



CHILDRENS LITURGY LESSON PLAN FEBRUARY 9, 2020

THEME: YOU ARE THE SALT AND LIGHT OF THE EARTH

ENTERING AND WELCOMING

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 5:13-16

Jesus said to his disciples:
"You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned? It is no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father."

- *Make the children to stand in a circle and hold their hands together.
- *Bring to their mind that Jesus is standing in middle of the circle. Wish Him. Prompt them to close eyes for talking to Jesus in prayer.
- *Say a prayer in children's own words or do 'Our father' and 'Hail Mary' together
- * **The Sorry Prayer: (Optional)**
Ask the Children to reflect on the past week and reflect on whether they would like to say sorry for anything they have done or said to someone, that must have hurt Lord Jesus.
(After each prayer, respond: Lord have mercy.)

PSALMS

(Singing Psalms: Help the children to repeat the Psalm of the day by reading slowly)

*"The just man is a light in darkness to the upright."
- Psalms 112:4*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

WELCOMING THE GOSPEL: ALLELUIA

A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. MATTHEW

ST. MATTHEW 5:13-16

Response: Glory to you, O Lord

Activity:

Give clues to the children about SALT and LIGHT and ask them to identify whether it is salt or light.

Each clue can be presented in a flash card and shown one after another, alternating the clues of salt and light.

Clue 1: This is a solid crystal. Is it salt or light?

Clue 2: This removes darkness.

Clue 3: This is used to add taste to food

Clue 4: This helps us to see

Clue 5: This is used to preserve food

Clue 6: This shows us the way

Clue 7: This melts the ice and snow

Clue 8: Plants turn towards it and even bees like it

Clue 9: This helps to purify water and also gives healing

Clue 10: This makes everything clear and visible

After the activity children are given the message that, Jesus is calling us to be the Salt and Light of the Earth.

READ THE GOSPEL (given in the side)

The gospel of the Lord

Response: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL REFLECTIONS

Last week, in the Gospel we saw that Lord Jesus is presented in the Lords temple by his parents Mary and Joseph. Jesus parents humbly obeyed the law of the lord. We also saw that one special person, Simeon, who was patiently waiting for the promise of Lord, a Savior, in faith was led by the Holy spirit in the right time to meet Jesus in the temple. He was able to recognize Jesus and prophesized about Jesus with the help of Holy Spirit.so, our waiting in obedience to word of lord in faithfulness and patience is rewarded. We will see the salvation in right time of Second coming of Jesus

Prompt children to talk about, how they feel eating food without adding salt and sitting in a dark room?

As we did in the activity, Salt and Light are very important things of our life. In today's Gospel, Jesus is telling us that we are the salt and light of the Earth. He asks, what if Salt loses its flavor/taste? If salt loses its real properties, it cannot be used for the purpose for which it was formed. It becomes a waste and will be thrown out.

What about Light? Imagine if the entire place we are sitting is dark and if there is a lamp with us and we have kept this lamp under a table or have covered it with a cloth. Will it be of any use?

No.

The light in our hand must be switched on and kept in such a way that all others are able to have this light and they are not in darkness anymore.

Let us reflect: We are the Salt and Light of the Earth.

Let us look at the flash cards telling us about the properties of Salt. We must have the saltiness in us so that we can add taste/flavor to the life of others. We must be able to melt the blocks, preserve, purify and protect the Earth. Our saltiness is spiritual and can be seen in our lives through our actions and how we live our lives. It points to our essence of life in Jesus filled in God's love and living in Spirit. As Children of God we must live on Earth as Jesus did, just as salt is important to keep earth healthy, we as children of God are very important to bring each one of this world to the love of god by living a life as Jesus did by forgiving, caring, sharing, helping etc. Thus preserving, healing, protecting and adding flavor of happiness and love to the life of others.

What if we don't realize this and live selfish? This is like salt, losing its saltiness. Losing the purpose of which we were sent. Many will be hurt or left helpless by our actions.

Let us now look at the flash cards telling us about the properties of Light. We must be able to give light to show the way, help others see by removing darkness in ourselves and others life. We must shine so that others too can see the light and shine. Jesus is the light of the world. This Jesus must shine in us so that we too become the light for others.

How does this Light (Jesus) get hidden in us? When worldly things like cloth, toys, money, food etc. pile up in our heart, above Jesus, he gets hidden. Thus, our light gets switched off and we will not be able to give light to others too. Never hide Jesus under our worldly items or guilts or weaknesses but let us remove all those things and let him shine in us and through us so that our darkness is removed.

How has Jesus shone in us? By loving us, forgiving us, caring us etc. if Jesus lighted us with all these blessings, we must never hide it but we must use this for the goodness of others so that they will see our goodness and give glory to God.

VERSES TO REMEMBER (WRITTEN ON THE WHITE BOARD):

“your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.”- Matthew 5:16

INTERCESSION PRAYERS:

If children have any personal prayer intentions, we pray for them.

And in response we pray: **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers.**

So, let us reflect for a moment on the blessings, talents, helps that we have received from our lord. Let us say thanks to our lord for all these. If we have hidden any of this because we are shy or due to lack of our faith or if we have used any of this without thanksgiving to you to show off in our pride, let us say sorry.

FINAL PRAYER:

Dear lord, thank you for blessing us by giving Jesus, the light of the world and adding saltiness of your love in each of us. Help us to remain in your love and shine out the light of Jesus to this world through our life so that everyone come to the knowledge of your amazing love.
Amen

Children re-join the Holy Mass.