

CELEBRATE CHEEKY PANDAS The Lost Coin

Key Learning: Being friends with God is really exciting because he is amazing! When we know him, we say OH WOW! Just like when we find a lost coin.

Saint of the Day

St Nicholas

The true story of Santa Claus begins with Nicholas. His wealthy parents, who raised him to be a devout Christian, died in an epidemic while Nicholas was still young. Obeying Jesus' words to 'sell what you own and give the money to the poor,' Nicholas used his whole inheritance to help the needy, the sick, and the suffering.

He dedicated his life to serving God and was made Bishop of Myra while still a young man. He became known for his generosity to those in need.

You will need...

- Video
- A penny
- Presentation for Prayer



'... what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbours, saying, "Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost."

Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents'

Luke 15:8-10

Session Outline

1. Informal welcome as families arrive

2. Official welcome

Introduce the title, theme, and all members of your team to all present, including the person to contact if they have technical issues, questions or concerns.

Outline what will happen during this session, how long it will take, and the key learning for today's session.

Ensure they have any resources needed for the activity in the video.

3. Opening prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for everything you have given to me. All the good things and the bad things, I really appreciate everything, even the smallest thing.

Help me to see the gifts you give me every day.

We make this prayer in Jesus' name, Amen.

4. Warm-up activity

Ask the children if they have their penny, you may want to invite them to hold it up to the camera. You may want to ask the families what they are saving up for. They could put it into the chat for you to read out. Today we will hear about someone who is saving up for something very special.

5. Saint of the day

Today our saint is St Nicholas. He was a rich young man who used his coins to help other people. On one occasion he helped a family who were struggling by dropping some gold coins, that were in bags, through an open window. The bags dropped into the children's shoes. That is why on his feast day some people put gifts in their children's shoes. St Nicholas loved to celebrate, especially at Christmas and many people celebrated because of his generosity, not to mention the different things God did through him.

'The giver of every good and perfect gift has called upon us to mimic Gods giving, by grace, through faith, and this is not of ourselves.'

6. Watch Video

Benji is saving for something today. Let's see how he gets on.

7. Group discussion

After the video, help the children explore the theme through using the following questions:

- What happened to Benji today?
- What story did the Panda's find out about?
- Why might you say, 'Oh Wow!'?
- Tell us about a time that you lost something you really loved and then found it. How did you feel when you found it? What did you do to celebrate?

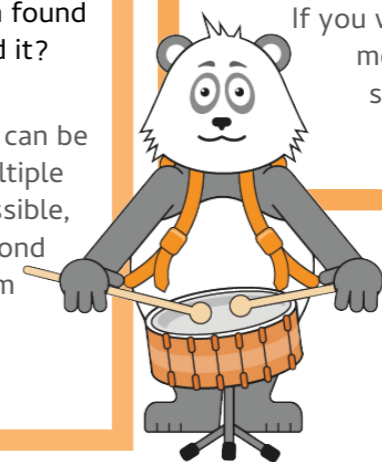
If you have enough facilitators this can be done in smaller groups, using multiple rooms. However, if this is not possible, you can also ask people to respond via the chat and then ask them to tell you a little more.

8. Family challenge

Encourage the families present to talk about today's session using the following questions:

- What did you learn from today?
- What questions do you have?
- What would you celebrate finding?
- Why would you celebrate?
- Why do you think there is rejoicing in heaven when a sinner repents (says sorry)?

If you will send the questions via email, mention it here so people can subscribe to your email list.



9. Parish announcements

We would love to see you at the following events/services:

Sunday Mass at _____ am/pm or online via: _____

Our session next week is called The Silent Disco where we will be thinking about how we sometimes need help to listen to what God is saying to us. Please bring some paper and colouring in pencils or pens with you.

10. Closing prayer

Begin with the Sign of the Cross

Prayer Intention: Today we pray for people who feel lost and those we have lost contact with. May they know how much God loves them and wants to welcome back to the family.

Our Father - Hail Mary - Glory be

Leader: St Nicholas,

All: Pray for us.

Leader: Mary, help of Christians,

All: Pray for us.

Finish with the Sign of the Cross