Teaching the Liturgical Year

Lessons for September 2019
Teaching *the* Liturgical Year

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**Five Lessons for**

**September 2019**

September 1, 2019: Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 8, 2019: Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 15, 2019: Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 22, 2019: Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 29, 2019: Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Conduct of Invited Guests and Hosts
(Lower Elementary)

September 1, 2019 – Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Overview
In this week's Gospel passage Jesus dines at a wealthy Pharisee's house and sees other guests seeking to sit in places of honor. He tells a parable to illustrate why guests should act humbly, not entitled, and how their interactions with others should be motivated by humility and selflessness. He emphasizes that people should not be seeking earthly rewards or recompense, but rather the rewards of Heaven. As the school year is just beginning, in this lesson students will reflect on how Jesus invited them to love others—or how others showed them love—this summer.

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. Read aloud to your students the directions on Summer Reflection and then have them complete the activity.
C. Ask for student volunteers to share the stories behind their pictures when they have completed the activity.

Answer Key
Focus Questions
1. The home of one of the leading Pharisees.
2. They were choosing to sit in places of honor at the table.
3. Because it would be embarrassing if one had to give up their place to a guest of greater honor. One should not think of oneself as worthy of great honor.
Sunday Reading

A Reading from the Gospel of Luke 14:1, 7-14: Conduct of Invited Guests and Hosts

On a sabbath he went to dine at the home of one of the leading Pharisees, and the people there were observing him carefully...He told a parable to those who had been invited, noticing how they were choosing the places of honor at the table. “When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not recline at table in the place of honor. A more distinguished guest than you may have been invited by him, and the host who invited both of you may approach you and say, ‘Give your place to this man,’ and then you would proceed with embarrassment to take the lowest place. Rather, when you are invited, go and take the lowest place so that when the host comes to you he may say, ‘My friend, move up to a higher position.’ Then you will enjoy the esteem of your companions at the table. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.” Then he said to the host who invited him, “When you hold a lunch or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your...
relatives or your wealthy
neighbors, in case they may
invite you back and you have
repayment. Rather, when you
hold a banquet, invite the
poor, the crippled, the lame,
the blind; blessed indeed will
you be because of their
inability to repay you. For
you will be repaid at the
resurrection of the
righteous.”

Focus Questions
1. Where did Jesus go to dine?
2. What did Jesus see the guests do?
3. Why does Jesus say that one should not sit at the head of
the table?
4. Who will be exalted? Why do you think Jesus says this?
Summer Reflection

**Directions:** Jesus invites us all to love as He loved. Loving like Jesus means giving to others. Now that school has started again, think about your summer. How did Jesus invite you to show His love to others? How was His love shown to you? Draw a picture in the square below of how you loved others or how you were loved.

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Overview
In this week’s Gospel passage Jesus delivers a series of difficult teachings about being a disciple. Much like the parables of the treasure hidden in the field and the pearl of great price, the cost of being a disciple, though it may be steep, is far outweighed by the value of eternal life. In this lesson, students will explore the cost and value of being a disciple of Jesus Christ and consider what stumbling blocks stand in the way of their own relationship with Jesus and what ways they can be better disciples of Jesus during this new school year.

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. Read aloud to your students from “How Much Would You Pay?”, and then have them complete the activity.
C. Review and discuss the answers together when they have completed the activity.

Answer Key
Focus Questions
1. One must hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life in order to be Jesus’ disciple.
2. Whoever does not carry his own cross and follow Jesus cannot be His disciple.
3. They must sit down and calculate the cost to see if they have enough to build it. If they do not do this, and begin building but run out of money, they will be laughed at.
4. Sit down and decide whether he can win the battle with the number of troops he has.

“How Much Would You Pay?” Focus and Reflection Questions:
1. He sells all that he has. He does this joyfully because the treasure and the pearl are worth more to him than all of his possessions.
2. Accept reasoned answers. You have to search for it. Sometimes you follow a map that leads to the treasure.
3. Accept reasoned answers.
4. Accept reasoned answers.
Great crowds were traveling with Jesus, and he turned and addressed them, “If anyone comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. Which of you wishing to construct a tower does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if there is enough for its completion? Otherwise, after laying the foundation and finding himself unable to finish the work the onlookers should laugh at him and say, ‘This one began to build but did not have the resources to finish.’ Or what king marching into battle would not first sit down and decide whether with ten thousand troops he can successfully oppose another king advancing upon him with twenty thousand troops? But if not, while he is still far away, he will send a delegation to ask for peace terms. In the same way, anyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple.”
Focus Questions

1. What does Jesus say about being His disciple?
2. What does Jesus say about carrying one’s own cross?
3. What does Jesus teach that a person who wants to build a tower must do first? Why?
4. What does Jesus say a king marching into battle should do?
How Much Would You Pay?

Directions: First, read the reflection about this week’s Gospel. Then read Jesus’ parable about the value of the Kingdom of God. Finally, answer the reflection questions.

Reflection

In the Gospel this week, Jesus teaches us about the cost of being His disciple. Jesus’ disciples gain eternal life in the Kingdom of God. The cost of following Him is always “worth it.”

Every choice we make comes at a cost. Someone might save money all summer to buy a video game he will enjoy. Another person might choose not to play a sport after school so she can study more. There are many things in our lives that cost money, time, or something else. But our sacrifices are worth it because of the value we get in return.

Jesus tells us that the cost of being His disciple is great, but what we get in return is worth it. In fact, being Jesus’ disciple is worth more than anything else in the world! This is a hard teaching. But Jesus tells us it is true. Being His disciple is worth more than our favorite things, and even our friends.
Parable: The Treasure Hidden in the Field

(Matthew 13:44-46): “The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.”

Focus and Reflection Questions

1. In the parable what does the person do to keep the treasure he found?
2. Jesus says the Kingdom of Heaven is like buried treasure. How do you find buried treasure?
3. Of all the things you own, which is your favorite? Would you give this thing up? Draw it in the box below.
The Parables of the Lost Sheep, the Lost Coin, and the Lost Son (Lower Elementary)

September 15, 2019 – Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Overview
In this week’s Gospel passage, Jesus tells three of His most well-known parables. Each shares the theme of searching for and finding something or someone that was lost. In this lesson, students will use sacred art to reflect upon the meaning of the Gospel and how each parable reflects a different aspect of Christ and His mercy.

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 work in groups of three or four to reflect upon and discuss the three sacred art images. (Note: you may choose to assign each group one of the paintings to reflect upon or have each group reflect upon all three.)
C. When complete, project the images of the paintings and call on groups to share and discuss their responses.

Answer Key
Focus Questions
1. Leave the ninety-nine in the desert and go off to find the lost one.
2. She would light a lamp and sweep the house until she finds the coin.
3. He left his father’s farm and travelled to a distant country where he spent everything on a life of “dissipation,” meaning sinful and excessive self-indulgence.
4. He was filled with compassion, ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. He gave orders to bring the finest robe and put it on his son, and put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. He said “this son of mine was dead, and has come back to life again; he was lost, and has been found.”
5. Accept reasoned answers.
Sunday Reading

A Reading from the Gospel of Luke 15:1-32: The Parables of the Lost Sheep, the Lost Coin, and the Lost Son

Tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to Jesus, but the Pharisees and scribes began to complain, saying, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.” So to them he addressed this parable. “What man among you having a hundred sheep and losing one of them would not leave the ninety-nine in the desert and go after the lost one until he finds it? And when he does find it, he sets it on his shoulders with great joy and, upon his arrival home, he calls together his friends and neighbors and says to them, ‘Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.’ I tell you, in just the same way there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance. “Or what woman having ten coins and losing one would not light a lamp and sweep the house, searching carefully until she finds it? And when she does find it, she calls together her friends and neighbor and says to them, ‘Rejoice with me because I have found the coin that I lost.’ In just the
same way, I tell you, there will be rejoicing among the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” Then he said, “A man had two sons, and the younger son said to his father, ‘Father give me the share of your estate that should come to me.’ So the father divided the property between them. After a few days, the younger son collected all his belongings and set off to a distant country where he squandered his inheritance on a life of dissipation. When he had freely spent everything, a severe famine struck that country, and he found himself in dire need. So he hired himself out to one of the local citizens who sent him to his farm to tend the swine. And he longed to eat his fill of the pods on which the swine fed, but nobody gave him any. Coming to his senses he thought, ‘How many of my father’s hired workers have more than enough food to eat, but here am I, dying from hunger. I shall get up and go to my father and I shall say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as you would treat one of your hired workers.”’ So he got up and went back to his father. While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him, and was filled with
compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him. His son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son.’ But his father ordered his servants, ‘Quickly bring the finest robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Take the fattened calf and slaughter it. Then let us celebrate with a feast, because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost, and has been found.’ Then the celebration began. Now the older son had been out in the field and, on his way back, as he neared the house, he heard the sound of music and dancing. He called one of the servants and asked what this might mean. The servant said to him, ‘Your brother has returned and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’ He became angry, and when he refused to enter the house, his father came out and pleaded with him. He said to his father in reply, ‘Look, all these years I served you and not once did I disobey your orders; yet you never gave me even a young goat to feast on with my friends. But when your son returns, who swallowed up your property with prostitutes, for him you slaughter the fattened calf.’ He said to him, ‘My son, you
are here with me always; everything I have is yours. But now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.

Focus Questions

1. What does Jesus say a person who had a hundred sheep would do if he lost one?
2. What does Jesus say a woman with ten coins would do if she lost one of them?
3. In the Parable of the Lost Son, what did the younger son do with his inheritance?
4. What did the father do when he saw his lost son coming home?
5. How do you think the Parable of the Lost Son shows how God loves us?
What was Lost has been Found

Directions: Jesus tells three parables in this week’s Gospel. Each is about looking for something that was lost. Think about the paintings on the next pages. Then answer the questions.

The Good Shepherd
James Tissot, (C. between 1886 and 1894), Brooklyn Museum.

1. What do you like about this painting?
2. What moment from the Parable of the Lost Sheep does this painting show us?
3. In John 10:11, Jesus says, “I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.” How is Jesus like the shepherd in this parable?
1. What do you like about this painting?
2. What moment from the Parable of the Lost Coin does this painting show us?
3. Where do you think the lost coin is in this painting? How does the lamp light help the woman look for her coin?
4. In John 8:12, Jesus said, “I am the light of the world.” How is Jesus the light of the world?
1. What do you like about this painting?
2. What moment from the Parable of the Lost Son does this painting show us?
3. In John 14:6, Jesus said, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” How does this painting show us how Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life that leads us to the Father?
The Parable of the Dishonest Steward
(Lower Elementary)

September 22, 2019 – Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Overview
In this week’s Gospel passage, Jesus gives a challenging parable about a dishonest steward that continues and deepens His teaching on the cost and value of discipleship and the Kingdom of God. In this lesson, students will examine the response of the dishonest steward to his master’s displeasure in him and then develop ways in which they can give of their own time, talent, and treasure to helping the various communities in their 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. Read aloud to your students “How Can You Be Generous with What God has Given You?” and then have them complete the activity.
C. When complete, call on students to share their answers. Keep a master list on the board of ways that your students can help others in the various communities they belong to. Challenge your students to act upon these ideas throughout the school year.

Answer Key
Focus Questions
1. The steward was reported for squandering his master’s wealth and using it for himself.
2. The rich man is going to fire his steward after he gives an account of his expenses.
3. He calls on his master’s debtors to collect their debts, but forgives a portion of their debts.
4. Jesus says that no servant can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other.
Sunday Reading


Jesus said to his disciples, “A rich man had a steward who was reported to him for squandering his property. He summoned him and said, ‘What is this I hear about you? Prepare a full account of your stewardship, because you can no longer be my steward.’ The steward said to himself, ‘What shall I do, now that my master is taking the position of steward away from me? I am not strong enough to dig and I am ashamed to beg. I know what I shall do so that, when I am removed from the stewardship, they may welcome me into their homes.’ He called in his master’s debtors one by one. To the first he said, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ He replied, ‘One hundred measures of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Here is your promissory note. Sit down and quickly write one for fifty.’ Then to another the steward said, ‘And you, how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘One hundred kors of wheat.’ The steward said to him, ‘Here is your promissory note; write one for eighty.’ And the master commended that dishonest
steward for acting prudently. “For the children of this world are more prudent in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. I tell you, make friends for yourselves with dishonest wealth, so that when it fails, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings. The person who is trustworthy in very small matters is also trustworthy in great ones; and the person who is dishonest in very small matters is also dishonest in great ones. If, therefore, you are not trustworthy with dishonest wealth, who will trust you with true wealth? If you are not trustworthy with what belongs to another, who will give you what is yours? No servant can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and mammon.”

Focus Questions
1. What made the rich man call his steward?
2. How will the steward be punished for what he has done?
3. How does the steward deal with his master's debtors?
4. Why does Jesus say that no person can serve two masters?
How Can You Be Generous with What God has Given You?

To be loved by God is worth more than all of the wealth and possessions in the world! Sometimes we must give up our desire for money and things, and give to others instead.

**Directions:** Think about what you have: money, things, talents, and so forth. Then, answer the following questions:

1. How can I use what God has given me to help my friends?

   ___________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________

2. How can I use what God has given me to help the poor and sick?

   ___________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________
Teaching the Liturgical Year

The Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus (Lower Elementary)

September 29, 2019 – Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Overview
In this week’s Gospel passage, Jesus tells a parable of a rich man and a poor man. Upon death, the rich man finds himself in Hell because he refused to show mercy to the poor man. This parable provides a powerful lesson to us all about loving our neighbor. In this lesson, students will brainstorm ways they can show mercy and love to their neighbor and reflect upon the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

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. Use the teacher instructions below for the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy Activity to conduct a class discussion about the Works of Mercy.
C. Have your students choose one of the Corporal or Spiritual Works of Mercy, and in the space provided on the Works of Mercy handout have them draw a picture of themselves putting it into action.
D. When students have finished, call on students to share their pictures and what made them choose that specific Work of Mercy. Connect their responses to the original class discussion.

Answer Key
Focus Questions
1. The rich man dresses in the finest clothes and “dines sumptuously” each day. Lazarus is a poor man who lies at the rich man's door. He is covered in sores and has no food. Even the dogs come and lick his sores.
2. Lazarus dies and he goes “to the bosom of Abraham” (or Heaven).
3. The rich man dies and he goes to “the netherworld” (or Hell) where he is tormented.
4. He says, “...if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.” Abraham responds by telling the rich man that if his brothers have not listened to Moses and the prophets, then they will not be persuaded by someone rising from the dead.

Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy Activity (Teacher Instructions)

A. Explain to your students that after he died, the rich man went “the netherworld” or Hell because he did not show mercy to the poor man, Lazarus, who sat outside his door every day. The rich man had the ability to care for Lazarus, but chose not to. This parable is a lesson for all of us that we have a serious responsibility to care for and love our neighbor.

B. Have your students brainstorm ways we can love our neighbor as Jesus taught us and record their thoughts on the board. As students share, intentionally list items in two columns on the board, one for ways to care for a person’s physical needs and the other for ways to care for a person’s spiritual needs—do not label the columns or tell in advance why you are putting the items in two columns. If students do not immediately come up with examples of caring for a person’s spiritual needs, suggest one and ask them if they agree it would be an example of loving. Add it to the board, and it will help students think of more examples.

C. After students have shared, ask them to see if they can see anything that the items in each column have in common. If needed, you may assist them in finding the theme of each. As they discover the theme of each list, you may label the columns “Corporal actions (works)” and “Spiritual actions (works).” Leave these lists on the board for the remainder of the lesson.

D. Explain to your students that the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy show us specific ways to love our neighbor. In loving our neighbor, we love as Jesus taught us. The word corporal means “body.” The Corporal Works of Mercy are ways to help meet someone’s physical needs, just as we brainstormed before.

E. As you tell students the following, ask them to identify examples from the brainstorm list that fit each of the works of mercy. You may circle them on the board as you go through each one.

F. The Corporal Works of Mercy are:
   • to feed the hungry
   • to give drink to the thirsty
   • to clothe the naked
   • to shelter the homeless
   • to visit the sick
   • to ransom the captive
   • to bury the dead

G. Explain to your students that bodily needs are not the only type of needs that we have. We also have spiritual needs. The Spiritual Works of Mercy are specific ways to help meet someone’s spiritual needs and help make the Kingdom of God present in their hearts. Circle the examples in the class brainstorm list as you announce each.

H. The Spiritual Works of Mercy are:
   • to instruct the ignorant
• to counsel the doubtful
• to admonish sinners
• to bear wrongs patiently
• to forgive offenses willingly
• to comfort the afflicted
• to pray for the living and the dead

Jesus said to the Pharisees:
“There was a rich man who dressed in purple garments and fine linen and dined sumptuously each day. And lying at his door was a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who would gladly have eaten his fill of the scraps that fell from the rich man's table. Dogs even used to come and lick his sores. When the poor man died, he was carried away by angels to the bosom of Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried, and from the netherworld, where he was in torment, he raised his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. And he cried out, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me. Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am suffering torment in these flames.' Abraham replied, ‘My child, remember that you received what was good during your lifetime while Lazarus likewise received what was bad; but now he is comforted here, whereas you are tormented. Moreover, between us and you a great chasm is established to prevent anyone from
crossing who might wish to go from our side to yours or from your side to ours.’ He said, ‘Then I beg you, father, send him to my father’s house, for I have five brothers, so that he may warn them, lest they too come to this place of torment.’ But Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets. Let them listen to them.’ He said, ‘Oh no, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’ Then Abraham said, ‘If they will not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone should rise from the dead.”

Focus Questions

1. Describe the rich man in the parable. Describe Lazarus.
2. What happens to Lazarus? Where does he go?
3. What happens to the rich man? Where does he go?
4. What does the rich man say will happen if someone from the dead goes to his brothers? How does Abraham reply?
The Works of Mercy

Directions: Choose one of the Corporal or Spiritual Works of Mercy. Then on the next page draw a picture of yourself putting it into action.

The Corporal Works of Mercy

- to feed the hungry
- to give drink to the thirsty
- to clothe the naked
- to shelter the homeless
- to visit the sick
- to ransom the captive
- to bury the dead

The Spiritual Works of Mercy:

- to instruct the ignorant
- to counsel the doubtful
- to admonish sinners
- to bear wrongs patiently
- to forgive offenses willingly
- to comfort the afflicted
- to pray for the living and the dead
My Work of Mercy