

Third Grade: Lesson 3: My Friendship with Jesus

Lesson Objective:

The personal love and sacrifice of Jesus explored in lessons 1 and 2 fills the child with wonder and awe and opens the child's heart to a real friendship with Jesus. In this lesson, children are invited to make a commitment to this friendship. It is important to discuss that just as human friendships require nourishment, so does a friendship with Jesus. Children are encouraged to share their experience of Christ with each other so that they are more comfortable sharing it with others.

Learning Outcomes: Students will ...

- Have an opportunity to contemplate that Jesus' gift of salvation requires a response on the part of the believer (Mk 8:34-35).
- Be invited to make a choice to invite Jesus into their lives (Mark 8:34-37, John 10:27-28).3.
- Discuss how a disciple can stay close to Jesus through the Church, personal prayer and the virtues (Phil 4:4-9)
- Relate being connected to Jesus the True Vine to manifesting the Fruits of the Spirit.3-5.
- Tell how they have experienced Jesus in each of their lives.
- Recognize that God wants them to share the "good news" with others (Matt 28:19-20).
- Understand the importance of regular participation in the sacrament of Reconciliation (CCC 1440-1442, 1447, 1458).

Materials Needed:

- Prayer space, crayons, pencils, Bibles,
- Copies needed: Commitment Prayer, Act of Contrition, Art Response, Reconciliation Worksheet

As Students Enter Class:

- Have a piece of blank paper for each student. On the board, have the following written: What does Jesus mean to you? Draw or write your response.

Beginning of Class:

- Invite students to gather around your prayer space. Ask a student to choose a prayer for you to open class.
- Allow students some time to complete the opening activity. Invite students to share their response.

Lesson Order	Implementation
Lesson 3 Video	<p>This video is 8:02 in length.</p> <p>Highlights: Last week we learned how sin separates us from God. But God’s love and mercy is greater than sin. God’s plan for your life is way better than you can imagine. When you make good, holy choices, you will live a life of virtue. Read Mark 10:42-45 – Whoever wants to be great will need to serve others. The Son of Man (Jesus) did not come to be served. He came to serve and to give his life in order to redeem many people. Jesus is truly our Savior. He shows us how to live. When we ask Jesus to be our Savior, we choose to ask Him to be in our heart and in our life. This is called a commitment. The video displays a Commitment Prayer to pray all together. There is also a copy to hand out to each child. In Mark 8:34-27 Jesus tells us: If you want to come with me, you must forget yourself and carry your cross and follow me.</p>
Consider an engagement strategy if students are not easily participating	<p>Discussion questions: What does this mean? A cross is the burden of a sin or bad behavior that we need to change. What does it mean to follow Jesus? How can we make Jesus a regular part of our lives?</p> <p>Building a friendship with Jesus takes an effort – a commitment – of your time and actions. He wants you to share His good news with others. Let’s read Matthew 28:16-20: Jesus tells the Apostles that he has been given all authority in Heaven and Earth. He tells them to go to all people everywhere and make them my disciples. Baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. I will be with you always.</p>
Consider an engagement strategy if students	<p>Discussion: We know the disciples are no longer living on Earth. So how is it that we know about</p>

are not easily participating continued	Jesus? Encourage students to share their thoughts. Help them to understand that people have been sharing God's word, the good news, since Jesus walked this Earth over 2000 years ago.
Video on Mortal vs. Venial Sins	This video is 6:41 in length and is by Fr. Mike Schmitz. He explains this well and it is encouraged that you show this video. He explains the 3 things that make a mortal sin. When the video is done, ask your students what stuck with them? Why do they think it is important to understand the difference between mortal and venial sins?
Video: Kids Explaining Reconciliation	This video is 4:39 and is cute and engaging. Likens not going to confession is like not opening a present that is right in front of you. Reconciliation is an incredible gift. This video reminds students of the steps involved in Reconciliation. Showing this video will help students complete the Reconciliation Worksheet at the end of class.
Act of Contrition Prayer Song	This is a Christine in Action video. It is 1:50 in length and she sings the Act of Contrition. If you do not show the video, consider passing out the Act of Confession to each child and recite it together.
Reflection and Introduction into Activities	This is .38 in length. It reminds students that we did to make a commitment to invite Jesus into our lives. Consider asking students to stand or sit on the floor in a circle and read The Commitment Prayer again. Ask students how they will invite Jesus into their lives.
Inviting Jesus into My Life Worksheet	If you choose so, students can fill out this worksheet after you facilitated a discussion (see above).
Staying Close to Jesus Art Project	Read Philippians 4: 4-9. Students will draw a picture showing how they will stay close to Jesus. Emphasize the importance of purposefully making this commitment to Jesus and their Catholic Faith.
Reconciliation Worksheet	This is a true/false activity. It can be done all together or individually.
Closing Prayer	Invite students to the prayer space to pray.