



'Light for the Path' a Resource for Families in the Holy Year of Mercy

SIX SESSION OUTLINES

'Your Word is a lamp to my feet, and a light for my path' (Psalm 118 (119) v 106

Choice of Session Guides - One for Adults and One for Adults with Children

Each session has a choice of two downloadable guides, one for a group of adults only, and the other for use by an adult with children. The adult 'Light for the Path' session guide contains the 7-step process, including the full scripture text, and a picture of that story to aid reflection. The adult-with-child 'Light for the Path' guide has simplified steps, including a child-friendly version of the Scripture, a picture of the story, some 'wondering' questions, ideas for being 'merciful' at home and a quote from Pope Francis. There are also some 'Tips' for using the 'Light for the Path' resource with children, giving a step-by-step guide for the parent or other adult to use, helping both the adults and children to engage. The 'prayer' moment is also in child-friendly language.

Session One: The Tenderness of God's Mercy

'In the fullness of time, when everything had been arranged according to his plan of salvation, he sent his only Son into the world, born of the Virgin Mary, to reveal his love for us in a definitive way.' MV1

The Holy Year of Mercy begins in Advent, with Mary. We are thinking of her in Nazareth, hearing the Angel's greeting, 'The Lord is with you', a troubling and yet awesome encounter. Using her ancient title, 'Mother of Mercy' we wonder about Mary's 'Yes' to being chosen as the mother of Jesus (Luke Chapter 1). She then hurries to visit her cousin Elizabeth, also pregnant as an older woman, for 'nothing is impossible for God'. These strong and courageous women meet and share their stories. Together we wonder how in our turn we say 'yes' to being who God chooses us to be, in our families. How are we called to be like Mary, bringing Jesus, the 'face of mercy', to others, at home, and to all those we meet? Mary is named at the beginning and the end of the Pope's document on mercy, and we consider how her whole life is a full participation in the mystery of God's love. She sings a wonderful song of the mercy of God extending from generation to generation – a great river of mercy welling up and overflowing. It will never run dry, no matter how many people come to draw from it. Every time we are in need, we can approach. Practically how can we live out this merciful love that Mary sings of and knows so intimately in her heart? (MV1 and MV24) **Available for use from 8 December 2015**

Session Two: The Doors of Mercy at Home

'Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him and he with me.' Revelation 3:20

Pope Francis has asked for each diocese to have a 'Holy Door' in the cathedral and in other designated churches and shrines. We consider which are the 'holy doors of mercy' in our homes: when and how do we welcome, accept, listen, nourish, and forgive one another at home? Who needs our mercy in these ways? Focussing on Christ, the Good Shepherd, the Gate, and the Door, how might our family 'doors' connect with the parish? **Available for use in January/February 2016**

Session Three: The Lost Son, A Parable of Mercy

'For this son of mine was lost and is found! 'And they began to celebrate' Luke 15:24

There are several parables devoted to mercy, and in these Jesus shows the nature of God as a Father who never gives up until he has forgiven the wrong and overcome rejection with compassion and mercy. (MV 9 and MV17) In Lent we will explore the story of the lost son, the prodigal father, and the elder brother, and what they show us about the Father's mercy? How can we live this at home? (MV17) **Available for use in March 2016**

Session Four: The Action of Mercy

'Which of these three do you think was a neighbour...? 'The one who had mercy on him'. Jesus told him, 'Go and do likewise' Luke 10:36-37

Pope Francis says that mercy is a key word in scripture, showing God's action towards us. God's limitless and overwhelming mercy is the foundation of our life as 'Church', people of God. (MV9 & 10) Through the eyes of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) how is God's mercy a radical way of being in our families, and how does this translate into our parish communities? **Available for use from Easter 2016**

Session Five: The Gaze of Mercy

'Where could we get enough bread in this remote place to feed such a crowd? Luke 15:33

Jesus receives the mission from the Father to reveal what divine love is - for 'God is love' (1Jn 4:8, 16). The signs he works, for the poor, sinners, marginalised people, the sick and suffering, are all meant to teach mercy (MV8) In this session, we look at the merciful gaze of Jesus on the tired and exhausted crowd, and we ask how who needs our compassion today, and how can we respond? (Matthew 15:32-37) **Available for use in summer 2016**

Session Six: The Kingdom of Mercy

'When did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?' Mt 25:37

The Year of Mercy closes at the end of November, on the Feast of Christ the King. In this session, which could be held at any time in the last couple of months of this Holy Year, we look at the merciful kingship of Christ, and how he calls us to live mercifully. The lens for our reflection is found at the end of Matthew's gospel, 'When did we see you Lord' 'When you did this to one of the least of my little ones, you did it to me' Matthew 25:31-19) (MV5, MV 15)
Available for use from September 2016 October to 20th November, Feast of Christ the King, when the Holy Year concludes

To download the 'Light for the Path' Session Guides and for additional information and resources please visit catholicfamily.org.uk or email Caroline Dollard MFL Project Office Catechesis Development Worker at caroline.dollard@cbcew.org.uk