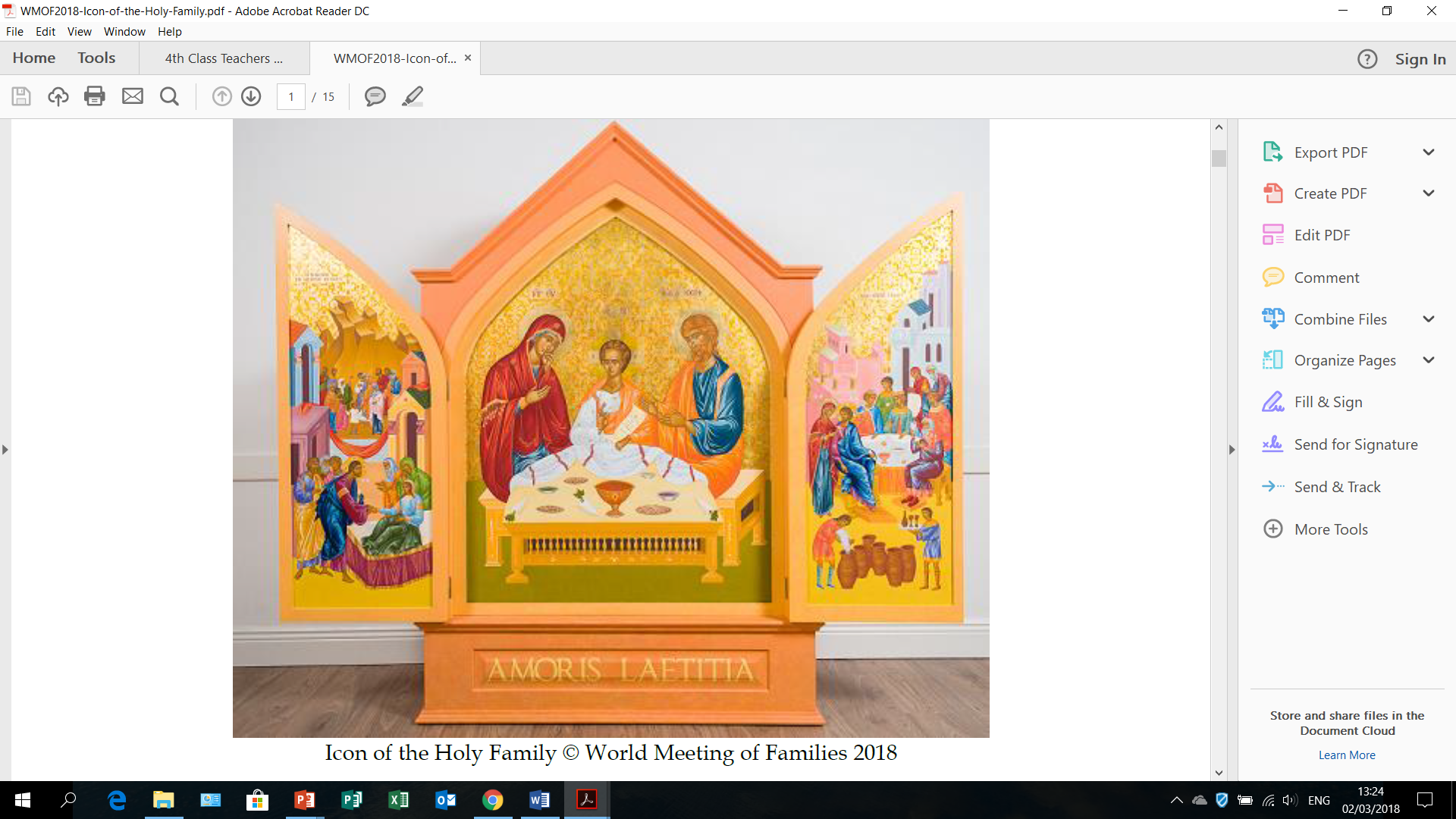
**PRAYER ACTIVITY**

**LECTIO DIVINA**

**(based on *Grow in Love* 4th Class/P6)**

**NOTE:** Lectio divina is an ancient method of reading and praying with Scripture that dates back to the fourth century. Lectio divina is a Latin phrase that means ‘sacred reading’. The idea of lectio divina is to spend time listening carefully to what God might be saying to us through a Scripture text. Lectio divina usually involves five steps: lectio (reading), meditatio (meditation), contemplatio (contemplation), oratio (prayer) and actio (action). As the children are only being introduced to this method of prayer, we will use a modified version of these steps to help them reflect on what each passage from Scared Scripture is saying to them.

• Explain to the child that they are going to try out a different method of praying that involves reading a Scripture passage very carefully and reflecting on what God is saying to them through that passage. Tell the child that this form of prayer is called lectio divina, which means ‘sacred reading’, and the passages from Scripture that they will examine are based on the images on the icon for the World Meeting of Families 2018



• In preparation for each lectio divina exercise, ask the children what they recall about the background to

* Day One***: Jairus’ Daughter* (Lk 8:40-42,49-56)**
* Day Two: ***The Boy Jesus in the Temple****,* **(Lk 2:41-50)**
* Day Three: ***The Wedding in Cana* (Jn 2: 1-12)**

• Invite the children to share what they remember about the passage from Scripture. Then proceed with the lectio divina activity using these guidelines:

**Step 1: READ**

Before reading the passage invite the child to become quiet and still, using these or similar words:

I invite you to pause for a moment. You may close your eyes … Be aware that you are preparing to hear the Word of God … You need to listen really carefully to what God is saying to you through these words … so try to forget about everything else except the words that you hear from Sacred Scripture.

Then read

* Day One***: Jairus’ Daughter* (Lk 8:40-42,49-56)**
* Day Two: ***The Boy Jesus in the Temple****,* **(Lk 2:41-50)**
* Day Three***: The Wedding in Cana* (Jn 2: 1-12)**

**Step 2: MEDITATE**

Invite the child to think about the story they have just heard. The child may keep their eyes closed as you guide them in their silent reflection with these or similar questions:

• What happened in this story?

• Imagine what you might have done if you met one of the characters in the story.

**Step 3: PRAY**

Invite the child to pray, prompting them to do so with questions or suggestions such as:

• Is there something you would like to say to Jesus, using your inside voice, about the story you have just heard? … Perhaps you would like to talk to him about some of the characters in the story …

• Is there anything you would like to ask Jesus about the story? … Jesus is listening to you now … Tell him whatever thoughts or questions are in your mind …

**Step 4: LISTEN**

Invite the child to listen to what Jesus might be saying to them now, using these or similar words:

We have prayed to Jesus about the story. Now we will be quiet and hear what Jesus might be saying

back to us … Allow for a few moments of silent reflection.

**Step 5: ACT**

Invite the child to share what they think Jesus was saying to them through this passage from Scripture

Conclude by praying with the child.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Day One | Day Two | Day Three |
| ***Jairus’ Daughter***  **(Lk 8:40-42,49-56)**  When Jesus returned to the other side of the lake, the people welcomed him, because they had all been waiting for him. Then a man named Jairus arrived; he was an official in the local synagogue. He threw himself down at Jesus’ feet and begged him to go to his home, because his only daughter, who was twelve years old, was dying.  While Jesus was saying this, a messenger came from the official’s house. “Your daughter has died,” he told Jairus; “don’t bother the Teacher any longer.”  But Jesus heard it and said to Jairus, “Don’t be afraid; only believe, and she will be well.”  When he arrived at the house, he would not let anyone go in with him except Peter, John and James, and the child’s father and mother. Everyone there was crying and mourning for the child. Jesus said, “Don’t cry; the child is not dead- she is only sleeping!”  They all made fun of him, because they knew that she was dead. But Jesus took her by the hand and called out, “Get up, child!” her life returned, and she got up at once, and Jesus ordered them to her something to eat. Her parents were astounded, but Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone what had happened. | ***The Boy Jesus in the Temple****,*  **(Lk 2:41-50)**  Every year the parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem for the Passover Festival. When Jesus was twelve years old, they went to the festival as usual. When the festival was over, they started back home, but the boy Jesus stayed in Jerusalem. His parents did not know this; they thought that he was with the group, so they travelled the whole day and then started looking for him among their relatives and friends. They did not find him, so they went back to Jerusalem looking for him. On the third day they found him in the Temple, sitting with the Jewish teachers, listening to them and asking questions. All who heard him were amazed at his intelligent answers. His parents were astonished when they saw him, and his mother said to him, “Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been terribly worried trying to find you,”  He answered them, “Why did you have to look for me? Didn’t you know that I had to be in my Father’s house?” But they did not understand his answer. | ***The Wedding in Cana***  **(Jn 2: 1-12)**  Two days later, there was a wedding in the town of Cana in Galilee. Jesus’ mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples had been invited to the wedding. When the wine had given out, Jesus mother said to him, “they are out of wine.”  “You must not tell me what to do,” Jesus replied, “my time has not yet come.”  Jesus’ mother then told the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.”  The Jews have rules about ritual washing, and for this purpose six stone water jars were there, each one large enough to hold between twenty and thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, “Fill these jars with water,” They filled them to the brim, and then he told them, “Now draw some water out and take it to the man in charge of the feast.” They took him the water, which now had turned into wine, and he tasted it. He did not know where this wine had come from (but of course, the servants who had drawn out the water knew); so he called the bridegroom and said to him, “Everyone else serves the best wine first, and after the guests have drunk a lot, he serves the ordinary wine. But you have kept the best wine until now!”  Jesus performed this first miracle in Cana in Galilee; there he revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.  After this, Jesus, and his mother, brother, and disciples went to Capernaum and stayed there a few days. |