

Third Grade: Lesson 20

The Church Helps Others

Lesson Objective:

This lesson helps the children realize that while they have a personal friendship with Jesus, they are part of a diverse, world-wide Church and that our care for and union with others extends beyond the boundaries of our local communities. Catechists have the opportunity to share how the Church helps others in our communities and around the world.

Learning Outcomes: Students will ...

- Describe the Catholic Church as a community of believers (CCC 751-752, 2179).
- Demonstrate awareness of the dignity of various cultures and races (Gal 3:28; CCC 1934-1935).
- Demonstrate ways to apply the Beatitudes to everyday life.
- Define the common good (CCC 1905-1912).
- Recognize the ways we serve reflect our love of God and love of neighbor.
- Identify ways to demonstrate concern for the hungry, the poor, immigrants, those treated unjustly, victims of violence, the unborn, the elderly, and the less abled.

Materials Needed:

- Prayer space items, Bibles, Pencils, Crayons
- Copies: Coloring Sheet (optional), 5 Habits of Christian Life Activity

As Students Enter Class:

- [Coloring Sheet: I can do all things through God who strengthens me](#)

Beginning of Class:

- Gather around your prayer space and pray a prayer of your choosing.

Lesson Order	Implementation Ideas
Lesson 20 Video	<p>This video is 1:21 in length.</p> <p>Highlights: In the past few weeks, we have been discussing how to become disciples of Christ and what this means for our daily lives, with following legitimate authority and living out the common good.</p> <p>This means we need to demonstrate awareness of the dignity of various cultures and races and show respect for all humanity. We do this by showing concern for the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hungry • Poor • Immigrants • Those treated unjustly • Victims of violence • Unborn • Elderly • Less abled <p>Matthew 25:40 states: <i>And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.'</i></p> <p>Today, let the concerns of human dignity in the world lead you to recognize that God has a plan for your life. You are called to a life of love and service.</p> <p>In Mark 10 Jesus said He didn't come to be served, BUT to serve.</p> <p>Question: How is God calling you to serve others?</p>
God Has a Plan for You	<p>This video is 2:54 in length but ends at 2:28.</p> <p>Highlights: God has a set purpose for each of us. Jesus models for us what that plan looks like. Although it is different for each of us,</p>

	<p>there is something the same, too: we're here to simply love God.</p> <p>Our lives are like a school, where we learn how to love and to live for others. We are called to put God and others at the center of our lives, rather than live for ourselves. When you are doing something where the focus is not on you but on others, you find happiness.</p> <p>When Jesus was on the Earth, He served the poor, blessed children, fed the hungry, and finally gave His life and died on the cross for us.</p> <p>Even when we are unsure of what the plan is, God keeps leading us and drawing us in. We have to trust Him enough to take the next step.</p> <p>God's plan for you is to love Him, love others, and to be happy in this life and forever joyful in the next life.</p>
Upholding the Dignity of Others	<p>This video is titled The Joy of Serving. It is 7:32 in length.</p> <p>Highlights: This video highlights Catholic Charities and their volunteers and how they help feed the hungry and provide food and shelter for families.</p> <p>One suggestion is to encourage students to think about the first video (especially the section in bolded print) and relate the things happening in this video to how we are called to uphold the dignity of all people.</p>
You are Called to a Life of Love and Service	<p>This video is 2:26 in length.</p> <p>Highlights: As Catholics we seek to imitate Christ's example of love in our families, neighborhoods, and around the world.</p>

	<p>The video highlights ways Catholics are called to serve the most vulnerable in our communities.</p> <p>Please note the content of this video is above a third-grade level. You may want to skip this video.</p> <p>If you do skip this one, consider holding a discussion, asking students how they, as third (almost fourth) graders, can imitate Christ's example of love to our families, neighbors, and friends?</p>
<p>Go Be a Blessing</p>	<p>This video is 2:55 in length.</p> <p>Highlights: Fairness and justice were at the heart of Jesus' teaching and the Bible, as a whole. The Bible speaks of treating people decently, caring for people in need, and not being greedy. Jesus summed up the whole Bible in just a few words: Love God and treat others the way you want to be treated.</p> <p>Challenge: This week, do three random acts of kindness, without telling anyone. Why? You are not doing good deeds to make others aware of how good you are. We are called to do good for others because that's what God has done for us, and He wants us to do the same.</p> <p>Afterwards, ask yourself: What have I learned about God? What did I learn about myself?</p> <p>You may find this to be a double effect: In helping others, I am helped. In blessing others, I am blessed.</p> <p>Discuss: How can you answer this challenge? What are ways you can do random acts of kindness?</p>
<p>Living a Good Christian Life with 5 Basic Habits</p>	<p>This video is 6:19 in length.</p>

Highlights: "You reap what you sow" is talking about habits. If you can develop good habits as a follower of God, then your life will go well for you.

5 Basic Habits Every Christian Needs to Know:

- 1) Reading the Bible – you need to put God's timeless truth from His word in your mind.

2 Timothy 3:16

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.

- 2) Prayer – Prayer is communicating with God. You cannot have a good relationship with anyone without communicating. Therefore, prayer is very important.

1 Thessalonians 5:17

Never stop praying.

- 3) Connecting – aka Fellowship: Connecting with other believers who can strengthen your walk with God.

Hebrews 10:25

And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another...

4) Giving – If you are a pursuer of God you need to give to your local Church and other charities that evangelize for God.

2 Corinthians 8:7

Since you excel in so many ways—in your faith, your gifted speakers, your knowledge, your enthusiasm, and your love from us—I want you to excel also in this gracious act of giving.

5) Mentoring – Disciple making. Jesus commissioned:

Matthew 28:19-20

Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations.... Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you....

Mentoring is purposefully working with someone to help them pursue God.

Discuss: What are your thoughts about the 5 Habits? Which ones are you doing regularly currently? Reflect upon which habits you can continue to grow and develop.

5 Good Habits Activity

Students are asked to reflect upon ways to develop good habits for living a Christian Life.

Closing Prayer

Gather around your prayer space and model a prayer of thanksgiving, thanking God for your time together as a class and the wonderful you had to learn and grow closer to God. Invite students to offer up a prayer of thanksgiving as well.

Dear Third Grade Catechists and Aides:

Thank you for mentoring your students this year by sharing your time and talents! You are great stewards for Christ. May God bless you and keep you in his loving care.