

PRAY FOR CHEEKY PANDAS The After Show Party

Saint of the Day

St Monica knew the power of prayer and continuously prayed for her husband, his mother and her children to become Christian. She was persistent in prayer for her children, especially Augustine, who had gone off to follow another religion. Thanks to the combination of his mother's prayer, friendship and wise words, her son was converted. Many people ask St Monica to help them with their family who are going through difficult times.

Key Learning: We need to always make time to talk to God.

'He entered Jericho and was passing through it. A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see Him, because He was going to pass that way. When Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much. Then Jesus, said to him "Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.'

Luke 19:1-10

Session Outline

You will need...

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.

- Video
- Something you use to communicate
- Presentation for Prayer



3. Opening prayer

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for being our friend and for wanting to spend time with us. Sometimes it is easy to forget to pray, so we ask you to send the Holy Spirit to help us find time for you each day. Amen.

4. Warm-up activity

Ask the children about how they communicate with their friends and families, especially in these strange times, and invite those who have brought something to show you what they brought e.g. mobile. You may want to ask them why it is important to keep in touch with people.

'Nothing is far from God.'

5. Saint of the day

Today our saint was a Holy Mother, St Monica. She really wanted all of her family to be friends with Jesus as she did, but they didn't always want to hear what she had to say. This didn't put her off because she knew that Jesus would always listen to her when she prayed. So, she prayed for her family, many of whom eventually became friends with Jesus too.

Can anyone remember the name of the saint from the first session? (St Augustine) St Monica was his mother. She said that:

6. Watch Video

It's big night for the Pandas, but they forget something important, can you work out what that might be?

7. Group discussion

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

- What do you like about parties?
- What were some of the great things at the Pandas' party?
- What was missing from the Pandas' party?
- How did they solve this problem?
- God loves us and loves to hear from us.
- How do you talk to him?
- What kind of thing might you talk to God about when you pray?

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 happens when you pray?

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

10. Closing prayer

Begin with the Sign of the Cross
Prayer Intention: Today we pray for the desire to talk to Jesus every day, knowing that He wants to hear what we have to say. We also pray for the ability to listen to Jesus speak into our lives, so we can follow in His footsteps.

Our Father - Hail Mary - Glory be

Leader: St Monica,

All: Pray for us.

Leader: Mary, help of Christians,

All: Pray for us.

Finish with the Sign of the Cross

9. Parish announcements

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

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

Next week we will learn about the armour of God and how it helps us to be brave. We would love to see something you use to protect yourself. This could be something you wear when you play sport, like shin pads, something that keeps you dry when it rains or even something that keeps you safe when it is sunny.