LESSON PLAN SAMPLE: ADVENT

Audience:  First Grade Religion Class

Date:  November 28, 2005  Duration:  ½ hour

Textbook:  We Believe by Sadlier  Chapter:  13

Student Text Pages:  155-160  Catechist/Teacher Text Pages:  155-160

Religion Graded Course of Study Objectives K-12:  III B1

Goal(s):
- Introduce the students to the rituals of the Advent season and present Advent as the time we use to get ready for Jesus’ birthday.
- Understand that Jesus is the greatest gift God has given us.

Objective(s):  Identify the Advent season as a time to prepare for Christmas

Prerequisite(s):  None

Materials:
- Narcissus bulb, pot, potting soil, shovel, & watering can -- it grows and blooms in about four weeks.
- Advent wreath, candles (paper flames), table cloth and book of Advent prayers

Procedure:  After explaining that Advent is a great time of expectation, have the students help plant the bulb. Help them understand what transformation will occur with the bulb and how important it is for the class to take care of it. Then assign each student a day to care for the plant and share the changes that are occurring with the class every Friday.

1. Introduction
   - Brainstorm with the children about times in their lives when they were preparing for a big event. (e.g. birthday, first day of school, birth of a sibling, Christmas, or first Eucharist)
   - Discuss that advent is preparing us for the birthday of Jesus and read one of the Scripture passages.
   - The student will be expected to be able to demonstrate the ritual of the Advent wreath and understand that advent helps us prepare for the celebration of Jesus in the Catholic Church.
   - Methods: auditory, tactile/kinesthetic, and visual

2. Main Activity
• Plant the Narcissus bulb with the class and talk about what is going to happen to the bulb.
  
  _Note: May want to tie this in with their science lesson_

• Describe the meaning and ritual around an Advent wreath.
  o Have groups of students take turns attaching the paper flames to the candles and reading the reflection daily
  
  _Note: In their English lesson allow the students to write about Christmas traditions in their family._

• Through the activities students will begin to understand Scripture as story about the Catholic family.

3. **Conclusion**

• Due to the continual development of the activities presented in this lesson, the student will have a period of time to explore the goal and objectives presented.

• These continual activities will also reinforce the components of patience, care, development, tradition, ritual, and Jesus as the reason for the season.

4. **Assessment**

• The student will be assessed by observation when performing the tasks designed for this lesson based on the goal and objective:
  o Advent rituals
  o Advent prepares for the celebration of Jesus’ birthday
  o Jesus is the greatest gift from God

• The “quick check” in the text will be used to verbal quiz the students