

Religion - Laura Portwood
2nd Quarter

PreK-3

During our second quarter in Religion, we continued with biblical stories from the Old Testament starting with Moses. This included the students learning about him as a baby and then he encountered the burning bush; both events showing how God has a plan for each of us. Then we discussed the meaning of All Hallows' Eve and All Saints Day, which included us singing *Oh When the Saints Go Marching* and *This Little Light of Mine* as part of the lesson. The kids really enjoyed dancing and singing. We continued the lesson by taking an on campus field trip to the Lewis Memorial Chapel of the Good Shepherd to view the saints in the stained glass windows. Next we talked about Advent as a time of waiting and how the people were waiting for the Messiah to come. During Advent I brought an Advent wreath to each class in order to discuss each week's meaning (Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love) with the students. They loved the lighting of the candles for each week and the quiet moments of prayer. Advent is also the time when we moved into the New Testament, learning about Mary's visit from an angel, Jesus' birth and the shepherds' visit to name a few. I am looking forward to 3rd quarter with our youngest knights.

PreK-4

Continuing in the Old Testament and using our Beginners' Bibles, we learned about Moses and the Burning Bush. The students were able to take off their shoes as part of the lesson just like Moses did when he stood on holy ground. The students loved it! Next we explored the meaning of All Hallows' Eve and All Saints Day, which included us singing *Oh When the Saints Go Marching* and *This Little Light of Mine* as part of the lesson. Oh how lovely the voices of children singing can be! We then took a walk over to the Lewis Memorial Chapel of the Good Shepherd. The children enjoyed looking around and trying to find all of the saints in the stained glass windows. The students participated in a moment of stillness and silence while in the chapel. With the season of Advent we moved into the New Testament. The children were able to talk about Mary, Joseph, angels, shepherds and Jesus. We learned a few new songs for the season such as "Advent" and "Baa, Baa, Little Sheep." Each week of Advent, I brought an Advent wreath to class to share the meaning of the week-Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. The lighting of the candles each class brought about many oohs and aahs. The students have become familiar with the Bible figures and stories that we have shared together. The students were always eager listeners and learners! I am looking forward to next quarter.

Kindergarten

We started the quarter with the biblical story of Moses and the Burning Bush. The students marveled at the bush that burned but did not burn. As part of the lesson the kids were able to remove their shoes just as Moses did when he stood on holy ground. They learned that Moses had strengths and weaknesses just like each of us. Next came All Hallows' Eve and All Saints Day when we learned about the meaning of each and explored the lives of a few saints. The students enjoyed singing and dancing to Louis Armstrong's "*Oh When the Saints Go Marching In.*" As part of the lesson, we went to the Lewis Memorial Chapel of the Good Shepherd here on campus. The students really loved their time exploring and looking for the many saints located in the stained glass windows. While there, the children participated and experienced stillness and silence. Then Advent season began and we moved into the New Testament. Using our Beginners' Bibles, we read about Mary being visited by an angel and discussed how God has a plan for each of us. We also learned about the shepherds and that everyone is important. During Advent, we lit the advent wreath each class. Every week had a theme-Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love that we discussed. The students participated in moments of silence and reflection to help develop their spiritual growth. I have been impressed with how quickly they are recognizing the biblical figures and stories and am looking forward to sharing even more in our next quarter.