

“The 12 Days of Christmas”  
Lesson Plan for Junior High Girls Sunday School Class  
Ann Hardesty 2016

It seems like all class work comes to halt during Advent. An Advent wreath is used both during the Church worship service and again at the beginning of the children’s music class prior to classes. The Christmas story is told and retold time after time. Songs are sung and a simple performance for the congregation is given. There is a children’s Christmas Eve service and then it is all over. For years I have wanted the feeling of Christmas to continue.

This year during “A Time for Children” session over the internet, it was suggested to think of using the “12 Days of Christmas”. Research was done on the computer and the following lesson plan was put together. I gathered information from the following sources: [www.crivoice.org/cy12days.html](http://www.crivoice.org/cy12days.html) (the main one used); [www.snopes.com/holidays/christmas/music](http://www.snopes.com/holidays/christmas/music); [www.catholicnewsagency.com/resources/advent/customs](http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/resources/advent/customs).

“The 12 Days of Christmas” is the period of time from December 25<sup>th</sup> to January 5<sup>th</sup>, the eve of Epiphany. Going back many years this secular song became a tool to use to help children with catechism.

That is the purpose of this plan: to review topics taught previously and to introduce new ones. This plan is done in outline form allowing the user to be creative and not follow a set plan. This plan was used with 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls, but I think it would work as low as fourth grade. Some sessions may take more than one day depending on interest and involvement. It allows for the creative touch of each user.

**First Session:**

1. Introduce the song and reason for giving it a new meaning. Have a recording of “The Twelve Days of Christmas” to listen to while giving the new items for each day.

2. Tell the names of each day’s gift:

“My true love” is God who gave me the following

1<sup>st</sup> Day, Jesus;

2<sup>nd</sup> Day, the Old and New Testament;

3<sup>rd</sup> Day, Faith, Hope, and Love;

4<sup>th</sup> Day The Gospels;

5<sup>th</sup> Day, The Torah;

6<sup>th</sup> Day, Creation;

7<sup>th</sup> Day, Gifts of the Holy Spirit;

8<sup>th</sup> Day, The Beatitudes;

9<sup>th</sup> Day, Fruits of the Spirit;

10<sup>th</sup> Day, The Ten Commandments;

11<sup>th</sup> Day The Faithful Apostles;

12<sup>th</sup> Day The Apostles’ Creed

3. Make necklaces using 1" wooden spools. Write the number of the day and a key word(s) for the day on the spools using fine tip markers; string together with ribbon.

4. Try substituting the new days into the song and continue throughout the unit. See one attempt at the end of this unit.

### **Second Session**

Days One to Six and Ten discussed and reviewed. I knew these were subjects we had studied in the past.

1. Prepare a bulletin board with file cards for each day.

2. Discuss which days they are familiar with and write key words on the cards.

They probably will identify Jesus, the testaments, gospel, torah (review of Bible lessons from prior year), days of creation, and the Ten Commandments. This may take more than one session as they go back and review what happened on each day of creation; keywords for the Ten Commandments and such.

New learning will focus on Gifts of the Spirit, Fruits of the Spirit, Beatitudes, Apostles, and Apostles' Creed.

### **Third Session** Day Seven "Gifts of the Holy Spirit"

1. Read Bible Acts 1:8-11; Acts 2:1-4 and discuss

2. Form two teams. On white boards one groups record gifts found in 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; and the other Romans 12:6-8

3. Look for likenesses and differences. Talk about the meaning of the different gifts.

Helpful web sites are: [www.allaboutgod.com/gifts-of-the-spirit.htm](http://www.allaboutgod.com/gifts-of-the-spirit.htm);  
[www.iccreligiouseducation.com/confirmation.cfm?subpage=226590](http://www.iccreligiouseducation.com/confirmation.cfm?subpage=226590)

4. Which ones apply to each of them? Do cartoons on note cards to show and post on bulletin board.

### **Fourth Session** Eighth Day "The Beatitudes"

The website [www.jesuschristsavior.net/Beatitudes.html](http://www.jesuschristsavior.net/Beatitudes.html) gave a good explanation of each beatitude.

Introduced using its statement that Moses gave us the Ten commandments of what not to do and Jesus gave us the Beatitudes of what to do.

Point out that the Beatitudes came before the gifts of the spirit, which we had studied previously.

Read Matthew 5:3-10; share the explanations from the above website; students then gave their own meaning as follows:

- a. poor in spirit---humble
- b. mourning---sorry for sins
- c. meek --- kind
- d. hunger for righteousness --- express brotherly love
- e. merciful --- friends to others
- f. pure of heart --- love
- g. peacemakers --- do good things for others
- h. persecuted --- bullied for being believers

Follow up making flowers for each beatitude with idea coming from <http://www.daniellesplace.com/html/bible-crafts-beatitudes.html>

**Fifth Session** Ninth Day “Fruits of the Spirit”  
(I did not get to this)

Read Bible Galatians 5:22-23 .

Use <http://ministry-to-children.com/fruit-of-the-spirit-bible-lesson/> with older students and for younger students ideas from <http://www.daniellesplace.com/rroom/html/Fruit-love.cfm?cookietest=1>

Other sites to consider:

[http://www.dltk-bible.com/jesus/fruit\\_of\\_the\\_spirit-index.htm](http://www.dltk-bible.com/jesus/fruit_of_the_spirit-index.htm)  
<http://christianteens.about.com/od/fruitofthespirit/>

**Sixth Session** Day Eleven “Eleven Faithful Apostles”

(This class had not had an in-depth study for the disciples. There were only two more sessions left for Sunday School classes this year and they chose to do the disciples instead of Fruits of the Spirit.)

The Danielle’s Place website (<http://www.daniellesplace.com>)which I subscribe to is a wonderful source of information.

1. Define disciple as followers, believer and these are followers Jesus called.
2. Jesus called the disciples. Students together look up each Bible site to find the names of those called:

Matthew 4:18-20	Peter, Andrew
Matthew 4:21	James, John
Matthew 9:9	Matthew
John 1:43-44	Phillip

John 1:45-51	Nathaniel, Bartholmew
John 20: 26-27	Thomas
Matthew 10:3	James the Little, Thaddeus
Matthew 10:4	Simon, Judas

I used [http://www/daniellesplace.com/rroom/html/disciples\\_-\\_primary.cfm](http://www/daniellesplace.com/rroom/html/disciples_-_primary.cfm)

3. The great commission in Matthew 28:18-20 given to the disciples to go out and make disciples.

4. The disciples are now called apostles, those who are sent out to deliver a message. (Leanne Hadley stated in an internet meeting that the disciples had very little on the job training,)

### **Seventh Session** Day Twelve “The Apostles’ Creed”

I invited the Pastor to come present this to the class.

Prior to her presentation I had the students write their beliefs in the notebooks we had been keeping all year,

I gave each a card with the Apostles Creed

The Pastor had the students compare the different creeds in the Methodist Hymnal such as the Canadian Creed.

### **Attempt to set the new words to the song:**

A partridge in a pear tree  
*Jesus Christ our Savior*

Two Turtle Doves  
*Two Testaments*

Three French Hens  
*Faith Hope and Love*

Four Calling Birds  
*Matthew Mark Luke John*

Five Golden Rings  
*The To rah*

Six Geese a Laying  
*Cre a tion*

Seven Swans a Swimming  
*Gifts of the Spirit*

Eight Maids a Milking  
*Beatitudes*

Nine maids Dancing  
*Fruits of the Spirit*

Ten Lords a Leaping  
*The Ten Commandments*

Eleven Pipers Piping  
*Eleven Faithful Disciples*

Twelve Drummers Drumming  
*The Apostles Creed*