



CHILDRENS LITURGY LESSON PLAN FEBRUARY 16, 2020

THEME: MORE THAN LAWS....

ENTERING AND WELCOMING

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 5:17-24

Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. Amen, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter will pass from the law, until all things have taken place. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do so will be called least in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the kingdom of heaven. I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

"You have heard that it was said to your ancestors, *you shall not kill; and whoever kills will be liable to judgment.* But I say to you, whoever is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; and whoever says to his brother, 'Raqa,' will be answerable to the Sanhedrin; and whoever says, 'You fool,' will be liable to fiery Gehenna. Therefore, if you bring your gift to the altar, and there recall that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift there at the altar, go first and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift

- *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)

"Blessed are they who follow the law of the Lord!"
- Psalms 119:1

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

WELCOMING THE GOSPEL: ALLELUIA

A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. MATTHEW

ST. MATTHEW 5:17-24

Response: Glory to you, O Lord

Activity: Jesus Says..

Children are asked to listen carefully to the various actions asked to be done. They are instructed to perform the actions only if the leaders say it as 'Jesus Says' and if it is said without the phrase 'Jesus says' the children must not perform the actions. Those who do it are out.

Final message is given, in our daily life, let us try with the help of holy spirit to listen to Jesus and do everything as he tells us to do.

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 telling us that we are the Salt of the Earth and the Light of the World. Today Jesus helps to understand how to live in this way. What are the ways or laws?

Let us think of driving in the road or being in school.

Prompt children to talk about, how is to drive safely on a road? Or what it is like being in School? About the rules and responsibilities. Prompt them the scenario of what happens if we didn't follow what is set to be followed?

In today's Gospel we see Jesus is mentioning about the laws that was given to the Gods people/children to live according to what is pleasing to God our creator.

Jesus came to fulfill the law in perfection and showed us the way to live and provided us the help and strength to live the same way by sending down the Holy spirit to help us. He says, Nothing in the law set by our father can be removed or deleted or nothing will pass from law until heaven and earth pass away and until all things have taken place.

Jesus also says that whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the kingdom of heaven but whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do so will be called least in the kingdom of heaven. Thus, he shows us how important are the laws given to us by the father in heaven who created the whole universe. He gave us laws so that we are able to live as we should, as children of God. He knows what is best for us, more than we know ourselves because he is our creator.

Most of them were not able to fulfill the law themselves but used it to criticize others who didn't obey because there was no love in them, and they didn't understand how much god the father loved each one of them.

Jesus who came to the world, showed the real meaning of following the law out of love. By dying for us while we were sinners, Jesus showed the fathers love for us all. He Ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of father and is interceding for us. He gave us his holy spirit to strengthen us to fulfill the law through faith in him. The holy spirit pours the love of god into us. This power will help us, if we desire, by saying Yes to Jesus, to go more than laws and *to surpass our righteous deeds more than the Pharisees law-keeping, thus enter the kingdom of God.*

If law says not to kill...love says not even get angry...And even not call your brother 'fool'. The Law asks us to offer to lord, Jesus's love tells to first forgive the one who sinned against you and reconcile to them and then come to offer in altar.

Laws replaces by what Jesus tells us to do and to do out of love and thus to fulfill the law in perfection by the same power with which Jesus was able to- the power of love and grace through holy spirit from father in heaven who loved us and forgave us first. Jesus says love your god with all your heart, mind and soul and love your neighbors as yourself.

Let us pray to the lord to fill us with his grace and love by the holy spirit he gave us to love one another as god loved us. **Go more than the laws...by the power of love.**

VERSES TO REMEMBER (WRITTEN ON THE WHITE BOARD):

"I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven"

– Matthew 5:20

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, thank you loving us and forgiving us each moment of our life. Thank you for giving us Jesus and opening a way through him to understand obey and fulfill what you say to us. Fill us with your grace and love by the Holy Spirit you gave us by increasing our faith in Jesus and saying Yes to whatever he asks us to do and thus to love one another as you loved us, fulfilling your laws in love through Jesus Christ our lord .Amen

Children re-join the Holy Mass.