



# Our Lady of the Grasshopper ACTIVITIES



## For Primary Grades

### Materials Needed:

- Costumes and props (*optional*)
- Print resources about grasshoppers and/or internet access (*optional*)
- Coloring page with an image of a grasshopper (*one per child*)
- Crayons or markers

### Faith Connection

#### Before Telling the Story

1. Invite the children to share what they do when something hard is happening in their lives. (*Welcome all responses, and be sure to highlight that one suggestion is to pray.*)
2. Ask them to listen for the hard thing that happens in this story and for what the people decided to do.

#### Telling the Story

Tell the story in your own words, as is appropriate for the age of the children you are teaching. This would be an excellent story to dramatize, with costumes and props suggested by the text.

#### After Telling the Story

1. Invite volunteers to share what happened in the story, and what the people decided to do. (*Grasshoppers ate the crops; the people followed their pastor's advice to build a chapel and to gather there for prayer to Mary that their crops would be saved.*)
2. Invite volunteers to share what they think is the message of the story. (*Welcome all responses, and be sure to highlight how Mary cares for us and hears our prayers; we can take our concerns and prayers to Mary. Also highlight the importance of not giving up, but of being faithful in prayer.*)

3. Ask why the people call Mary “Our Lady of the Grasshopper.” Remind the children that “Our Lady” is a title of great respect and honor. (*The people prayed to Mary and the grasshoppers stopped eating their crops.*)

### **Putting Faith into Action**

1. Ask the children to name some hard things that are happening in people’s lives and in the world today. (*Homelessness, hunger, sickness, war, joblessness, loneliness, and so forth.*)
2. Choose a day of the week to pray together to Mary for one of the hard things you named in #1 above. Create a title for Mary to use at the beginning of your prayer, such as: Our Lady of the Homeless, Our Lady of the Hungry, Our Lady of the Sick, Our Lady of Peace, Our Lady of the Jobless, Our Lady of the Lonely, and so forth. Decide on a number of weeks to offer the prayer. (*Nine weeks would be a novena, a “special time of prayer.”*)
3. At the end of your designated time of prayer, talk about how it felt to pray to Mary each week, like the people in the story did. Encourage the children to continue to pray to Mary in times of need and in happy times too.

## **Curriculum Connection: Science**

### **Before Telling the Story**

1. Before telling the story, either research or invite the children to research fun facts about grasshoppers, such as:
  - Grasshoppers are normally 2- to 5-inches long. (*Use a ruler to show these lengths.*)
  - Female grasshoppers are usually longer than male grasshoppers.
  - Grasshoppers change colors to fit in with their environment so that you cannot always see them.
  - Grasshoppers like to eat corn, wheat, barley, and alfalfa.
  - There are over 11,000 kinds of grasshoppers.
  - People in Africa, China, Central and South America eat grasshoppers.
2. Invite the children to listen for the role grasshoppers play in the story of Our Lady of the Grasshopper.

### **After Telling the Story**

1. Invite the children to tell what role grasshoppers play in the story. (*They ate the crops.*)
2. Give each child a picture of a grasshopper to color. Several free coloring pages are available on the internet. Remind the children that grasshoppers change colors to fit in with their environment. Invite them to color their grasshoppers in their backyards, on a beach, in a jungle, or in a cornfield.
3. After all of the children have finished coloring, invite volunteers to share their drawings with the class.

### **And Furthermore . . .**

After completing this lesson on Our Lady of the Grasshopper, display the children’s drawings with the caption, “Our Lady of the Grasshopper, pray for us!”