



**CHILDRENS LITURGY LESSON PLAN
FEBRUARY 23, 2020**

THEME: BE LIKE OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN.

ENTERING AND WELCOMING

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 5:38-48

³⁸ “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ ³⁹ But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; ⁴⁰ and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; ⁴¹ and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. ⁴² Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.

⁴³ “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. ⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? ⁴⁸ Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

- *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 Lord is kind and merciful.”
- Psalms103:8

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

WELCOMING THE GOSPEL: ALLELUIA

A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. MATTHEW

ST. MATTHEW 5:38-48

Response: Glory to you, O Lord

Activity: Imitate Jesus

Ask a child to come forward and act out something (like farming, cleaning, helping etc). all others must imitate him/her.

If children are reluctant to come, the leaders itself can act out and ask the children to imitate.

Finally, a message is given that, we must set our eyes on Jesus and imitate him to grow into like our heavenly father.

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 to go more than laws out of love, and that he came to fulfill the law in perfection.

Prompt children to talk about, who do they have more similarity to? Dad or Mum? Or who do they try to imitate in the family?

In today's Gospel, Jesus is showing us the standard to which we are to grow and mature. He asks us to be like our heavenly father. How can we be like our father in heaven? Whom can we take as a role model to know how our father in heaven like us to behave? Yes, Jesus himself is our way. Jesus has shown us by his life.

In this gospel portion, Jesus prompts us by pointing out few ways 'how to walk in this eternal way and how to be the children of our heavenly Father?' :-

1. don't fight back against someone who wants to do harm to you. Be patient and calm.
2. if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well
3. if anyone forces you to go one mile, go two miles.
4. Give to anyone who asks you for something. Don't refuse to give to anyone who wants to borrow from you.
5. Love your enemies. Pray for those who treat you badly.
6. Show no discrimination, accept and help each other

Our heavenly father shows no discrimination. He never says that one of his children is good and the other is bad. But he trains all his children and helps them to be good. He loves all his children. We see the proof in that he provides and show mercy equally to all.

He lets the sun rise for all people, whether they are good or bad. He sends rain to those who do right and to those who do wrong.

Jesus challenges our attitude towards our fellow beings by asking.

*If you love only those who love you, why should you get a reward for that?

*if you are nice only to your friends, you are no better than anyone else... even people who don't know God do that.

So, as children of a loving heavenly Father, what difference each of us must reflect in our actions? what should be our attitude?

In of our actions and attitudes towards our fellow beings, let us check the purity of intentions and always think what Jesus (Our role model) might have done in that situation, call upon our helper Holy Spirit to give us strength and grace from god to do as Jesus has shown us and told us.

As we live by following Jesus way, our old self will be gone and in Christ we are becoming new creations who behaves according to a renewed mind of Jesus, being renewed in knowledge, attitude and actions according to the image of our creator, our heavenly Father, by the help of Holy Spirit and our obedience.

VERSES TO REMEMBER (WRITTEN ON THE WHITE BOARD):

“Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”-Matthew 5:48

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 for showing us your way through Jesus and giving us a new life of love through Him. Give us the grace to desire it and live as Jesus lived to grow into perfection just as You, our Heavenly Father.

O Jesus, meek and humble of heart, make my heart like yours. O Jesus, meek and humble of heart, strengthen me with your Spirit. O Jesus, meek and humble of heart, teach me your ways.
.Amen

Children re-join the Holy Mass.

