



**THEME: STAY AWAKE/
BE PREPARED**

GOSPEL: Matthew 24:37-44

Jesus said to his disciples: "As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. In those days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day that Noah entered the ark. They did not know until the flood came and carried them all away. So will it be also at the coming of the Son of Man. Two men will be out in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken, and one will be left. Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come. Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour of night when the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and not let his house be broken into. So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."

ENTERING AND WELCOMING

- *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.)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

WELCOMING THE GOSPEL: ALLELUIA

A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. MATTHEW

ST. MATTHEW 24:37-44

Response: Glory to you, O Lord

READ THE GOSPEL (given in the side)

The gospel of the Lord

Response: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

ACTIVITY:**'See the bunnies sleeping'**

song is performed with actions. The kids are asked to pretend as if sleeping when the song is sung and towards the end when teacher say 'hope little bunny hop hop hop' all must get up and start jumping

Finally message is given that, we must always be awake and be prepared, to hear the call when the lord comes

GOSPEL REFLECTIONS

Last week, we celebrated Feast of Christ the King. We must accept Christ as the king of our life. Through our faith Jesus lives and reign inside us and the we are in His kingdom.

Prompt the response of kids by presenting a situation of waiting for a pre-booked Taxi. We must prepare before the taxi arrives. The time of arrival and updates will be received as messages into our phone. We must be regularly checking it, so as to be ready to go when taxi come...

In today's gospel Jesus is alerting us that the time is very near for the coming of Jesus, hence we must stay awake and be prepared to accompany Him.

Jesus also warns us about the trap of forgetting Him and thus missing the time of his coming. Jesus says that it is like Noah's times.

(narrate the story of Noah)

People get too much busy and immersed in the worldly things that they forget about Jesus. They forget that our real house is in heaven and get carried away by the luxuries of earth, thus missing the contact with our lord.

So how can we stay awake and be on alert?

So how can we be always in connection?

Be in full range with Jesus.

Live with Jesus, do everything with Jesus, enjoy the world with Jesus...never leave his hand...walk every day of our life with Jesus.

When we live our life with Jesus we will surely be aware and know the time when he will come because we are always calling him and know what he is up to...so we will be ready to receive Him and go with him.

Imagine we go from our house to a different place for trip, what if we are not able to make it to connect back home??or imagine a situation that we got lost from our family during shopping and we went astray by looking into shops , what we will do? We must find the reception and ask them to announce, so that our parents can come to find us and take us home.

This reception on Earth is the Church, so that we can get back to our papa and our home in heaven. When we get lost from the family of God by being more immersed in the festive of world, let us realize Jesus is calling us and when we get the signal let's get back and be

ready for his coming. Let us not fall asleep but stay awake and be alert of the thieves who are coming to steal our soul from our Father in heaven.

So, let us think of the ways in this first Sunday of Advent which presents with the message of HOPE - representing the expectation felt in anticipation of the coming Messiah.

The ways like: 1. Reading Bible – regularly: Bible is the voice of our God, each day seek message from our Lord and pray for grace to live accordingly

2. Holy Mass – the sacrament that nourishes us with eternal life through Body and blood of Jesus

3. Family Prayer

4. Sharing the good news with friends etc

All these always helps us to be in connection with our lord and s prepares us in hope for the coming of Jesus so that we never miss out the time HE comes but are found perfectly ready to receive Jesus and go with him to our Home.

VERSES TO REMEMBER (WRITTEN ON THE WHITE BOARD):

“stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come.”

-Matthew 24:42

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.**

In this month of December let us pray for all to prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus.

FINAL PRAYER:

Dear Jesus, give us the grace to live every moment realizing your presence with us, hearing your voice, understanding your words and obeying it, as we wait in Hope for your second coming. Stir up the holy spirit you have filled in us to give us strength to see Heaven, beyond the limits of worlds attractions and live for it in sure Hope. Come Lord Jesus ! in Jesus name we pray, Amen.

Children re-join the Holy Mass.