"Sit next to different folks than you did last week, preferably someone you don't know": mix it up

9:00 Opening:

Always the same prayer:

O Lord, Send your Holy Spirit as we join together in this joyful learning experience, Help us to keep an open mind and heart, Respect other's opinions, Acknowledge what we understand, Question what we don't, Enjoy the program and Enter in where we can.

Sing one children's song from CD with choir assistance. Song chosen ahead of time for first month or two and then choice given. After first month: give group choice of songs: either one learned earlier this season or one for today (of children's songs). Pass out song sheets. Song for today:

Read Lesson: Gospel for today:

Explain what is coming, and what to notice in scripture.

Facilitator reads lesson for the day.

Respond:

Facilitator helps move people to correct spot and turns it over to drama/art team. Facilitator decides when to move on to discussion.

Discussion:

Have some set questions, but not necessary to use them. "I wonder" statements. Can be about lesson or activity (sharing artwork, for example)
Have manual activity to do during this time as an option: knitting, coloring, etc.

9:40 Closing:

Sing one youth song. Song for today:

Close in prayer (working on both set prayer and spontaneous):

Lord, Thank you for being with our group this morning as we strove to learn more about your teachings and grow in our faith. Thank you for bringing all ages of parishioners from St. Dunstan's together to undertake this journey.

Allow us now to add, in silence or out loud, our thanks for the past week's gifts of grace which you have extended to us...

(the prayer leader should wait in silence for prayers from the floor)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

(Ask for 2-3 people to help put up tables and stack chairs.)

