

6 year olds	OUR HEAVENLY FATHER
Module 2	Heaven is Our Home
Lesson 3	The Sign of the Cross

AIMS

1. Students will practice making the Sign of the Cross correctly.
2. They will learn that this prayer expresses two truths of the Catholic Faith:
 - a. There is one God in three Divine Persons
 - b. Jesus opened the gates of Heaven when He died on the Cross.

STEP 1

1. Show the children the picture of Saint Thérèse of Lisieux in the children's pack
2. Explain that even as a young girl Saint Thérèse understood the beauty of heaven and the joy of being with God for ever. She loved her parents and God so much that she wanted her mum and dad to be happy with God for ever. She knew that they could only be happy with God, if they died. Because of this, she was not afraid of her parents dying.

STEP 2

1. Read together the Sign of the Cross section in the children's pack.
2. Reemphasise the fact that Catholics make the Sign of the Cross before and after they pray.
3. Ask the children to repeat with you: "In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." Several times with their hand folded in their laps. Then ask the children to say this one at a time.
4. Explain that when Catholics say these words, they are showing that they believe in the Blessed Trinity: One God in three Divine Persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Each of these Persons is one and the same God.

STEP 3

1. Tell the children that the Sign of the Cross is the sign of a Catholic.
2. People of other religions do not generally make this sign,
3. Ask them if they know when Catholics make this sign (before prayers, at Mass, after prayers).

STEP 4

1. Explain to the children that before Jesus died on the Cross, no one could go to Heaven when they died, not even good people. The gates of Heaven were closed after Adam and Eve sinned, and remained closed until Jesus died on the Cross and opened them again. So the Cross is a great sign of hope and faith that man will one day be happy forever with God in heaven.

STEP 5

1. Demonstrate to the children how to make the Sign of the Cross.
2. Read again to the children the Sign of the Cross section in the children's pack.

3. The make the Sign of the Cross with the children. Do this several time until the children a comfortable with the prayer.

REINFORCE

1. Assign the activities in the children's pack.
2. An optional fun activity is to have paper bags, with holes cut out for head and arms, large enough for the children to wear. You can them write on the bag, where the child's hands should be, Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Then have the children paint them like suits of armour. Tell the children that they are solders of Christ and their weapon is the Sign of the Cross.

CONCLUDE

1. Remind the children that the Sign of the Cross expresses two wonderful truths: that God is a Trinity and that the gates of Heaven were opened again when Jesus died on the Cross. Because Jesus died, everyone is able to someday enter Heaven and live with God in His home forever.
2. Have the children practice the Sign of the Cross and check that they are doing it properly.
3. Review Catechism questions 1-4 with the class. And then let pairs of children practice on their own.
4. Close the session by singing or saying the Our Father.

PREVIEW

Tell the children that next time we will learn that even while we are still on earth, we can have a peek at Heaven