

## Lesson 3-14-20

**Theme:** The Church is a Family of Faith

**Set-up:** Last week we talked about baptism and the children shared what they know about the baptism ceremony and what they have been told about their own baptism. They all understood that when you are baptized you join the church and your parents and godparents make a promise to teach you about God and God makes a promise to all of us to forgive us when we do wrong. We made Baptismal certificates and filled in as much information as they knew. Hopefully they asked you more about their baptism! *Ask the children what they remember about baptism, what is it, what a godparent is, what promise do they make and does God make in Baptism? Also ask them what church season we are in -- Lent.*

### **Story to Read: Baptized People Are a Family**

Grandmothers and grandfathers, mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, uncles and aunts, and cousins-all are important in our lives. We can learn from them.

But the Church is more than just our relatives. It is our neighbors and friends, and even people we do not know. It is people near and far.

All baptized people are in Christ's family. Some families are large. Others are small.

'What do families do together? We eat our meals. 'We laugh, and we cry. 'We play, and we work. We speak, and we listen. In many ways, we care for one another.

Christian families pray together. We read the Bible. We go to church and hear the good news of Jesus in Scripture and in sermons. We receive Holy Communion.

Christians reach out to help people in trouble. When people are happy at baptisms and weddings, we smile with them. When people are very sad about sickness and death, we pray with them and give them our love.

Every time someone is baptized and received into the Church, we can say to ourselves: "That is a new member of Jesus Christ's family. It is good when our family grows, and we are glad."

The apostle Paul cared about families. In a letter to his young friend and helper, Timothy, he said: "I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you." (II Timothy 1:5.)

This was Paul's way of saying that Timothy's *family* was important. Timothy learned about Jesus Christ from his grandmother and mother, who had been baptized into the Church.

Paul called the Church's family "the body of Christ." If anyone hurts, the pain is felt by all. And if anyone rejoices, the joy is shared by all. (We can read Paul's words in I Corinthians, ch. 12.)

**Activity Ideas:**

1. Family Collage - Using construction paper, scissors, glue, magazines, create a collage of pictures that represent "The Family of God"
2. Interview your godparent - Have the child contact one of their godparents and interview them with questions such as: How did it feel to be chosen as a godparent? What things do you like to do as my godparent? What are your hopes for me? What would you like to say to other godparents in the church?
3. Story starter - Begin with "A special person who helps me know about God..." and invite your child to use their imaginations and tell you how the story could continue