

Children's Liturgy Session Lesson Plan October 27th ,2019

Theme: Pray Humbly: 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner'

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:

Alleluia, alleluia ...for welcoming gospel

Reading the gospel: (Luke 18:9-14)

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke,

Response: Glory to you, O Lord

⁹He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: ¹⁰"Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed^[a] thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' ¹³But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' ¹⁴I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

The gospel of the Lord

Response: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Activity: cover an empty box with colourful and shiny wrapping papers. Cover with two or three layers. Play passing the parcel game. Finally, as the last kid opens the box it is seen empty. Ask the children, how did they feel when they found the box empty? Yes, it was just like faking right? It was not true. This is how our dear lord feels when we stand before him in empty heart, or fake heart. Even though we show off different ways to fake ourselves as praying, our heart will be not in true repentance or true need of god. Do you think such prayer is pleasing to our loving father who loves us so truly?

Gospel Reflection:

Make children to sit in the circle. Bring Jesus who is sitting in middle to their notice and talk to him to speak through the Gospel that they heard.

Let us ponder.... Last week we heard about Jesus telling us a parable to persevere and never give up in our prayers.

Today we see that Jesus is telling another parable. But this parable, Jesus tells, to a special group of people. Did you listen to whom the gospel is addressed?

Wait for Children's Response

Jesus tells the parable to *"some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt"*

Do we have this attitude sometimes?

Always thinking 'I am the best' or looking down on someone who is not able to do something that we can?

Wait for Children's Response

Let us think ourselves about this for a moment and then listen to the parable.

Narrate the story of the parable.

Who were the two characters in the parable?

Wait for Children's Response

Yes, The Tax Collector and the Pharisee

(Explain to children who a Pharisee is and who is a tax collector)

Both came to pray in the church. Let us see how the *pharisee* prayed

Pharisees prayer: "God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get."

Can you find out the words that the pharisee stressed more in his prayer?

Wait for Children's Response

"I"..yes, He glorified himself, justified himself... rather than seeking help from God.

Now let us see how the Tax Collector prayed: ", standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!'

What do you think on the prayer of the tax collector?

Wait for Children's Response

Yes, he was feeling so humble, unworthy and he prayed for mercy of God. He humbled before the lord and regarded god as the one who only can help him.

Let us think of our prayer. how do we pray? Do we pray showing ourselves good and best or do we pray realising our weaknesses, saying sorry and seeking Gods mercy and grace and help to live good?

Wait for Children's Response

What happened after both prayed? Whose prayer was heard? What is Jesus saying?

Wait for Children's Response

Yes, the Tax collector who humbled himself and gave regard to God as the only source of his help, was justified while the pharisee who considered himself the best, who never humbled before god for help had no effect on his prayer.

So, what is the message that Jesus tells us through this parable?

Wait for Children's Response

Yes, a prayer of humble and contrite heart will be heard by the lord. But the prayer of a proud self-bossy heart will not be having any effect.

So how must we conduct ourselves in our heart, while praying or in our attitude to others?

When we understood that we did something that hurt someone, have we tried to justify ourselves to prove that it is because other person did like this...I did so...??? Let us reflect.

Have we thought ourselves great than others? Or have compared our things to others to show off or boss? Let us reflect..

So how must we conduct before our lord?

Wait for Children's Response

Have you thought, how do we stand for the Holy Mass?

Wait for Children's Response

Yes, sometimes we lose our concentration, we feel bored, we get disturbed. Why do you feel so?

Wait for Children's Response

Yes, it is because we don't know the true meaning or importance of the Holy Mass.

What is Holy Mass? Why do we celebrate this amazing sacrament?

Wait for Children's Response

Yes in holy mass we are celebrating the great gift our father in heaven has given us, by sacrificing his son our lord Jesus, giving us the body and blood of Jesus , forgiving all our sins and strengthening us by giving the body and blood by the power of holy Spirit to live by grace of god, gaining strength in each time we receive Jesus, not to sin any more and to be like Jesus , to see Jesus in others and give ourselves for others. In the Holy mass we offer ourselves in the altar, we say sorry for all we have done that hurted lord, we give thanks for all our lord has blessed us with, we pray for all our needs, to get grace to live according to Gods will, to give us strength to say no to evil and do good to others. All we can do by the Jesus living inside us and whom we receive through the holy Eucharist and word of god.

As we go back and join the Holy Mass, let us try to stand and watch carefully what is happening. Ask your parents to help you understand.

How must we conduct ourselves as we pray?

Wait for Children's Response

Yes ,we must not consider best or compare with others. When we boast about what we have, or look down on someone, we are telling God that we are the best and He is not, and we think that we can do all things on our own. This is not the truth. All good things come from God, by ourselves we are nothing, only with God everything is possible. Therefore, we must humble before God, and admit that without Him we are nothing. To avoid being proud, we must put god our centre of our life and thank Him for all He has given us. let our hearts be true to our creator and When we do this, God will bless us. What all we have is given for us by our dear lord is and it is good for us. We must not use, what we have, to show off or to be make others feel annoyed or rejected. We must understand that 'All are loved by our lord'.

We are not perfect. Only god can make us perfect. What all good we have is from our lord.

When we realize we did something not good, we have to repent (feel sorry) and come before our lord, who is merciful and who will forgive not only us but also everyone who comes in true mind to say sorry.

Reminding all these in our mind, when we come before our lord to pray, we must thank our lord for all he have given us, we must understand that we ourselves are not worthy, we have to ask sorry to things we have done, that hurt others and thus hurt our lord. As the tax collector humbled himself let us also humble ourselves and pray bowing our head and folding our hands "God, be merciful to me, a sinner"

Verses to remember (written on the white board): "For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted." (Luke 18:14)

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 Jesus thank you for making us realize that you love everybody and is merciful Lord. Sorry for the times that we have bossed ourselves before others. Sorry for the times we have justified ourselves before others and before you to hide our faults and show off us as righteous. We pray for mercy for all whom we have hurt. Give us grace dear lord to be true in heart and humble ourselves to your mercy as we pray 'OUR FAHER' ... "God, be merciful to me, a sinner"

We submit all our prayers in Jesus name amen.

Children re-join the Holy Mass.

- Highlighted text is optional. We can ask children to find out about Holy Mass by themselves as an assignment for the week.