

Second Grade Lesson Plans

Lesson 13, Chapter 13: Care for All People

Focus: Jesus welcomes everyone into the Kingdom.

Materials needed:

- “A Taxing Situation” handout – 1 per child (in tub)
- A variety of objects (at least one per child) that represent occupations or hobbies (ex. a book, wrench, basketball, paintbrush, gardening glove, video game controller, wooden spoon, etc.) **Catechist please provide. Bring the objects in a paper bag and do not let the children see them!**
- A crucifix or cross (can be large or small) **Catechist please provide.**
- A blindfold (in large tub)

Prayer:

Our Father/Act of Contrition

What to Say and Do:

- ***How do we usually treat people who do mean things? Do we like them? Do we talk to them or welcome them into our group of friends?***
- ***Listen to this story about a tax collector who cheated people. How do you think Jesus will treat him? Do you think Jesus should be kind and loving to this person who mistreats others? Let’s see what Jesus does.***
- Read the story about Zacchaeus that follows.

A man named Zacchaeus (Za-kee-us) lived in a town called Jericho. He has A LOT of money because he took money that did NOT belong to him. People did not like him because of the times he had taken their money.

One day Jesus came to the town where Zacchaeus lived. *I want to go see Jesus*, he decided. Off he hurried to the road where Jesus was walking. A large crowd of people had come to see Jesus. So when Zacchaeus got there he couldn't see Jesus! Zacchaeus was very short. Even on tiptoe he couldn't see over the crowd of people.

But then Zacchaeus had an idea. He ran to a big tree. And he climbed up-up-UP the tree. Now he could see over all the people! Zacchaeus could see Jesus. Jesus came closer and closer-until Jesus was right under the tree! Jesus stopped and looked up at Zacchaeus.

"Come down, Zacchaeus," said Jesus. "I want to stay at your house today." Zacchaeus climbed down-down-down from that tree. He was surprised that Jesus knew his name! But Zacchaeus was very glad to have Jesus come to his house.

Jesus loves me! Zacchaeus must have thought. He thought about the wrong things he had done in his life. He thought about all the money he had stolen from people. Zacchaeus was sorry he had taken the money. Zacchaeus told Jesus he wanted to give back any money he had wrongly taken. And he wanted to give half of all his money to the poor people, too! Zacchaeus had learned to love Jesus. Jesus was not angry at him even though Zacchaeus had done wrong things. Jesus was kind and forgiving to him.

But other people weren't! They were angry that Jesus was being so inviting and kind to a person who had made their lives very hard. Jesus knew they were angry, but he went to Zacchaeus' house anyway. It was then that Zacchaeus felt sorry for his bad ways and made promises to fix the things he had done wrong.

- ***Do you think Zacchaeus would have changed if Jesus had treated him badly because he was a sinner?***
- ***How do you think Jesus would like us to treat people who aren't very nice to us? What kind of difference do you think it could make if we did that? Would it be easy?***
- ***Jesus welcomes everyone! Even when we sin, Jesus forgives us and welcomes us back. Since he does that, Jesus asks us to do the same for each other.***
- ***Another name for the kingdom of heaven is the kingdom of God. Jesus invites everyone to enter the kingdom of love and peace. Jesus knew how to make everyone feel welcome. Many people came to him for help and healing and still do!***
- ***Like Jesus, the Catholic Church welcomes all people. No matter who we are or what we have done, the Church opens its' doors to everyone. Aren't you glad? Would you get in if the Church only let in people who had never done anything wrong?***

Activity: (Object Game)

- ***Our friends and families can learn from our words and actions whether or not we have chosen to belong to Jesus and follow him. The things we do and say every day help people learn about us. See if you can learn what people are like by looking at the objects they might use.***
- Ask children to sit in a circle. Blindfold a volunteer. Show the rest of the group **one** of the objects you brought. Give it to the volunteer to feel and guess what it is. Have all the children tell what they might learn about the person who uses the object. (Ex. if the object is a gardening glove, children might say, "likes to be outdoors", "grows lots of plants", or "works hard". Let each child have a turn.

- Save the cross or crucifix until last. After the child has guessed what it is, say: ***We can tell what a person is like by the things they do and say. Jesus talks about the words and actions of people whose job it is to follow him-people who are called Christians. What might Christians do to show that they belong to Jesus?***
Be honest, help others, forgive others, depend on God to give them what is needed, say kind words to enemies, etc.)
- ***Christians do these things to show their love for God.***
- ***Think back to the story of Zacchaeus. Would you be mad if your mom was nice to someone who had been mean to you? That's kind of how the people felt when Jesus was nice to Zacchaeus. But Jesus teaches us a new way to live. We must follow his example and always be welcoming and kind to everyone.***
- ***When might it be hard to follow Jesus? When is a time a kid your age can show they follow Jesus?***
- If you have extra time let the children do the "Taxing Situation" worksheets.

Closing Prayer: Hail Mary, Glory Be