

LESSON PLAN

Expressions of Faith

Grades 3-5

Objectives:

Students will:

- describe the Church of the Bonfim and wish ribbons
- explain the meaning of gratitude
- discuss the meaning of affirmation
- explain the importance of ancestors

GLCE:

P1.4

Communicate clearly and coherently in writing, speaking, and visually presenting ideas pertaining to social science topics, acknowledging audience and purpose.

5-P4.2.3

Participate in projects to help or inform others

Materials:

Student Information Sheet: Catholicism & Candomblé - Church of the Bonfim

Two 18 inch strips of ribbon per student

Markers

3 sheets of loose-leaf paper per student

1 sheet of construction paper per student

Words to Know:

Igreja do Bonfim	-	Church of the Crucifixion in Salvador
gratitude	-	being grateful or thankful
ancestor	-	a person from whom one is descended
affirmation	-	a positive statement

Introduction:

Can you say: **Igreja do Bonfim?** (i-GRE-ja do Bone-FEEM)

What language is it from? It is the name of a famous church in Salvador, Bahia. In Bahia there are 365 Catholic churches!

- Read Student Information Sheet on Catholicism and Candomblé (Grades 3-5) Discuss.
- Ask: What are some things that you are thankful for? Do you know another word for thankful? Write **gratitude** on the board.

Activity 1:

- Make ribbons similar to the ones at Igreja do Bonfim (Church of the Crucifixion). The ribbons are reminders of prayer and thanksgiving. Our ribbons will have affirmations or positive statements written on them.
- For 5 minutes, students will meet in groups to generate a short list of positive affirmations like: Enjoy your day; Be gentle; Happy thoughts to you; You're wonderful. Write them on the board. Give students two 18" ribbons that they can use to write positive messages on: Find places in your room or school where they can be tied on. They can even tie one around their wrists with three knots!

Activity 2:

- Make and keep a gratitude journal for 5-10 days. Fold and cut the loose-leaf paper and the construction paper in half. Fit the loose-leaf paper between the construction paper horizontally. Staple the pages together. Students may decorate and title their book: My Gratitude Journal; A Wonderful Gratitude Journal or any title they choose.
- They will write one or two sentences a day: I am grateful (for, or because).

Assessment/Reflection:

- Have you thought about keeping a gratitude journal before?
- Share some of your thoughts with a parent or older adult and ask them to keep a Gratitude Journal, too.

Extended Activities:

Our ancestors are important to us and to the followers of Candomblé.

In Candomblé, ancestors help to protect and guide the descendents.

Ask a parent or older relative to tell you a story about an ancestor who was inspiring. Take notes and share with the class.