

THOUGH MANY, WE ARE ONE

UNIT 1

Building Community

Lesson 12

We Give Thanks

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Lesson Overview

In this lesson, students will have an opportunity to experience the beauty of God's creation through a nature/community walk and outdoor prayer service.

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

Religious Education:

Gr. 4 - LS2.3: Identify and describe ways we are called as human beings to be responsible stewards who protect the environment and promote creation (i.e. natural ecological world in which we live) that has its origins in the creative will and purpose of God.

Gr. 4 & 6 - Big Idea PR2: Prayer has many forms and expressions found in Scripture and Tradition – blessing and adoration, petition, intercession, thanksgiving and praise, vocal, meditative, and contemplative.

Gr. 6 - BL1.3: Identify the many ways we come to know God from the physical world and the human person (i.e. creation).

ONTARIO CATHOLIC SCHOOL GRADUATE EXPECTATIONS & CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHINGS

The Catholic Social Teachings evident in this lesson include:

Care for God's Creation
Rights and Responsibilities

The Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations evident in this lesson include:

CGE 1: A Discerning Believer Formed in the Catholic Faith Community

CGE 3: A Reflective and Creative Thinker

CGE 7: A Responsible Citizen

GUIDING QUESTIONS (coming out of the Big Idea)

Big Idea:

- God's creation is all around us

Scripture Passages:

- Psalm 104: 1-6, 10-15, 19-24

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LEARNING GOALS

At the end of this lesson, students will know, understand and/or be able to:

- Recognize the beauty of God's creation through a class nature walk.

Success Criteria, based on the Learning Goals, can be co-constructed as a class in language meaningful to students. The success criteria help students understand what to look for during the learning and what it looks like once they have learned. They identify the significant aspects of student performance that are assessed and/or evaluated (i.e., the "look-fors") in relation to curriculum expectations.

INSTRUCTIONAL COMPONENTS AND CONTEXT

NOTE: This lesson is to be done in late September or early October when the trees are beginning to change colours.

Materials:

- Camera or iPad
- Chart Paper

Resources:

- "We Give Thanks" prayer service. (p. 20, *Words For The Journey for Kids*, Freemantle & Miller, Novalis, 2010)

MINDS ON

- Establishing a positive learning environment
- Connecting to prior learning and/or experiences
- Setting the context for learning

Before you begin your class walk to your outdoor prayer service, remind students of the experience of God in silence during Christian meditation.

As they walk, ask them to remain silent to be aware of the beauty of creation that surrounds them.

ACTION

- Introducing new learning or extending/reinforcing prior learning
- Providing opportunities for practice and application of learning (guided → independent)

Once you have reached your destination, have students sit in a circle and pray together using the prayer service "We Give Thanks" from "Words for the Journey for Kids" or another suitable prayer celebration of thanks. (*Copies may be needed for student readers.*)

Before leaving the location, invite students to select an artifact (i.e., leaf, small rock) to take back to class. Or, students could take photos in the natural location.

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CONSOLIDATION

- Providing opportunities for consolidation and reflection
- Helping students demonstrate what they have learned

- Have students place their artifacts in the center of your classroom.
- Once all artifacts are placed, take a photo with a camera or iPad.
- Print the photo(s) and attach to a piece of chart paper.
- Invite students to add their own prayers of thanksgiving and praise for creation.