The JOY of the GOSPEL

Four Lessons for May 2019

May 5, 2019 – Third Sunday of Easter

May 12, 2019 – Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 19, 2019 – Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 26, 2019 – Sixth Sunday of Easter
Overview

In this week’s Gospel passage the Risen Jesus appears again to the Apostles, who were fishing with no success. Similar to the first time He called the Apostles, Jesus asks them to cast their nets again and they catch a miraculous draw of fish. Jesus then reminds the Apostles of their mission and strengthens them for the work that lay ahead of them. In this lesson, students will reflect on sacred art with a new Spot the Differences activity.

Directions

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

2. Have students complete the Spot the Differences activity. Tell your students to compare the two versions of the painting *Second Miraculous Draught of Fishes* by James Tissot and find 10 differences between the two images. Have them circle the differences.

3. When they have finished, ask your students the following question:
   - In the new (second) version of the painting, why do you think sheep were added to the image? Jesus told Peter to feed His sheep (and lambs).
   - Jesus called Himself the Good Shepherd. What does a shepherd do? A shepherd cares for a flock of sheep.
   - Why did Jesus tell Peter to feed His sheep? What does that make Peter? Jesus will soon return to His Father in Heaven. He is telling Peter to feed His sheep in His place. This makes Peter a shepherd too, following in the example of Jesus.

Focus Questions

1. Nothing.
2. “Cast the net over the right side of the boat and you will find something.” They followed the command and caught so many fish they were unable to pull in the net.
3. “Do you love me?”
4. “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.”
5. “Feed my lambs,” “Tend my sheep,” and “Feed my sheep.”

Spot the Differences:
A Reading from the Gospel of John 21:1-19: The Appearance to the Seven Disciples

At that time, Jesus revealed himself again to his disciples at the Sea of Tiberias. He revealed himself in this way. Together were Simon Peter, Thomas called Didymus, Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, Zebedee’s sons, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We also will come with you.” So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. When it was already dawn, Jesus was standing on the shore; but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, “Children, have you caught anything to eat?” They answered him, “No.” So he said to them, “Cast the net over the right side of the boat and you will find something.” So they cast it, and were not able to pull it in because of the number of fish. So the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord.” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he tucked in his garment, for he was lightly clad, and jumped into the sea. The other disciples came in the boat,
for they were not far from shore, only about a hundred yards, dragging the net with the fish. When they climbed out on shore, they saw a charcoal fire with fish on it and bread. Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish you just caught.” So Simon Peter went over and dragged the net ashore full of one hundred fifty-three large fish. Even though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, “Come, have breakfast.” And none of the disciples dared to ask him, “Who are you?” because they realized it was the Lord. Jesus came over and took the bread and gave it to them, and in like manner the fish. This was now the third time Jesus was revealed to his disciples after being raised from the dead.

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” Simon Peter answered him, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.” He then said to Simon Peter a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Simon Peter answered him, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Tend my sheep.” Jesus said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was distressed that Jesus had said to him a third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed
my sheep. Amen, amen, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to dress yourself and go where you wanted; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.”

He said this signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God. And when he had said this, he said to him, “Follow me.”

Focus Questions

1. What did Peter and the Apostles catch after working all night?
2. What did Jesus tell the Apostles to do? What happened?
3. What did Jesus ask Peter three times?
4. How did Peter respond to Jesus?
5. What did Jesus ask Simon Peter to do?
Spot the Differences

Directions: Compare the two images of *Second Miraculous Draught of Fishes* by James Tissot. See if you can spot 10 differences between the two images. Circle the differences when you find them.
Overview
In this week’s Gospel passage Jesus tells us that He and the Father are one. In other words, Jesus tells us that He is God. As God, Jesus leads us like a shepherd leads His flock, and offers us eternal life. In this lesson, students will learn about how real shepherds call their sheep and reflect on how they can better follow Jesus in their own lives.

Directions
A. Read the Gospel passage aloud to your students as they follow along. Then discuss the focus questions with them as a class.
B. Show your students the video of a shepherd calling his sheep located at the following link: SophiaOnline.org/SheepCalling. Then, discuss the video with your students using the following questions:
   • What happens when the man in the video calls out? (Note: He is speaking a foreign language, so we don’t know what he is saying specifically.) The sheep come running to him.
   • Do the sheep seem happy to come to the shepherd when he calls them? What makes you think so? They seem to be happy that he is calling them as evidenced by the noises they make, and their running and jumping.
   • What does the shepherd do when all of his sheep arrive? He feeds them.
   • Does it seem like the shepherd knows all of his sheep? What makes you think so? Yes. He talks about how some of the sheep haven’t figured it out yet (that is, that he is feeding them when he calls them, even though they still came when he called.)
C. Have your students solve the Easter Code worksheet. You may have students color the cartoons on the page when they have finished.
Answer Key

Focus Questions

1. They hear His voice. He knows them and they follow Him.
2. Eternal life.
3. He has given his sheep to Him and is greater than all.
4. He and the Father are one.
Sunday Reading

A Reading from the Gospel of John 10:27-30: Teaching about the Father

Jesus said:

“My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish. No one can take them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one can take them out of the Father’s hand. The Father and I are one.”

Focus Questions

1. What did Jesus say about His sheep?
2. What does Jesus say He will give His sheep?
3. What does Jesus say about the Father?
4. What does Jesus say about His relationship with the Father?
Easter Code

Directions: Solve the code below!

Jesus is the Good...
Overview

In this week’s Gospel passage, Jesus gives His disciples a new commandment: “love one another as I have loved you”. In fact, He tells them that they will be known as His disciples by their love. In this lesson, students will reflect upon times they have loved others and times they have received loved and then consider ways in which they can love more like Christ loves us.

Directions

1. Read the Gospel passage aloud to your students as they follow along. Then, discuss the focus and reflection questions with them as a class.
2. Have students complete the “Love One Another as I Have Loved You” activity.
3. When students have finished the “Love One Another as I Have Loved You” activity, have students share and discuss the various ways they can love more like Jesus.

Answer Key

Focus Questions

1. The Son of Man.
2. A new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another.
3. By the love they have for one another.
A Reading from the Gospel of John 13:31-33A, 34-35: The New Commandment

When Judas had left them, Jesus said, “Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and God will glorify him at once. My children, I will be with you only a little while longer. I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Focus Questions

1. What does Jesus call Himself at the beginning of this Gospel?
2. What does Jesus give to His disciples?
3. How will all know a disciple of Jesus?
Love One Another as I Have Loved You

Jesus taught us to love each other as He loves us. How does Jesus love us? He tells us!

“This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”
– John 15:12-13

Loving as Jesus loves means to give our lives to others. Jesus showed us this when He died on the Cross. He saved us from sin. And He rose from the dead! Now He invites us to live forever with Him in Heaven. This is what Easter is all about - Christ’s victory over sin!

Jesus taught us to love as He loves. This means we have to sacrifice for others. When we sacrifice we give something to some else. Jesus gave His life. We don’t have to do that, but we can give other things – our time, our attention, our love and friendship, our things, our money, and many other things. How can you love like Jesus?
**Directions:** Fill in the chart below with one way you can love each group of people like Jesus loves us.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>How Can I Love Like Jesus?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family members</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classmates</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teachers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Poor/Sick/Needy of My Community</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Overview

In this week’s Gospel passage, Jesus teaches His disciples that loving Him and the Father requires keeping His word. Jesus understands that it is not always easy to follow Him, so He promises to send the Holy Spirit to help and to continue to teach us. In this lesson, students will reflect on what it means to keep Jesus’ word and will explore different symbols of the Holy Spirit from Scripture.

Directions

1. Read the Gospel passage aloud to your students as they follow along. Then, discuss the focus and reflection questions with them as a class.
2. Have students complete the **Symbols of the Holy Spirit** activity individually or with a partner.
3. When students have finished, review and discuss the various symbols of the Holy Spirit in Scripture. Call on students to share their drawings of each symbol.

Answer Key

Focus Questions

1. They will keep His Word and the Father will love them.
2. The Holy Spirit, the Advocate.
3. At every Mass before the sign of peace.
4. To not let them be troubled or afraid.
5. Because He is going to the Father, who is greater than He.
Symbols of the Holy Spirit Activity:

1. A dove/The Spirit of God descended upon Jesus at His Baptism like a dove.
2. Tongues or flames of fire/God’s spirit often appears in fire, which is symbol of power and might.
3. Wind/The Spirit filled the room with the sound of a rushing wind, and God’s Spirit hovered over the waters of creation.
4. A cloud/God led His people at various points in the Old Testament by appearing in a cloud or a pillar of cloud.
Sunday Reading

A Reading from the Gospel of John 14:23-29: The Advocate

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; yet the word you hear is not mine but that of the Father who sent me. “I have told you this while I am with you. The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid. You heard me tell you, ‘I am going away and I will come back to you.’ If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father; for the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it happens, so that when it happens you may believe.
Focus Questions

1. What does Jesus say those who love Him must do?
2. Whom will the Father send in Jesus’ name?
3. Jesus says “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.”
   Where have you heard this saying of Jesus’ before?
4. What does Jesus say about our hearts?
5. Why did Jesus say that the disciples should rejoice that He is going away?
Symbols of the Holy Spirit

Directions: Read the Scripture passages in the left column. Decide what symbol of the Holy Spirit it talks about. Then, in the right column, draw a picture of that symbol of the Holy Spirit.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Matthew 3:16:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>After Jesus was baptized, he came up from the water and behold, the heavens were opened [for him], and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove [and] coming upon him.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2. Acts 2:3</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3. Acts 2:2</strong></td>
<td>And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a <strong>strong driving wind</strong>, and it filled the entire house in which they were.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4. Exodus 16:10</strong></td>
<td>But while Aaron was speaking to the whole Israelite community, they turned in the direction of the wilderness, and there the glory of the LORD appeared in the <strong>cloud</strong>!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>