

## Prayers as you Move into the Hands On or Take Home Activity.

*Remember the “hands on” or “take home activity” or “craft” has a purpose. It is meant to make the lesson, The Word, a tangible reality for the child. These times of “making and doing” are not to be “fillers” or “something to do” or “just for fun”. Although play and fun are an intricate part of the child’s experience, we as catechists guide these experiences to catechetical moments, where they engage again and again in intimacy with Christ. Through their interaction with each other, their creation of tangible items, and the conversation or quiet that happens during these times it allows us to open ourselves and the children to the Spirit that is ever present among us.*

When you begin your “hands on activity” (which is how I’ll refer to this part of the catechetical lesson) even the set up makes a difference.

- ❖ Do you want them to come in and begin immediately or is there prayer, scripture, sharing, or a dialogue before?
- ❖ Having the materials ready in an easy accessible way is usually best, but not set out in a visible way that will distract from wherever you plan to begin engaging them.
- ❖ If you planning to begin with scripture, let the bible on a prayer table be the first focal point.
- ❖ If you are planning a welcome song, allow room to stand and gather to be the beginning action.

As you begin the hands on activity you may make the transition through prayer, such as the ones suggested below:

Loving God we thank you  
for giving us great and wonderful minds  
to follow instructions and keep on task.  
Help us to work together, sharing and listening  
like your Son, Jesus Christ taught us to.  
Amen.

Spirit of God,  
Guide our creativeness  
as we work on this special project  
that will help us bring your Word  
to our homes and families.  
Amen.

Let us be aware of the Spirit of God  
and thankful for the joy and fun we will have  
while making and creating.

Amen.

God gives us each eyes to see.  
God gives us little hands to do.  
God blesses all, both you and me.  
God blesses us as we cut and glue.

Amen.

May all of these supplies that we will use today,  
Be created into reminders to follow in Your Way. Amen.

Father in Heaven,  
We stand together again to say,  
Thank you for this activity today.  
And please God know when our hands are at rest;  
that with your grace we can give You our best.

Amen.

God bless us as we work with paper, scissors, and glue.  
Help us to remember that all things come to us through You.

Amen.

