

## **Faith Friends** **Youth Group Preparations**

For our Faith Friends sessions with the second graders we will be focusing on the Sacraments of Initiation...Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation. Week 1 will focus on Baptism, the first sacrament of initiation, which even the second graders have received. Week 2 will primarily focus on Eucharist, the sacrament the students are soon to receive, and Confirmation will be touched on as something for them to look forward to.

For week 1 review your own Baptism. Prepare cards so that you can easily share the following...

1. When and where you were baptized.
2. Who your godparents are.
3. Why your parents had you baptized.
4. What happened at your baptism... (words, symbols, etc.)
5. What being baptized means to you now. Being a part of a faith family, support, fellowship, family of God, etc.
6. Have some props to share: pictures of your baptism, your baptismal candle, certificate, etc.

For week 2 review your First Communion and Confirmation. Prepare cards so that you can easily share the following.....

1. When and where you received your First Communion.
2. What you remember about your preparations.
3. What you did the day of your Communion (your part in the service, family gathering after, etc.)
4. How you felt that day.
5. How you feel each time you receive communion/what it means to receive Jesus in the host.
6. Have some props to share: pictures/first communion memorabilia
7. Give a summary of your Confirmation explaining how through this sacrament you are now fully initiated in the Church. Share what happened, who your sponsor was, and how the Sacrament has affected your faith journey.

Each of you will take a turn to share this with the kids. Remember this is the focus, for them to witness your faith journey, will help to give more meaning to their own.

**THANK YOU FOR BEING A PARTICIPANT IN THIS PROGRAM. YOU HAVE THE POWER TO INSPIRE OTHERS. LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE!**

**Faith Friends**  
**Session 1- Baptism**

When students arrive from church, welcome them and have them take a seat. Help to maintain order in the classroom. Once everyone has arrived, begin the prayer service.

Leader 1: Good evening everyone. Welcome to the first session of our Faith friends program. We are a group of high school youth group members who have come to share this special time of preparation with you. We were sitting in your seats about 10 years ago. We will begin tonight in the name of the father, the son, and the holy spirit. Amen.

Leader 2: Jesus, we are children of God and a part of your community, the Church. At Baptism we were welcomed into your family and we received the light of Christ and promised to walk in His light.

Leader 3: (light candle as you say) Jesus you are our light.

Leader 4: Jesus, Thank you for your love. Also, thank you for the gift of the sacraments. We believe that the Sacraments of Initiation provide us with the way to be fully active in your church. Be with us Lord as we share our faith journey today.

Leader 3: Jesus you are our light.

Leader 5: Please repeat after me:

Jesus, this is a very special time for us. (let them repeat)  
This is because we are getting ready to receive our First Communion (repeat)  
Help us to share God's gifts  
Of love and peace  
With others during this special time.

Leader 6: Let us join hands together as we pray the words Jesus taught us to pray.... Our Father....  
Sign of the Cross. (blow out candle)

Each leader will now introduce themselves and share what they have prepared about their baptisms.

Leader 1: My name is \_\_\_\_\_. Who knows the 3 sacraments of initiation? (choose someone to answer) (baptism, eucharist, confirmation). Which one are you preparing for right now? (Eucharist) Which one did most of you receive as a baby? (baptism). That is the sacrament we are going to focus on today: The first sacrament of initiation, Baptism, which brought us into the family of God. Share your story.....

Show your props, wrap up your presentation and then introduce leader 2.

Leader 2 shares story, introduces leader 3, etc.... thru 6.

Leader 1: We will now break into small groups of 6 students. We will share a snack and we will be working on coloring a candle. You will take these candles with you tonight to remind you of the one that was lit at your baptism, symbolizing Jesus, the light of the world. Whenever you see these candles, remember that you too can be the light in the world so that others see Jesus in all that you do.

**Faith Friends**  
**Session 2- Eucharist/Confirmation**

When the children arrive from church welcome them and assist with getting them seated and silent. Once everyone has arrived, begin the prayer service.

Leader 1: Hello everyone, welcome to week 2 of Faith Friends. This evening we will be sharing the awesome gift of Eucharist. Let us begin in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Leader 2: Jesus said, "I am the bread of life". We need bread to live and grow. We need Jesus to grow closer to God and to share in God's life. In Holy Communion, we receive Jesus, the Bread of Life.

Leader 3: Jesus, thank you for the gift of yourself in Holy Communion.

Leader 4: Through the Eucharist we are joined to Jesus and the whole Church.

Leader 3: Jesus, thank you for the gift of yourself in Holy Communion.

Leader 5: Through the Eucharist we receive the second sacrament of initiation, enriching our membership in the Body of Christ.

Leader 3: Jesus, thank you for the gift of yourself in Holy Communion.

Leader 6: I ask all the leaders to raise their right hands above our second graders as I pray this blessing. May the Lord Jesus touch your ears to receive his word, and your mouth to proclaim his faith. May you come with joy to his supper to the praise and glory of God.

Let us join hands as we pray the words Jesus taught us ... Our Father.....Sign of the Cross

Leader 1: Last week we shared our stories about the first sacrament of initiation, Baptism. Tonight we will discuss the last two. Who knows the second sacrament of initiation? (Eucharist) I received my first Communion.....(share stories and props) Introduce next leader...

Leaders 2-6 share Communion stories.

Leader 1: After receiving first communion, we had to wait 6 years before receiving the final sacrament of initiation, Confirmation. In 8<sup>th</sup> grade we all received Confirmation. We will share some pictures and mementos from this sacrament in our small groups. Now that we are adults in the church we know how special these sacraments are for our lives and we are forever grateful to Jesus for giving them to us. Now we will all prepare thank you notes for Jesus for giving us the sacraments and for giving us Himself in the Eucharist.

Break into groups to make thank you cards and share snack.