

Life on the Vine-Young Children and Worship Planning

Consistent Elements

I. Getting Started

1. Start w/ "high-low" in small groups – an adult with each group. There will be assigned groups so kids know where to meet with their assigned group. Each child will share a highlight of the week, as well as a low point.
2. Following "high-low", storyteller will dim the lights as a sign that "high-low" time is over and we will come to the circle.

II. Invocation and Worship Table

3. The worship table will be set. Remind the kids of the time in the church year and light the candle as a reminder that the Holy Spirit is with us.
4. Say the "invocation" that will be repeated each week:
5. Sing "Be still and know"

III. Storytelling

6. Get up and walk over to the cupboard and get the story materials. Carry them back silently with both hands- symbolic of bringing the Bible into the sanctuary, since the story materials represent the word of God.
7. Tell the story
8. Take time to wonder together
9. Put the materials away silently. Carry them with both hands.

IV. Response Time

10. Return to the circle and dismiss the children one by one to get their response materials and go find their own spots.
11. When the ushers tell you that the congregation is beginning to pray, dim the lights as a cue for the kids to put everything away. Help children who need help in saving their materials.

V. Prayer

12. Gather again for prayer. "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God." Kids respond, "It is right for us to give thanks and praise!" Then, have a time for the kids to speak out their thanks for the day..."God, I thank you for how you showed me/spoke to me/made feel/ etc.
13. Sing "Go Now in Peace" and send the kids back to the sanctuary. Each adult blesses a child on their way out.

II. Invocation and worship table

WL: We are here in a special place to be with God, to talk to God, to listen to God, and to hear the stories of God. We have all the time we need, we don't have to hurry. We can go more slowly, and talk more softly here, and so I say to you... The Lord be with you.

C: *And also with you.*

WL: We light this candle to remind us that the Holy Spirit is here with us.

We have our table covered in _____ to remind us of the season of _____ (name the liturgical season), _____ (give a brief definition or explanation.)

We have our Bible, God's word to us. The story/the parable we will hear today is from the Bible. I am putting a book mark here to show you where it is if you would like to look at it later on.

We pray together (extemporaneous prayer ending with) Lord, we hear you saying...

All: Sing "Be Still and Know"

IV. Responding to God

Return to the circle and help the children respond to God ...

WL: I wonder if you would like to make something that shows how you feel about this story/the parable? You can make that your work today, or if there is something you'd like to continue from last week you can do that too. (*Until children know the routine, an additional reminder is added...*) Remember, in our special place we're here to be with God, we have all the time we need so we don't have to hurry. We can go more slowly, and talk more softly.) We'll go around the circle now to see what you would like to do.

Then approach each child by name what they plan to do. If any child doesn't know yet, say "That's fine I'll give you another minute." And go back to them after asking the others if any children may need a suggestion to get started, but don't offer it first.

Each child should then get up, pick up a rug and select a response item and then find a special spot to sit in. I'm thinking that at least in the beginning we should dismiss each child by saying...

WL: Ok, Grace (child's name), please pick up a rug, and then get your crayons and paper (name of child's selected response), and then find a special spot to do your work in.

WL approaches keep students on track and interact when approached, but do not attempt to direct the children's work.

When teachers tell us that the congregation is beginning to pray, dim the lights as a cue for kids to put everything away. Help the children who may be needing help, especially those who would like to save their materials for next time.

WL: Now it's time to put away our work this morning. You don't need to hurry. If you're not finished that's all right. You can put your work in your special folder and finish it next time. Please put away your things and join us back in the circle.

V. Prayer

Gather together in the circle...

WL: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God."

Children: It is right for us to give thanks and praise!"

WL: Let us pray...

Children and others: *Pray out short sentence prayers in the form of ...*

"God, thank you for how you showed me _____.

spoke to me about _____.

made me feel _____.

Etc?

Sing "Go Now in Peace" (#24)

Bless each child on the way out.