Teaching the Liturgical Year

Lessons for October 2019
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Five Lessons for October 2019

October 6, 2019: Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 13, 2019: Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 20, 2019: Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 27, 2019: Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Saying of Faith and the Attitude of a Servant (Lower Elementary)

October 6, 2019 – Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Overview
In this week’s Gospel passage Jesus teaches His Apostles about the power of faith and about how we should not seek profit or praise for doing the minimum God asks of us. In this lesson, students will reflect upon how to be a servant of God and how with God, nothing is impossible, even for the least or smallest among us.

Directions
A. Read the Gospel passage aloud to your students as they follow along. Then discuss the focus and reflection questions with them as a class.
B. Have your students complete the Code Break activity.

Answer Key
Focus Questions
1. They asked Him to increase their faith.
2. “If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.”
3. A servant should obediently and humbly do what is expected of him without expectation of a reward or praise.

Faith the Size of a Mustard Seed Code Break Activity
1. “Increase our faith!”
The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith.”

The Lord replied, “If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you. “Who among you would say to your servant who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, ‘Come here immediately and take your place at table’? Would he not rather say to him, ‘Prepare something for me to eat. Put on your apron and wait on me while I eat and drink. You may eat and drink when I am finished’? Is he grateful to that servant because he did what was commanded? So should it be with you. When you have done all you have been commanded, say, ‘We are unprofitable servants; we have done what we were obliged to do.””
Focus Questions

1. What did the Apostles ask Jesus to do?
2. What did Jesus say could be done with faith the size of a mustard seed?
3. How does Jesus say servants should act?
Code Break

Directions: Use the key below to break the code!

What did the Disciples ask Jesus?


9 14 3 18 5 1 19 5 15 21 18

6 1 9 20 8
The Cleansing of Ten Lepers (Lower Elementary)

October 13, 2019 – Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Overview

In this week’s Gospel passage, as Jesus continues His journey to Jerusalem, He meets ten lepers who cry out to Him for mercy. Jesus heals the lepers with only the power of His Word, but only one returns to give thanks and praise to Jesus for His gift of healing. In this lesson, students will contemplate together the meaning of a gift and the proper disposition we should have towards gifts from God.

Directions

A. Read the Gospel passage aloud to your students as they follow along. Then discuss the focus and reflection questions with them as a class.

B. Have your students complete the “Thanks Be to God!” activity.

C. When complete, call on students to share and discuss their answers.

D. Pray together the Prayer of Thanksgiving to God.

Answer Key

Focus Questions

1. Ten lepers.

2. Jesus told them to “Go show yourselves to the priests.” As they were going to the priests, they were healed.

3. One of the healed lepers, a Samaritan, returned to Jesus, glorified God, and fell at Jesus’ feet thanking Him. Accept reasoned answers.

4. The Samaritan leper is saved because of his faith, which led him to return to Jesus.
As Jesus continued his journey to Jerusalem, he traveled through Samaria and Galilee. As he was entering a village, ten lepers met him. They stood at a distance from him and raised their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master! Have pity on us!" And when he saw them, he said, "Go show yourselves to the priests." As they were going they were cleansed. And one of them, realizing he had been healed, returned, glorifying God in a loud voice; and he fell at the feet of Jesus and thanked him. He was a Samaritan. Jesus said in reply, "Ten were cleansed, were they not? Where are the other nine? Has none but this foreigner returned to give thanks to God?" Then he said to him, "Stand up and go; your faith has saved you."
Focus Questions

1. Who met Jesus as He went to Jerusalem?

2. What did Jesus tell these people to do? What happened to them?

3. Who returned to Jesus? Why do you think he did?

4. Why was only one leper saved?
Thanks Be to God!

Directions: Think of the best gift that you have ever received.

Draw it in the box below. Then answer the questions.
1. What was it like to get this gift?

2. Why is it right to thank someone for a gift?

4. What gifts has God given you? How should you respond to God for His gifts?
Prayer of Thanksgiving to God

**Teacher:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,

**Students:** Amen.

**Teacher:** For all that you have given to me,

**Students:** Thank you God.

**Teacher:** For my life and daily blessings,

**Students:** Thank you God.

**Teacher:** For sending your Son to save us,

**Students:** Thank you God.

**Teacher:** For your Church and the gift of the Sacraments,

**Students:** Thank you God.

**Teacher:** For the example of the saints,

**Students:** Thank you God.

**Teacher:** For my family and friends,

**Students:** Thank you God.

**Teacher:** For the roof over my head and the food on my table,

**Students:** Thank you God.

**Teacher:** For guiding my path always to you,

**Students:** Thank you God.

**All:** Amen
The Parable of the Persistent Widow (Lower Elementary)

October 20, 2019 – Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Overview
In this week’s Gospel passage, Jesus gives a parable to teach His Apostles about the importance of persistence in prayer. In this lesson, students will explore some sayings of the saints about prayer and apply this wisdom to their own lives.

Directions
A. Read the Gospel passage aloud to your students as they follow along. Then discuss the focus and reflection questions with them as a class.
B. Have your students read and complete the Pray Always activity.
C. When complete, have your students share with a partner their drawings. Then, call on a few students to share with the class.

Answer Key

Focus Questions
1. The necessity of praying always without becoming weary.
2. He neither feared God nor respected any human being.
3. The widow shows great persistence in entreating the judge. We should imitate her when we pray to God, and never tire of approaching Him in prayer.
4. He will not do so slowly, but will see that justice is done speedily. We should have faith in God and pray to Him always.
Sunday Reading

A Reading from the Gospel of Luke 18:1-8: The Parable of the Persistent Widow

Jesus told his disciples a parable about the necessity for them to pray always without becoming weary. He said, “There was a judge in a certain town who neither feared God nor respected any human being. And a widow in that town used to come to him and say, ‘Render a just decision for me against my adversary.’ For a long time the judge was unwilling, but eventually he thought, ‘While it is true that I neither fear God nor respect any human being, because this widow keeps bothering me. I shall deliver a just decision for her lest she finally come and strike me.’” The Lord said, “Pay attention to what the dishonest judge says. Will not God then secure the rights of his chosen ones who call out to him day and night? Will he be slow to answer them? I tell you, he will see to it that justice is done for them speedily. But when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”
Focus Questions

1. What lesson was Jesus teaching with this parable?
2. What do we know about the judge in this parable?
3. How should we be like the widow in this story?
4. How will God answer the prayers of those who call out to Him? What does this mean for us?
Pray Always

Directions: In the box below, draw a picture of your favorite Saint praying to God.

The saints show us how to live a life of prayer. They show us how to live like Jesus. They knew that we should pray always. This is why they are saints!
The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector (Lower Elementary)

October 27, 2019 – Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Overview

In this week’s Gospel passage, Jesus tells a parable of a Pharisee and a tax collector who come to the Temple to pray. The Pharisee prays in order to boast of his own holiness while the tax collector humbly begs for God’s mercy. In this lesson, students will reflect upon sacred art to help them better understand the parable and reflect upon their own disposition of prayer.

Directions

A. Read the Gospel passage aloud to your students as they follow along. Then discuss the focus and reflection questions with them as a class.

B. Have your students complete the Spot the Differences activity using the painting The Pharisee and the Publican by James Tissot

Answer Key

Focus Questions

1. To those who were convinced of their own righteousness and despised everyone else. Accept reasoned answers.

2. A Pharisee and a tax collector. They went to the Temple area to pray.

3. The tax collector, because he humbled himself.

4. Accept reasoned answers.
Spot the Differences
Sunday Reading

A Reading from the Gospel of Luke 18:9-14: The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector

Jesus addressed this parable to those who were convinced of their own righteousness and despised everyone else. “Two people went up to the temple area to pray; one was a Pharisee and the other was a tax collector. The Pharisee took up his position and spoke this prayer to himself, ‘O God, I thank you that I am not like the rest of humanity—greedy, dishonest, adulterous—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, and I pay tithes on my whole income.’ But the tax collector stood off at a distance and would not even raise his eyes to heaven but beat his breast and prayed, ‘O God, be merciful to me a sinner.’ I tell you, the latter went home justified, not the former; for whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”
Focus Questions

1. To whom did Jesus tell this parable? Why do you think He did so?
2. Who are the two people in the parable? What were they doing?
3. Which of the prayers do you think God heard? Why?
4. Should we pray like the Pharisee or like the tax collector? Why?
Spot the Differences

Directions: Compare the two images of The Pharisee and the Publican (C. 1886-1894, Brooklyn Museum) by James Tissot. See if you can spot 9 differences between the two images. Circle the differences when you find them.