

TEACHER'S NOTES

6 year olds	OUR HEAVENLY FATHER
Chapter 10	The Saviour is Born
Lesson 2	The Nativity

AIMS

1. The children will be able to relay the story of the first Christmas. They will be able to explain that the Saviour came in meekness and humility to save the world from sin and to open the gates of Heaven.
2. They will learn that the third Joyful Mystery of the Rosary is the Nativity.

STEP 1

Remind the children that in the last lesson they learned why Mary and Joseph were in Bethlehem far from their home when Jesus was born and why he was born in a stable, a place where animals are kept. In this lesson, they will learn what happened the night Jesus was born.

STEP 2

Read the Special Paragraphs from the Children's Pack with the children.

STEP 3

Have the children study the painting of the nativity in their packs and ask the following questions:

QUESTION	ANSWER
Where is the painting set?	The stable in Bethlehem.
Who is the baby in the painting?	Jesus, the Son of God.
In what is He lying?	A manger, a feeding box for animals.
Who is kneeling before Him?	Mary, His mother.
How does she look?	Filled with happiness at the birth of her Son, the Saviour.
Who is the man behind the Blessed Mother in the stable?	Saint Joseph, who is her husband and the foster-father of Jesus.
With whom is Joseph talking at the door?	One of the shepherds (note the sheep by his feet).
To whom is Joseph pointing?	He is pointing to the baby, Jesus, because the shepherds have just explained that angels told them to go and see this wonderful child.
What animal is looking down at baby Jesus?	An ox.
Who is baby Jesus looking at so intently?	His mother, who has brought Him into the world because she said "yes" to God

STEP 4

Read the story of the nativity from the children's pack.

STEP 5

Point out that the first people to hear of the Saviour's birth were not important, powerful people like kings or wealthy men, but shepherds, poor men who tended sheep. The angels visited them and told them to go the stable where they would find the baby Jesus. Our Lord came into the world just as humble as these people were. He came in great humility, not pride or wealth or power. In doing so, He taught that everyone should be humble.

STEP 6

1. Set the children to colour the picture for their rosary book.
2. Read aloud *Brother Francis and the Friendly Beasts* by Margaret Hodges. The is a lovely story about the first living manger scene in Assisi.

CONCLUDE

1. Review Catechism question 24 with the class.
2. Sing together "Away in a Manger," *Adoremus Hymnal* # 336

PREVIEW

In the next lesson, we will learn more about Jesus, the Saviour, and how He is both God and man..