



THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

CHILDRENS LITURGY LESSON PLAN MARCH 15, 2020

THEME: THE LIVING WATER

ENTERING AND WELCOMING

GOSPEL: JOHN 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

Jesus came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of land that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there. Jesus, tired from his journey, sat down there at the well.

It was about noon. A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, "How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?"—For Jews use nothing in common with Samaritans.—Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you do not even have a bucket and the cistern is deep; where then can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us this cistern and drank from it himself with his children and his flocks?" Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again; but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." "I can see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain; but you people say that the place to worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You people worship what you do not understand; we worship what we understand, because salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth; and indeed the Father seeks such people to worship him. God is Spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that the Messiah is coming, the one called the Christ; when he comes, he will tell us everything." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking with you."

Many of the Samaritans of that town began to believe in him. When the Samaritans came to him, they invited him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. Many more began to believe in him because of his word, and they said to the woman, "We no longer believe because of your word; for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the savior of the world."

- *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)

"If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts."

- Psalms 95:8

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

WELCOMING THE GOSPEL: PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST, OUR SAVIOUR, WORD OF THE FATHER, CALLING US TO LIFE; SON OF GOD WHO LEADS US TO FREEDOM: GLORY TO YOU, LORD JESUS CHRIST!

A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. JOHN

Activity: WATER- LIVING WATER

Make children shout correct responses for each word

When the teacher says LIVING WATER, kids must respond HOLY SPIRIT.

When teacher says WELL, kids must respond JESUS

When teacher says THIRST, kids must respond GODS LOVE

When teacher says SAMARITAN, kids must shout out THEIR OWN NAME

Give few turns, till they respond correctly.

Finally give the message about the gospel today.

ST. JOHN4:5-42

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.

GOSPEL REFLECTIONS

Last week, in the Gospel we reflected on how Jesus took Peter John and James to a high mountain and revealed His divine form and the secret of the divine plan.

Prompt children to talk about times that they felt guilty to approach their parents, after realizing they did something that their parents might not like. How was the parent's response? Parents are forgiving love. Or talk about how they feel when they are thirsty and uses of water.

In today's Gospel, we see Jesus making himself known to a woman who felt to herself that she is not worthy to approach Jesus.

Jesus who was passing by a town called Sychar, stopped by a well. A Samaritan woman came to draw water from the well. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink.". Samaritan woman responded based on the laws of the land that Jews and Samaritans won't interact with each other. Jews considered them unworthy. She asked, 'is there anything common between a Jew and Samaritan, being a Jew how can you ask me for water?'

What was Jesus response?

Jesus responded to the woman: "If you knew the gift of God and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink, 'you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.'" yes he says, we must know who is asking the drink from us? we must know more about who Jesus is and what he can do for us?

So, we must know: 1) what is gift of god?

2) who is talking to you?

3) what to ask him? and what will you get?

Through this gospel, Jesus is making us clearer all this.

Jesus asking us too to give him a drink. what is our response? we sometimes feel like the Samaritan woman. If something wrong that we have done comes to our mind, we usually feel guilty to approach our parents. We also respond that God am I worthy or good to give you a drink or come to you. But we must always understand who Jesus is- Jesus came for the sinners to take away our sins and save us.

As the Samaritan woman, we always look into things that we can see and the set laws that we are trained to. As Samaritans were looked down by Jews, the woman asks Jesus whether they could talk with each other or help? She was also thinking about physical things like Jesus does not have a bucket to draw water- she was asking how can you draw water from the well without bucket and string?

But Jesus is opening her eyes and extending her vision from the earthly things to the eternal ones. The water of the earthly well will make us thirsty again. we can never be satisfied with the things of this earth. But the water Jesus (the well of salvation) giving us is living water. This water will never make us thirsty; this water will become in us a spring of water welling up to eternal life.

Revealing this to her- the woman requests Jesus to give this water-so that she gets satisfied forever and she never want to return to labour from earth anymore.

To make her understand who Jesus is, Jesus reveals about what all happened in her life. She was amazed and understand that Jesus is a prophet. Only prophets can reveal all hidden things of our life. But Jesus make her more clearly understand that he is more than prophets- he opens up her to reflect on regarding her faith and that worshipping God is not laws or prophets and he helps her to understand God is spirit and he seek those who worship him in Holy spirit and truth. She knew the laws and prophets and also believed that a messiah will be coming, the one called the Anointed; when he comes, he will tell us everything."....when she proclaimed her faith- Jesus revealed clearly to her that 'he is the Messiah'(LOVE and SPIRIT) who forgives all our past mistakes and give us new water of holy spirit to renew us in truth as new creation in him.

When she understood this, she left her jar- she left her old means of living and ran to announce this good news- that she saw the Messiah - Come see a man who told me everything I have done. Could he possibly be the Messiah?"

she went to the town and told everyone what had happened. Many of the Samaritans of that town began to believe in him because of the word of the woman* who testified, "He told me everything I have done." it urged the Samaritans to came to him and they invited him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. Many more began to believe in him because of his word, and they said to the woman, "We no longer believe because of your word; for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the savior of the world."--

we must know this gift of god- the holy spirit .

who will give us holy spirit? - Jesus will give us the holy spirit. Jesus is the Messiah who took away all our mistakes and gave us living water of holy spirit to make us new creations in Him.

No matter how unworthy we feel we are, Jesus says to come to him and drink the living water and experience the love of Father- this is what make us new in him. Holy spirit renews us by filling us with Gods love.

So that we in this new life, will never love anything or thirst anymore for anything of this world but will be satisfied and filled in God's love through Holy Spirit. our love will be only for God.

Let us approach the well of our salvation -JESUS and thirst for Living Water (HOLY SPIRIT)- to become the spring of GODS LOVE to gain SOULS to bring back all to love of Father- JESUS and quench JESUS who is thirsty for SOULS.

VERSES TO REMEMBER (WRITTEN ON THE WHITE BOARD):

*“whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst;
the water I shall give will become in him
a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”
-John 4:5:14*

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.**

FINAL PRAYER:

Dear lord, give us grace to understand the well of our salvation, Jesus and to thirst for and fill with the living water so that we overflow in your love to all whom we meet. We ask this in Jesus name, Amen

Children re-join the Holy Mass.