealand, the kings get in misadventures each day as they search for the Christ child. (similar to the elf idea)
- Gift to Jesus-star of fruit of the spirit. Family pulls & each hang where see it.

#### Season After Epiphany

- Parables-gifts, stories to teach, Bible reading, short talking points/devotion, discussion
  - Questions (only do when longer than 8 weeks until Lent)
- Family Service Sunday-Love Thy Neighbor, projects as family (Cooking class-Ronald McDonald House, Humane Society-toy making & blankets, Nursing home-

Singing & flowers, Homebound-card & flowers, Lifeline-pack boxes elderly)  
Projects for all ages is key.

## Lent

### Lent Home Kits

Lent Challenges-from invitation to holy Lent in the Ash Wednesday-Prayer, God's Word,  
Good deeds, self denial (usually do media) or Baptismal Vows  
Stickers & acknowledgment, pizza party after

Jesus Doll & Home Kit-book, worksheets, bulletin board. Email before & after  
ERD with home-Class picks animal or project. Sheet goes home with chores and ideas  
For child to "earn" money for it. Creates feelings of accomplishment & involves  
Family.

Devotionals

Daily Office-facebook live stream

## Holy Week

A Walk Through Holy Week-Bible reading, service, symbol for service. Do for all ages.

Countdown Calendar-goes with Walk through Holy Week. Like Advent Calendars, but  
Holy Week. Helps families remember what each day is. Use "ornaments"

Holy Week Passports-children loved this and families came just to get their stickers.  
Used Avery circles to make stickers.

Maundy Thursday-bringing the story to life

Devotionals-we had children make as our Wednesdays in Lent and then gave out to all  
On Palm Sunday.

## Easter

New Spiritual Practice adding something to life as family-prayers when didn't say, family  
Reading nights, family game night ending with a prayer or reading, new way to  
Pray, service together. Prayer bowls, Morning blessing, Family shortened office,  
What is the hole or the hunger, focus on the joy, new life

Intergenerational "Adopt"/Easter Buddy-put names in bowl, cards in mail, surprised on  
Sunday, focus on joy and connecting. (idea to do thing at home and bring to  
Church, so connecting.

## Pentecost

Picnic & party-birthday party, gift for an organization helps children. Who doesn't love  
A birthday party. Focus on Holy Spirit and church family. Party favors focused  
On something to remind them of their connection to church. Focus of day  
Gets family and friends talking about it. We do fire, flame headbands,  
Scavenger hunt games, silly bingo game, and all ages participate.

Liturgical Petting Zoo-for families. Stations for each part of the service allows families  
Learn what and why, but touch. Climb into pulpit, wear vestments, give out  
"communion", hold gospel, see where things are kept. Show Eucharist booklet.

## Season After Pentecost

Church on the Go Kits-how to connect families to us & remind they are a part of us.

Vacation Bible School-over 100 children each year. We bus over children from the  
Family homeless shelter. We let children be the ministers and care for each

Other. Our focus is love and family. Always give take home sheets and have Closing program reviewing what happened each day done by the children. Give out daily handouts with 2 or 3 discussion questions and ask your child About...

Our Father Challenge-ways for families to do at home. Huge success. 10 languages Candy, sticker reward, and picture next to what did. Got all ages involved. July-Bible Adventure-each week had a theme (scary stories, hiking, romantic, water Adventures.) Each week I dressed up and changed our chapel into a camp, or Desert, or romantic castle, rafting. Everyone was excited to see what I was Wearing and what was going to happen. Kids went home and they read the Stories and told their parents what the stories were about. Parents became the Student.

## Rituals and Involvement Ways

### Fall

Backpack Blessings & tags  
Kindergarten Breakfast-show samples of books

### Baptism

Rituals of celebrating Baptism Day-chalices, books, candle lighting, going out for Ice cream.  
Guild-Baptism Anniversary

### Winter

St. Nicholas Festival  
Las Posadas

### Spring

Time Change/PJ Sunday  
Fifth Grade Breakfast  
Graduate Sunday

### Summer

Superhero Sunday  
Water Sunday

## Helping Your Parish Find their voice/Spirituality of a child

We honor that children are spiritual beings and they are full members of our community. We do not dummy down or sugarcoat anything.

Newsletters and communication is a must.