

## First Grade: Lesson 3: Jesus' Good News

### Lesson Objective:

This lesson helps children understand that it is God's will that the Good News of Jesus be shared with others. By growing in prayer and virtue, we are given strength to share our faith with others. Children can practice sharing the Good News with each other and then be challenged to share the Good News with a friend or family member.

### Learning Outcomes: Students will...

- Recognize that God wants each one of them to tell people about Jesus (Matt 28:19-20).
- Recognize that through daily prayer and growing in virtue they can be very close to Jesus (Phil 4:4-9)

### Materials Needed:

- Prayer space, crayons, pencils, coloring page (see attached)

### Suggested Strategies from the Dioceses:

- Share personal testimonies or encounter experiences with a partner or in a small group.
- Write a play about a person's conversion to Jesus Christ. Act out the play in class.
- **Invite each student to create a piece of art (drawing, painting, song, sculpture) that reveals his/her relationship with Jesus.**
- Invite a guest speaker to share a personal testimony about how God has worked in his/her life.
- Ask students to choose a partner. Invite them to practice sharing the Gospel with each other.
- **Invite students to identify times and places where they feel closest to God. Encourage them to use those times and places for personal prayer.**

### As Students Enter Class:

- Have an activity ready to go for students to engage in while waiting for others. Jesus knocking on the door coloring sheet is attached
- Suggestion: Using the Good Friend Sorting Activity from Lesson 2, tape one of the phrases on each student as they enter. Once all your students are present, go around the room reading each phrase and having students tell you if that is the trait of a good friend or a not so good friend. Consider thumbs up if good and thumbs down if not.

Beginning of Class:

- Gather students at your prayer table space. Explain what it means to offer a prayer intention for someone they know. Give an example of someone you would like to pray for and state why. Invite students to share an intention.
- Say a traditional Catholic prayer, such as the Our Father or Hail Mary.

Lesson Order	Implementation
Opening Video	(2:10) Highlights: Reviews main ideas from Lesson 2 and then explains that when we pray each day and grow in virtue, we become closer to Jesus. Matthew 28:19-20 encourages us to share our love of Jesus with others and Jesus will always be with us.
Pray Song	Christine in Action (1:47) fun song with hand movements that explains why and how we pray. Encourage students to do the movements with Christine while she sings.
Tell a Friend	Play this video for students (1:47). It highlights how praying daily helps us grow closer to God and to understand what he wants us to do to share His good news. God wants us to be happy. By praying and reading the Bible (sacred scripture) we grow closer to God.
Catholic Prayers	This video (1:04) contains the words to the Our Father, Haily Mary, and Glory Be. Suggestion: play the video for students and then have them stand up around the prayer table while you lead them in all 3 prayers. Consider the Echo strategy explained in Lessons 1 and 2.
The Gospel Means Good News Song	Play this video (1:10) because it relates to the next activity.
Spread the Good News Reflection	How can you tell your friends about Jesus? Consider having a class discussion before students start this activity. Encourage them to think how they can tell a friend or relative (perhaps a cousin is a great place to start) about Jesus and how he loves them. Write their ideas on the board. Then guide them to complete the activity by drawing their picture and labeling it.

Prayer Journal	Just like you did in lessons 1 and 2, have students complete a prayer journal page. If you find this activity too difficult for your first-grade students, consider having them draw (on a blank piece of paper) who they would like to pray for and label why they are praying for this person.
Catholic Prayers	Send home the printed catholic prayers along with the cover letter that explains how we are learning these traditional Catholic prayers in class and that practicing at home will be helpful.
Closing Activity  If students are quiet, try an engagement strategy.	Choose one of the two bolded strategies from the Dioceses. Lead students to share their thoughts based on the strategy you chose. If you chose the drawing strategy, try using the drawing done in today's lesson to engage students in this activity.
Closing Prayer	Invite students to gather around the prayer table and pick a student to choose a prayer to end class, either the Our Father or Hail Mary.