

"Mother's Day Celebration"

LESSON INTENTION

The intention of this lesson is to show gratitude to those who nurture and care for us.

Affirmation

I am loved because I Am.

Prayer Focus

Surely your goodness and love will be with me all my life, and I will live in the house of the Lord forever. Psalm 23:6

Unity Principle:

#2 - "I am naturally good because God's divinity is in me and in everyone."

Pre-session Activity

WELCOME AT THE DOOR

- Ⓢ This is the time we create a safe & sacred space for the children.
- Ⓢ Invite a teacher and students to greet the children at the door to the Youth Room. The teacher needs to be at eye-level with the children.
- Ⓢ Possible greeting: ***"It's so good to see you. We've been waiting for you."***
- Ⓢ If the children have toys with them invite them to place them on the shelf where they can pick them up on the way out.
- Ⓢ ***Invite them to sign in.***
- Ⓢ If they have not done so, invite them to choose a Job Card/Service Opportunity. ***Every child needs one.***

GATHERING CIRCLE

- Ⓢ At 11:15 am, after the children have completed the Opening Activities, ***invite the "Gong Sounder"*** to sound the gong to call everyone to the Gathering Circle. The children then choose a carpet square and take their seat in the circle.
- Ⓢ The teacher now "sets the circle" and reinforces the ideas that we are all one and we are in a safe place. ***Now is the time to review the Heart Agreement that should be posted in the area.***
- Ⓢ Invite the ***Daily Inspiration Reader*** to read the Daily Word.

- Ⓢ **Prayer team comes forward.** Either lead the children in a prayer for others or use this time to pray with the prayer stick requests. *Place the "Prayer Bowl" in the center of the room and one by one the children read their prayer word or words and place their stick in the bowl.*
- Ⓢ Collect a love offering.
- Ⓢ Movement/Song

Divide Into Individual Classrooms

Story for Younger Children...

"Mama, Do You Love Me"

Discussion

- ◆ Why do you think the child was asking her mother all of those questions?
- ◆ How did the mom respond to each one?
- ◆ What did the child find out about her mother?
- ◆ When have you done something like this?
- ◆ How do you know you are loved?

Story for Older Children/Uniteens...

"A Mom's Life" From, *Chicken Soup for the Soul*

Encourage the reader to dramatize the reading, speaking the phrases as if they were being spoken by a "real mother."

Discussion

- ◆ What might have been some of the things that were happening in this "story," as the mother was speaking these phrases?
- ◆ The title of this piece is "A Mom's Life." According to this writing, what do we know about a "mom's life?"
- ◆ What is the life of her child like, do you think?
- ◆ Did any of these phrases or "messages" sound familiar?
- ◆ What are some of your mother's favorite things to say to you?
- ◆ What does she say to encourage you?
- ◆ How do you feel when she encourages you?

Creative Expression

Mother's Day Magic Box

Materials: Wooden or paper Boxes, note for the top, see below for a variety of gifts to put in it.

Each child receives a box to decorate and a Magic note to attach to the top of the box. They then have the opportunity to make a variety of objects to put into the box – each one has a label that can be attached to it so Mom knows what it is for.

The gifts to choose from:

#1 – Items to start the day

- ♦ Paper flower bouquet

#2 – Thinking of You

- ♦ Choose coupons

#3 – Love Notes

- ♦ Special message from your heart

#4 – Get Pampered

- ♦ Soaps
- ♦ Bath Salts
- ♦ Candle

#5 – Special treat

- ♦ Candy Treats

Once you have created all of your gifts – place them in your box and give to mom.

Chore Card

Materials: 8 ½ x 11 sheet of paper folded so short ends match up, flowerpot shapes cut from construction paper. Flower shapes, green stems, glue, markers.

First, fold in half an 8 ½ by 11 inch sheet of heavy-weight paper so that the shorter ends match up. Next, have your child cut a flowerpot shape from colored construction paper or card stock and glue it to the lower portion of the card face. He should attach only the bottom and side edges and leave the top unglued.

Next, he'll need to cut out a bunch of colored flowers and thick green stems and then glue the stem tops to the backs of the blossoms. Once the glue dries, he can print a different chore (such as "fold the laundry" or "walk the dog") on the back of each stem.

Now it's time to inscribe the inside of the card with the words "Pick a flower and you will see the jobs you'll pick this week for me" and sign it. All that's left to do is to "plant" the flowers in the pot and present the card to Mom.