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Introduction/Overview

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Breaking Open the Theme

The Catholic Schools Week poster text reads: CSW 2024: LIVING, Celebrating, and Proclaiming our Faith

Please see Island Catholic Schools Website.

There is much wisdom in reflecting on each of the words in this theme.!

Questions for Reflection

What are the key pillars of our Catholic faith?

What does it mean to live our Catholic faith?

How do we celebrate our faith?

How do we proclaim our faith?

How do our words and actions demonstrate a faith-filled life?

How does God call us to live our lives?

In what ways do we model our lives after Jesus?

Wednesday February 7, 2024 - Ferial + Green

First Reading	1 Kings 10.1-10	<i>Visit of the Queen of Sheba</i>
Responsorial Psalm	Psalm 37.5-6, 30-31, 39-40 (R.30)	<i>A Psalm of David</i>
Gospel	Mark 7.14-23	<i>Hear me all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a man which by going into him can defile him; but the things which come out of a man defile him</i>

Thursday February 8, 2024 - Ferial + Green

First Reading	1 Kings 11.4-13	<i>Solomon's Errors</i>
Responsorial Psalm	Psalm 106	<i>Praise the Lord! O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures for ever!</i>

Short Prayers for Preschool and Primary Students Throughout the Week –
CSW/LIVING, Celebrating, and Proclaiming our Faith

1. I love you Jesus. I love my friends and family. Help us all to love you deeply. Amen
2. Jesus, you are my friend, and I am yours. I know you will always be there for me. Amen
3. Jesus, when I am sad and lonely, help to remember you are always with me. Amen
4. Jesus, you are the Way. Jesus, you are the Truth. Jesus, you are the Life. Jesus, you are my everything. Amen
5. Lord Jesus, you died on the Cross for me. I offer my life to you, O Lord. Amen

PART B: BREAKING OPEN THE WORD (Lectio Divina)

Divide a larger class into groups of 4-5 students.

Opening Prayer:

+ We praise you loving God for your Word, Jesus Christ. Give us your Holy Spirit to listen to your Word with our ears, to treasure it in our hearts, and live it with our lives. We ask this through Christ our Lord. (Year 4, Come and See Student Book, CCCB. P 18, 19)

Read the Gospel As you read the Gospel slowly and deliberately, invite the groups to listen for a word or phrase that stands out to you, that speaks to you.

Reflect in Silence at least 60 seconds!

Individual Response:

Invite each group member to say the word or phrase out loud individually, without offering any judgment, discussion or comment (although you, as leader, may choose to write each comment on chart paper).

Read the Gospel a second time:

Read the Gospel a second time, slowly and deliberately.

Reflect in Silence:

What do I hear in my heart?

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Small Group Response:

Breaking Open the Word -

Purpose: To let the creativity of the participants, flow through the engagement with a Sacred Scripture passage

Timeframe: 30 - 45 minutes

Supplies: Bibles

Preparation: Choose a passage (This may be chosen from the Lectionary reading, a theme, or even chosen by the group). Ideally, the group should be 3-5 persons. Each group could have a separate passage or interpret the same passage.

Opening Prayer:

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+ *We praise you loving God for your Word, Jesus Christ. Give us your Holy Spirit to listen to your Word with our ears, to treasure it in our hearts, and live it with our lives. We ask this through Christ our Lord.* (Q92>3003(yer)JTJETQ.00000912 0 612 792 reW*ñBT/F6 12 Tf1 0 0 1 252rticip

Opening Prayer Service Option One

Prayer table set up with candle lit.

Breaking Open the Word

Universal Prayer (Prayer of the Faithful)

Response: Lord of all Education, Hear our Prayer.

1. For our hurting and broken world, that we may be instruments of Your Healing Love
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2. That all our leaders, who have been given the responsibility to care for our planet,
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3. For our school, that we may become better disciples of Jesus by the caring ways we
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4. For children that do not have the opportunity to go to school and learn because of
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5. That those who are lonely, sick and dying may

Opening Prayer Service Option Two

Prayer table set up with candle lit.

Music Suggestions:

[In Christ Alone \(Official Lyric Video\) - Keith & Kristyn Getty, Alison Krauss](#)

[\(youtube.com\)Lauren Daigle - You Say \(Lyrics\) \(youtube.com\)](#)

In the name of the Father...

Almighty God, hope of all your people, we open our hearts to your love and to your hopes for us. Thank you for the gift of Catholic Education. You have hopes for your people; that we can live in peace and share your love with others. Help us to keep you as the source of hope. Help us also to appreciate the gift of Catholic education and use our talents and efforts for your glory. Amen

A reading from the first letter of Peter

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Breaking open the word

Universal Prayer (Prayer of the Faithful)

Response: Hear our prayer

We pray your Church will be a sign of hope for the world. We pray to the Lord,

Closing Song Suggestions:

[10,000 Reasons \(Bless the Lord\) - Matt Redman \(Best Worship Song Ever\) \(with Lyrics\) \(youtube.com\)](#)

[Kids Version - Lord I Need You \(Official Lyric Video\) \(youtube.com\)](#)

[The Blessing Song](#) Compilation of all recordings around the world

Staff Prayer Service

Let us form a circle as a sign of our unity as one family in Christ.

Opening Song Suggestions:

[HERE I AM, LORD - Collin Raye \(youtube.com\)](#)

[MercyMe - Lord I lift your name on high - YouTube](#)

In the name of the Father, of the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen
God of Unity, you call us to work together as a family in Christ to bring healing to the hurting.

Touch our hands, that we may use them for blessing, not harming.

Touch our hearts, that we use them for joining, not parting.

Touch our minds, that we use them for harmony, not discord.

Amen.

Scripture Reading: Romans 12: 4- 10

A reading from a letter from St. Paul to the Romans

For just as in one body we have many parts, and the parts do not all have the same function,

Reflection

Loving God, You created us uniquely gifted.

Within us is the call to love, the call to live out your love, the call to bring your love into service. May each of us continue to discover our own gifts and use them to help build your Kingdom. Help us to serve our communities with kindness and compassion. Guide us as we to grow in our giftedness. Bless us with listening hearts and compassionate actions.

Egg Timer Prayers- This is a prayer with a challenge! Set an egg timer for a minute or two, then pray for one particular person. See how many different blessings you can pray over that person before the egg timer beeps.

Newspaper Prayer- More suitable for older children, the newspaper prayer will help your students remember to pray for people in other regions of the world. Give selected students a section of the newspaper and a few minutes to go through it, identifying any items that could become matters of prayer. Then gather together and pray for the things each person has selected that need prayer

Social Media Favourites- This is similar to the newspaper prayer. Have your older students check recent Social Media posts from friends and contacts. Pray together over the prayer requests you discover.

Prayer Deck- Prepare a small stack of cards with each card displaying the photo or picture of something a student has brought in to pray for. Take turns praying for the people or things featured on the cards you receive.

Silent Prayer- To introduce the concept

