



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

The Joy of the Gospel

The Appearance to the Seven Disciples



May 5, 2019 – Third 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 Jesus 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 lie ahead of them. In this lesson, students will compare and contrast the two Gospel stories and consider Jesus' calling in their own lives.

Directions

1. Have students read the Gospel passage, or read it aloud to your students, and then answer the focus questions. You may have students answer them on their own or you may discuss them together as a class.
2. Review and discuss the correct answers when finished.
3. With a partner, have students complete the **“Put Out into Deep Water”** activity. Students will be comparing and contrasting this Sunday's Gospel story with Luke 5:1-11.
4. When students have finished, review and discuss the similarities and differences between the two Gospel stories. Then, have your students complete the Reflection Question.

Answer Key

Focus Questions

1. Simon Peter, Thomas called Didymus, Nathanael, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples. They were fishing.
2. Nothing.
3. “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.
4. It did not tear.

5. The disciple whom Jesus loved, i.e. John the Beloved Apostle.
6. He was making them breakfast. He gave them bread and fish He had been cooking over a charcoal fire.
7. Do you love me?" Each time, Simon Peter responded "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."
8. "Feed my lambs," "Tend my sheep," and "Feed my sheep."
9. It was a sign of the death Peter would experience to glorify God (Peter was taken prisoner by the Romans and then crucified upside down).

"Put Out into Deep Water" Activity

	Luke 5:1-11	John 20:1-19
What were the Apostles doing at the beginning of each story?	Fishing	Fishing
On their own, how successful were the Apostles at what they were doing?	The worked all night and caught nothing	The worked all night and caught nothing
What did Jesus ask the Apostles to do?	"Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch."	"Cast the net over the right side of the boat and you will find something."
What was the result of the Apostles following Jesus' command?	They caught a great number of fish and their nets were tearing.	They caught so many (153) large fish they were unable to pull un their nets, but the nets did not tear.
How did Simon Peter respond to the miracle that had occurred?	He fell at the knees of Jesus and said, "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man," because he recognized who Jesus was and that he had doubted Him.	He recognized who Jesus was saying "It is the Lord." and jumped into the sea and waded ashore.
What did Jesus give to the Apostles on shore?	Nothing	He fed them bread and fish.
What task did Jesus	"Do not be afraid; from now on you	"Feed my lambs," "Tend my sheep,"

give to Simon Peter?	will be catching men.”	and “Feed my sheep.”
What did the Apostles do after this miracle?	The left everything and followed Jesus.	This story does not say. However, we know what happens next. The Apostles will soon leave everything behind and proclaim the Gospel around the world.

Sunday Reading

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. At the beginning of this Gospel story, who was together at the Sea of Tiberius and what were they doing?
2. What did they catch after working all night?
3. In the morning, Jesus appeared on the shore, but the disciples did not recognize Him. What did He command them to do? What happened?
4. What happened to the net?
5. Who recognized the stranger as the Lord?
6. When the disciples came to shore, what did they find Jesus doing?
7. What did Jesus ask Simon Peter three times? How did Simon Peter respond?
8. What did Jesus ask Simon Peter to do?
9. What was the meaning of the mysterious words Jesus ended His conversation Simon Peter with?

Put Out into Deep Water

Luke 5:1-11 recounts a story very similar to this Sunday's Gospel. This story, however, occurs near the beginning of Jesus' public ministry when He first calls the Apostles to follow Him. It's no mistake that the stories are similar. The Gospel writer (and Jesus) are drawing a direct parallel between the stories to communicate something important to us.

Directions: Read Luke 5:1-11 and then, using the chart below, compare and contrast this story to this Sunday's Gospel, John 21:1-19. Then, respond to the Reflection Question.

While the crowd was pressing in on Jesus and listening to the word of God, he was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret. He saw two boats there alongside the lake; the fishermen had disembarked and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, he asked him to put out a short distance from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. After he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch." Simon said in reply, "Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets." When they had done this, they

caught a great number of fish and their nets were tearing. They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come to help them. They came and filled both boats so that they were in danger of sinking. When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at the knees of Jesus and said, "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man." For astonishment at the catch of fish they had made seized him and all those with him, and likewise James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners of Simon. Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." When they brought their boats to the shore, they left everything and followed him.

	Luke 5:1-11	John 20:1-19
What were the Apostles doing at the beginning of each story?		
On their own, how successful were the Apostles at what they were doing?		
What did Jesus ask the Apostles to do?		
What was the result of the Apostles following Jesus' command?		
How did Simon Peter respond to the miracle that had occurred?		
What did Jesus give to the Apostles on shore?		
What task did Jesus give to Simon Peter?		
What did the Apostles do after this miracle?		

After Jesus' Death, the Apostles were scared. Even after having seen the Risen Christ, they were unsure. They even tried to return to their old jobs as fishermen. But, much like the first time He called the Apostles, Jesus had something else planned for them. He appeared to them and called them to something greater. And He fed them and nourished them to strengthen them for the mission that lay ahead.

Jesus is calling each of us. He feeds us with the Bread of Life, the Eucharist, and He strengthens us to leave everything and follow Him. How will you respond to Jesus' calling?

Reflection Question

When was a time that you were afraid of doing something, even though you knew it was the right thing to do? What happened? What did you end up doing? How did you overcome your fear? Looking back at that event, how can you see Jesus present in your life, calling you to something greater?

Teaching about the Father



May 12, 2019 – Fourth Sunday of Easter

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 consider Jesus' promise of eternal life and examine the fulfillment of His promise in Heaven and how to begin to make Heaven a reality here on earth.

Directions

1. Have students read the Gospel passage, or read it aloud to your students, and then answer the focus questions. You may have students answer them on their own or you may discuss them together as a class.
2. Review and discuss the correct answers when finished.
3. With a partner, have students complete the **"The Shepherd"** activity. Students will read this Sunday's second reading from Revelation 7:9, 14B-17 and consider what heaven will be like and how to make it a reality here on earth.
4. When students have completed **"The Shepherd"** activity, call on students to share and discuss their answers.

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?

The Shepherd

Directions: Read this Sunday’s second reading from Revelation 7:9, 14B-17. Then, answer the reflection questions.

I, John, had a vision of a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation, race, people, and tongue. They stood before the throne and before the Lamb, wearing white robes and holding palm branches in their hands. Then one of the elders said to me, “These are the ones who have survived the time of great distress; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. “For this reason they stand before God’s throne and worship him day and night in his temple. The one who sits on the throne will shelter them. They will not hunger or thirst anymore, nor will the sun or any heat strike them. For the Lamb who is in the center of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to springs of life-giving water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

In this Sunday’s Gospel, Jesus tells us that He and the Father are one. In other words, Jesus tells us that He is God. As God, like a shepherd protecting his flock, Jesus gives us eternal life. In the second reading from the Book of Revelation, St. John sees a vision of the eternal life that Jesus offers us – the perfection of Heaven.

Reflection Questions:

1. How does St. John describe Heaven in the reading from the Book of Revelation?

2. Based on everything you know, what do you think Heaven will be like?

3. What are three practical ways that you can begin to make Heaven a reality here on earth?

The New Commandment



May 19, 2019 – Fifth Sunday of Easter

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. Have students read the Gospel passage, or read it aloud to your students, and then answer the focus questions. You may have students answer them on their own or you may discuss them together as a class.
2. Review and discuss the correct answers when finished.
3. Have students complete the "**Love One Another as I Have Loved You**" activity.
4. 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. He is glorified by God and God is glorified in him.
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.

Sunday Reading

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 say about how the Son of Man is glorified?
2. What does Jesus give to His disciples?
3. How will all know a disciple of Jesus?

Reflection Question

When was a time that you showed love for someone else? What was that experience like?
When was a time that you felt loved by another? What was that experience like?

Love One Another as I Have Loved You

Jesus has commanded us to love one another as He has loved us. But how does Jesus love us? Later in John’s Gospel, Jesus gives us an explanation:

“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. You are my friends if you do what I command you.” – John 15:12-14

To love as Jesus loves us is to give our lives for another. Later, Jesus models this sacrificial love by freely dying on the cross for us. His sacrifice paid the price for our sins so that we would not have to. And that’s not all! On the third day after His death, Jesus rose from the dead, conquering sin and death once and for all! Now, in Jesus our Lord, we are invited to enjoy eternal life with Him in Heaven. This is what we celebrate during the Easter season – Christ’s victory over sin!

Jesus has commanded us to love as He loves. This means we are called to sacrifice. For most of us, that may not mean dying for another person. But it does mean that we are called to give of ourselves to others, and to make sacrifices in our own lives for others. How can you love like Jesus?

Directions: Complete the chart below by thinking of at least two practical ways for each suggestion that you can love the people in your life like Jesus loves us?

	How Can I Love Like Jesus?
Family members	1. 2.
Friends	1. 2.
Classmates	1. 2.

Teachers	1. 2.
The Poor/Sick/Needy of My Community	1. 2.
My Enemies	1. 2.

The Advocate



May 26, 2019 – Sixth Sunday of Easter

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. Have students read the Gospel passage, or read it aloud to your students, and then answer the focus questions. You may have students answer them on their own or you may discuss them together as a class.
2. Review and discuss the correct answers when finished.
3. Have students complete the **Symbols of the Holy Spirit** activity individually or with a partner.
4. 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. His disciples.
2. They will keep His Word and the Father will love them.
3. With the one who keeps His word.
4. Keep His Word.
5. The Holy Spirit, the Advocate.
6. Teach the disciples everything and remind them of all that Jesus told them.
7. At every Mass before the sign of peace.

8. To not let them be troubled or afraid.
9. Because He is going to the Father, who is greater than He.
10. So that when He leaves (Ascends to Heaven) and the Holy Spirit comes upon them, they will believe.

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. Water/Water is often connected with an outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Baptism.
5. A cloud/God led His people at various points in the Old Testament by appearing in a cloud or a pillar of cloud.
6. Anointing with oil/Anointing with oil represented being sealed with God's Spirit.

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. To whom was Jesus speaking?
2. What does Jesus say about those who love Him?
3. With whom does Jesus say He and the Father will make their dwelling?
4. What will those who do not love Jesus *not* do?
5. Whom will the Father send in Jesus’ name?
6. What will this Person do?
7. Jesus says “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.” Where have you heard this saying of Jesus’ before?
8. What does Jesus say about our hearts?
9. Why did Jesus say that the disciples should rejoice that He is going away?
10. Why did Jesus tell the disciples all that He told them in this Gospel reading?

Symbols of the Holy Spirit

Directions: Look up the Scripture passages in the left column and determine and record what symbol of the Holy Spirit is in each and why you think so. Then, in the right column, draw a picture of that symbol of the Holy Spirit.

<p>1. Matthew 3:16</p> <p>Symbol:</p> <p>Why?:</p>	
<p>2. Acts 2:3 and Exodus 3:2</p> <p>Symbol:</p> <p>Why?:</p>	
<p>3. Acts 2:2 and Genesis 1:2</p> <p>Symbol:</p> <p>Why?:</p>	

<p>4. Matthew 3:11 and John 3:5</p> <p>Symbol:</p> <p>Why?:</p>	
<p>5. Exodus 16:10</p> <p>Symbol:</p> <p>Why?:</p>	
<p>6. Acts 10:38 and 1 John 2:20-27</p> <p>Symbol:</p> <p>Why?:</p>	