

Second Grade Lesson Plans

Lesson 14, Chapter 14: Share the Good News

Focus: Jesus asks his followers to spread the Good News of his message to the world. He wants all of us to share in the work.

Materials needed:

- Construction paper (in Mouse House on shelves)
- Markers and scissors (in Mouse House on shelves)
- Brads (in large tub)
- Circles cut from poster board or paper plates (paper plates are in the large tub)

Before class:

- ✓ Try your demonstration at home so you are comfortable with it.
- ✓ Set up a table with a large paper or plastic cup, strips of paper cut from a variety of weights and finishes (paper towel, napkin, card stock, regular paper, Kleenex, etc.) Fill the paper cup $\frac{3}{4}$ full of water and add a few drops of food coloring.
- ✓ Cut out paper plate circles – 1 per student

Prayer:

Our Father/Act of Contrition

What to Say and Do:

Jesus wanted everyone to know about God his Father. Tell the kids about someone in your family that you would like everyone to know about. Invite the children to share about someone in their family that they admire.

- ***How do you tell people about someone you admire? Jesus wanted everyone to know about God but he knew that the work of spreading his message would be***

hard. After Jesus was raised from the dead, he gathered with his disciples and told them that he would need their help in telling the world about God.

- ***Listen to this story that Jesus told about the vine and branches. See if you can understand why Jesus would say this to his followers.*** (Read the scripture passage “The Vine and the Branches” on p. 154 in the student book.)
- ***Jesus knew that spreading his message about the kingdom of God would be very hard for his followers, especially after he was gone. What did Jesus say to the disciples that let them know he would help them?*** (Remain in me, as I remain in you. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit.)
- ***Jesus is saying that even though it may be hard to be his follower and spread his message, he will always be with us. This Bible verse is telling us that Jesus expects us to depend on him completely.***
- ***Why do you think it may have been hard for the disciples to do what Jesus asked?*** (Christians were persecuted in Jesus’ day, many even died for their faith.)
- ***Why do you think it might be hard to do what Jesus asks today? Do you think that Jesus expects you to share in the work of telling people about God? How can you do that?***

Gather the children around the table you prepared earlier. Show them the strips of paper and explain that the water will travel up some of the strips of paper faster than others. Ask them to predict on which kind of paper the water will travel the quickest. Carefully lower each strip into the cup and observe how fast the water crawls up to the top. You may want to experiment at home before class.

- ***On which kind of paper did the water travel the quickest? Do you know why?***
(Paper that has larger pores attracts water faster.)
- ***This process has a rather big name-it's called "capillary attraction." It is the same action that allows water and nutrients to move from the roots of a plant through tiny tubes (called capillaries) to its leaves. Plants depend on this process to survive.***
- ***What would happen if the roots of a plant were cut off from the leaves? What if there was no "capillary action"?*** (The plant would die.)
- ***What would happen to Jesus' message if we were suddenly cut off from him?***
(In the verse about the vine and the branches, Jesus tells us that we can't spread his message without him.)
- ***When does it get hard to follow Jesus and spread his message? What gives us the courage to go on even when it's hard?***
- ***Do you remember what we learned about the Holy Spirit? Jesus tells us that his Spirit is always with us and always there to help.***
- ***The Holy Spirit guided Jesus' followers as they proclaimed the good news about God to everyone they could. The Holy Spirit is there for us today.***

- ***We are Jesus' hands here on earth. Without us, no one will know about his message of love and hope. Tell me some ways you are hands for Jesus. What more could you do? Who has been Jesus' hands for you?***
- Activity: Give each child a paper circle, construction paper, markers and scissors. Ask them to trace and cut out both hands (they may need your help). Write "My hands do God's work" on the paper circles and attach the hands with the brads or staples.
- ***Why do you think it's important to be the hands of Jesus? What do you think Jesus' followers told others about him? What would you say? Do you think you will need Jesus' help as you spread his message? Why? What are some ways our parish spreads the message of Jesus?*** (Food Pantry Sunday, Parish service day, Mass, CFF classes, school, Bible study classes, etc.)
- ***Remember to always stay connected to Jesus by praying every day, going to Mass, treating others fairly and kindly, and telling everyone how much God loves them.***
- ***Hang your circle up at home to remind you that you are Jesus' hands on earth.***

Closing Prayer: Hail Mary/Glory Be