



SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

CHILDRENS LITURGY LESSON PLAN
MARCH 8, 2020

THEME: THIS IS MY BELOVED SON, 'LISTEN TO HIM'

ENTERING AND WELCOMING

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 17:1-9

Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, conversing with him. Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud cast a shadow over them, then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." When the disciples heard this, they fell prostrate and were very much afraid. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and do not be afraid." And when the disciples raised their eyes, they saw no one else but Jesus alone. As they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, "Do not tell the vision to anyone until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

*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)

*"Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you."*

- Psalms 33:22

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!

Activity: Secret Passing

Make the children to sit in a circle. Pass secret words (relating to transfiguration) one after another in their ears. Carry on till it reach the last child. The last child must speak it out. If the word is kept the same, give a clap. Or else give the message 'Listen Carefully'.

Give few chances.

In the end, give the message that, we must let go our distractions/plans and listen carefully and watch carefully and follow carefully to understand/hear the secret messages from our God and to pass them on to the world.

A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. MATTHEW

ST. MATTHEW 17:1-9

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 overcame the temptations of the world when he was led to a desert for forty days by the spirit. He prayed and fasted in the desert and strengthened in his Spirit to accomplish the mission given to him by Heavenly Father and used the word of God to defeat the temptations.

Prompt children to talk about Mountains-high places. How do they feel on mountains? Like heaven close to them? They are high places representing prayer or closeness to god/heaven. Jesus often went alone to mountains to pray. Not only Jesus, we can see Moses, Elijah etc from bible who went to mountain to pray. These times God reveals the future to them and their missions too.

In the gospel of first Sunday of lent, we were in the desert, in today's gospel Jesus is leading us to the mountain with His friends Peter, John and James. The Desert of temptations is been OVERCOME and today He leads to the mountain of revelation of God's glory and missions.

Jesus took Peter John and James to a high mountain and he revealed a secret of the divine plan. This was a revelation to the friends who followed him. A revelation of what is going to happen to him a few days later. He showed them everything before it is going to happen, to give them hope that, he will go and come back in a new form-transfigured into a shining divine spiritual form as the flesh is defeated/crucified.

As Jesus led them to the mountain, Jesus transfigured- his figure or appearance changed during this time.

What was the change that Jesus manifest?

Yes, His face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light.

We see, Elijah and Moses were talking to Jesus.

Do you know who is Moses and Elijah? What you think they talked about?

Moses and Elijah. Who is Moses and Elijah?

Moses and Elijah are prophets that we can find in Old Testament.

*God called Moses to free the Israelites from their slavery in Egypt, God led them into the desert to his holy mountain at Sinai. There Moses ascended the mountain and met with God face to face for 40 days in prayer and fasting (Exodus 24:18).

* The prophet Elijah was also led on a 40day journey to the holy mountain at Sinai (also called Horeb) to seek the face of God. God sustained Elijah for his journey with supernatural bread from heaven (1 Kings 19:8).

They were talking about the plan of salvation of heavenly father and what Jesus has to do on earth and how to accomplish Fathers great plan to save the world. (about passion crucification resurrection)

Peter was so excited when he saw all these and he was sorting out a plan by himself to build tent for them and to live there. But suddenly Father in heaven manifested his presence in a shiny cloud and talked to them . He told them to listen to Jesus, his beloved son.

Jesus told them not to tell about the vision until all this will happen in real and to realize when this happens.

By leading them to his transfiguration, Jesus was making his friends realize that each of their body in flesh will one day be transformed like same. There is a hidden appearance for each of us.

Have u seen a caterpillar? What will it transform into after few days? Can u imagine?

Yes, a beautiful butterfly. In the same way we too will be changing into a new life after this life on earth, if we follow Jesus and listen to Him.

Jesus reveals secret of what is going to happen, as we follow him to where he calls us to. we have just to listen to him as we follow him.

Moses and Elijah were once living as flesh in old testament time but now they appeared living in a different form. They appeared living. So, we understand they are not dead but still living. Jesus was revealing this to his friends that even though our fleshly life ends, there is another life. But to get into that form, there are few steps or process:

Just like a caterpillar must eat lot...get into pupa stage...shed off many parts..to become butterfly.. we too must during this life on earth must be feeding on the word of God , obeying/ saying yes to Gods revelations/plans for us and thus increase in spirit decreasing in flesh, by controlling flesh by spirit as we say yes to God's will.

So through this Jesus showed them the spiritual form that he is going to attain and each of them must attain through Jesus who attained it and is in us helping us to attain it. Through same process of surrendering our flesh to Jesus cross and listening to him.

Follow Jesus to high places of Prayer where he will reveal himself to us. Let us try to reveal about this eternal hope more in lent.

As Jesus said to his friends 'not be afraid rise up.'
It is Jesus who chose us, our response is just to follow him. He will take us to the high places where he will reveal himself to us. When he calls us and lead us, let us, without being reluctant, follow him and listen to him always. This is pleasing to Father in heaven. During this Lenten time let us try to closely follow Jesus and listen to him, as he reveals about this eternal hope.

At home try to make a place for prayer. Wait calmly few minutes in a day for revelations of Jesus. Keep a book and Write them down.

VERSES TO REMEMBER (WRITTEN ON THE WHITE BOARD):

“This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.”-Matthew 17:5

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 surrender ourselves, to follow Jesus to high places of prayer, to listen to him and to increase our hope in eternal life that you have given us through Jesus. Holy Spirit help us to pray in faith. We ask this in Jesus name, Amen

Children re-join the Holy Mass.