

ACTIVITY 2: LIGHT OF THE WORLD

The purpose of this activity is to tie in Baptism and how it washes away original sin by using the analogy of how we see. Original sin is like a “spiritual blindness”. Jesus is the Light of the World, and at our baptism we receive the Light of Christ. However, concupiscence remains, which is our tendency to sin, and as we reach the age of reason we begin to sin, or listen to dragons. We need another sacrament to “restore” our great “spiritual acuity” (the state of grace), and reconciliation restores our sight and gives us grace to avoid the near occasion of sin moving forward. The Eucharist gives us supernatural grace to live a life of virtue to the fullest and slay many dragons!

Materials needed: Fuzzy glasses, basket, ball, and blindfold (optional)

Instructions for “Baptism” Discussion and “Light of the World” Exercise

1. Start off by asking the children the first sacrament they received. Begin a discussion on baptism and maybe ask them if they have any stories of witnessing a baptism, perhaps of a younger sibling.
2. Remind them at baptism we receive a candle which represents the Light of Christ.
3. Ask them what light helps us to do. (See)
4. Tell them that you are going to use the eyes as an analogy to teach us what really happens at baptism.
5. Talk to them about the story of Adam and Eve, and original sin, and draw the analogy that original sin is like a “spiritual blindness” passed on from generation to generation. The light of God went out and now the people “walk in darkness”. Heaven is not possible...
6. Jesus was born and came into the world as the Light of the World.
7. Jesus gave us the sacrament of baptism to pass on this light.
8. Now we can spiritually “see”. It removes our blindness (original sin) and opens the gates of heaven by giving us the grace to become saints. (The state of grace represents perfect spiritual “acuity”.)
9. However, concupiscence, our tendency to do wrong, or “listen to dragons” remains. As we get older and reach the age of reason we begin to sin. When we sin, it makes our “spiritual acuity” murky. Dragons like “darkness”.

Pause: Demonstrate this point by asking for a volunteer who wants to shoot baskets. Put the hoop 5 or 6 feet away and ask them to make a basket. Give them several tries. Make sure the hoop is close enough that it is fairly easy to make the basket. Tell them that when we are in the state of grace, our ability to make baskets, OR SLAY DRAGONS (live virtuously), is easy and we grow closer to becoming the saint God created us to be.

Now have the child put on the fuzzy glasses and say, “When we sin, even little sins, which we call “venial” sins, it begins to make our spiritual acuity fuzzy. It gets harder and harder to do the right thing the more we listen to dragons.

Now talk a little bit about “mortal sin”. We totally reject God and don’t want him in our life. Cover their eyes or put a blindfold on and see how they don’t even come close when shooting a basket.

10. Now ask, what can we do to regain our “spiritual acuity” after we listen to dragons, whether it is venial or mortal. What sacrament can we always receive? Confession!
11. Emphasize that there will always be dragons in this life and it is a life long battle. So we don’t just go to confession once, we go over and over again!