

Inclusive catechesis & prayer

The Moon Shines Down On All God's Children



Introduction for catechists: We are all beloved children of God. Inclusive catechesis is about making sure that everyone has the chance to get to know about God the Father, Jesus His son, and the Holy Spirit. You can adapt this resource to meet the needs of your child / group, so that each one can build an engaging and joyful relationship with God – who loves each of us, just as we are.

Opening hymn: Playing quietly to introduce the liturgy. Our suggestion is *He's Got the Whole World*. See missiontogether.org.uk/sing-with-mission-together

Sign of the cross: Where appropriate children are supported to make the sign of the cross.

Introduction for children

When we go outside at night and we look up, sometimes we can only see clouds. But sometimes we look up and we can see the moon and the stars. When God made the world and all the beautiful plants and animals, he made the moon and stars for us to see at night.

Bible reading

In the Bible, which is our special book about God, there are some beautiful songs written to praise God called psalms. In Psalm 149 it says: 'Praise God, sun and moon. Praise God, shining stars. Let them Praise God who made them and fixed them in their place forever. Young men and women. Old people and children too. Praise our God in heaven.'

Bible reflection

I want to tell you something very special about the moon so that next time you look up at night and see it you will remember this. Everyone on this whole big earth we live on, can look up and see the same moon. It doesn't matter what country they live in, how old they are, what language they speak or what they like to eat: the same moon shines down on all of us. We are all God's children so he gave us the same moon and when we see that moon, we can think of all the children all around the world and ask God to keep them safe.

Let's say a prayer together for all of the children all around the world.

Mission Together prayer: to the right.

Sign of the cross: Where appropriate children are supported to make the sign of the cross.

Closing hymn: *He's Got the Whole World*. This time children can join in with percussion instruments and sing along if appropriate for the group.

Follow up activity: *Moon and Stars Sensory Activity*. Found on page 2.

Mission Together Prayer

May all children

In the world

Share love

Share friendship and live

In the peace

Of God's love

Now and forever. **Amen.**

Mission Together is the children's branch of Missio, the Pope's charity for world mission.

23 Eccleston Square London SW1V 1NU missiontogether.org.uk missio.org.uk

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Moon and Stars Sensory Activity



Tips for catechists / parents

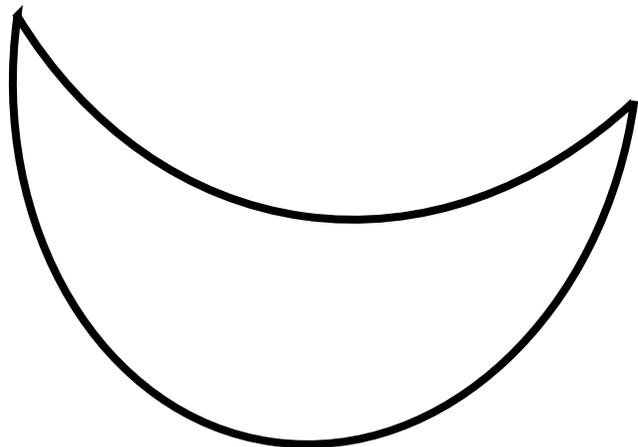
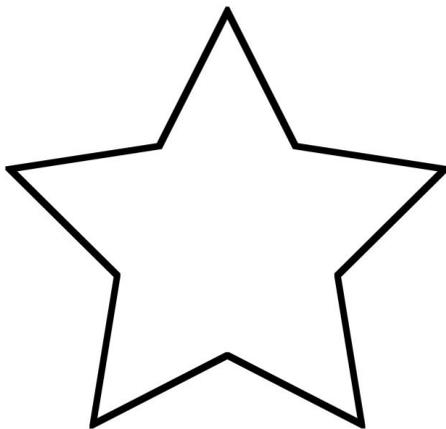
When we involve different senses we can make learning more effective as well as fun. All of the senses can help us to learn so if an activity is enjoyable and sensory the children participating are more likely to be able to focus for longer and the knowledge you are communicating is more likely to be remembered. Rice is a great sensory resource, as the feel and sound gives a great deal of pleasure and keeps kids engaged.

For this activity you will need:

- A tuff tray, large plant saucer, or large shallow container
- Rice
- Cardboard moon and stars.

Instructions

- Prepare the activity by cutting moon and star shapes out of yellow or white card. Alternatively, paint your cardboard shapes yellow or white. We have prepared a template below, but you may need to adapt the size, depending on your child's fine motor skills.
- When choosing a tray make sure the sides are high enough to contain the rice, but not too high as to prevent access for a child's hands or their ability to see the contents.
- Fill the tray with rice, enough to cover your moon and stars.
- Add the stars and moon to the tray. You can bury them deep in the rice or have the shapes poking out, depending on the needs of the child.
- Let your child or young person know how many stars they are looking for and off they go!
- When your child or young person has found their moon and stars, remind them of the message shared in our prayer session – that all God's children live under the same moon and stars. Then say the Mission Together Prayer for all children, everywhere.



Fundraising ideas



Mission Together is the children's branch of Missio – the Catholic Church's official children's charity for overseas mission. Thanks to children in England and Wales, we can provide life-changing aid around the world in whatever form it's needed. That could be a new school, feeding programme, or a generator for a children's home. Mission Together helps all children, regardless of background or beliefs. That's how we show the all-embracing nature of the Catholic Church and the true meaning of 'mission'.

Fundraising is a brilliant way to involve everyone in raising money for Mission Together. Below are a few ideas for different times in the year. You can find other ways to get involved by visiting our webpage <https://missiontogether.org.uk/fundraising-ideas/> Please **share your** fundraising events with us @missioUK adding the hashtag #missiontogether

Ideas for Spring & Summer

Valentines biscuits: bake heart shaped cookies and sell them in pretty bags around Valentines Day. Try to involve children as much as possible, from adding ingredients and cutting cookies to shaking sprinkles.

Spring flower sale: everyone loves the first signs of spring after winter! Work with children to pot spring bulbs – snowdrops, mini daffodils, crocuses and hyacinths to sell as Easter gifts.

Easter bonnet competition: charge children to enter a competition for the best Easter bonnet. Prizes for the most fabulous creations!

Weeding Week: While the days are sunny and warm, why not raise money by weeding gardens? Ask for suggested donation, or sponsorship per bag of weeds. Maybe green fingered children could plant too!

Scavenger hunt: this is a great outdoor activity! Print off some sheets with summertime things to spot e.g. flowers in the garden, leaves on trees, birds singing. We have an accessible Scavenger Hunt available to download on our 'Inclusive Resources' webpage. Charge an entry fee. Every complete scavenger sheet is placed in a hat, with the pulled out winner receiving a prize.

Ideas for Autumn & Winter

Rake-a-Thon: With autumn leaves falling, who not fundraise for Mission Together by tidying gardens for a suggested donation. Make sure children have strong gloves and bags if they take up the Rake-a-Thon challenge.

Winter walks: brave the elements and hold a torch-lit hike or winter walk to raise money for Mission Together. Make sure you have plenty of adults to supervise and assist when organising outdoor events with children. Better still, get the whole family involved!

Christmas crafts: get children involved in making and selling Christmas cards, ornaments, wreaths, biscuits, and any other Christmassy gifts and treats you can think of. Donate the proceeds to Mission Together. Visit our Advent webpage for instructions for our Handy Advent Wreath and other craft ideas.

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