Planning a Prayer Ritual

|  |
| --- |
| **WE GATHER*** Chose the objects and symbols that you will use in the sacred space.
* Gather children around the sacred space and bring them to a quietness – use reflective music, prayer bells, chimes, a rainstick etc.
* Create the sacred space with the students – discuss why you may have chosen each of the symbols/objects. (eg. You may say something like “I wonder why we might have the symbol of the cross in our sacred space today?)
* Light the candle and say something like “Let us watch as our class candle is lit… let’s watch the flame and see it grow and move. There was once a man who said such amazing things and did such wonderful things that people asked him who he was and once Jesus said to them – I am the light of the world.”
* Sing a song.
* Make the Sign of the Cross.
* Say a simple opening prayer. (eg. We come today to spend some time with Jesus and hear about how He wants us to live. We ask Jesus to help us listen with our ears and our hearts. Amen.)
 |
| **WE LISTEN*** Listen to a story about Jesus. Ritualise this by:
* bringing the candle close to you and the Bible , or
* if you are telling the story, by opening the Bible and placing it in your lap as you start the story, or
* leading students in a ritual similar to the one done at Mass. “Let us trace a cross on our forehead with our thumb. This will remind us that this is a special story about Jesus and we will need to think about it as we listen. Let us trace a cross on our lips with our thumb. This will help us to remember to use good and kind words to be like Jesus. Let us trace a cross with our thumb on our hearts. This will help us to remember that Jesus loves us and wants us to love others.”
* Read or tell the scripture story.
 |
| **WE RESPOND*** Pass the Bible or the candle around the circle. As the book comes to a child he/she is invited to say “Jesus loves me” or some other response to the story.
 |
| **WE GO FORTH*** Invite children to make the Sign of Peace with each other.
* Make the Sign of the Cross.
* Sing a song.
 |

My Prayer Ritual

**Using the Gather, Listen, Respond and Go Forth framework plan a prayer ritual for your class.**

|  |
| --- |
| **WE GATHER** |
| **WE LISTEN** |
| **WE RESPOND** |
| **WE GO FORTH** |