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# **Unit 3: JESUS, OUR EXAMPLE**

# LESSON 7: JESUS' LOVING EXAMPLE

Why did the Son of God have to suffer for us? There was a great need, and it can be considered in a twofold way: in the first place, as a remedy for sin, and secondly, as an example of how to act.

Saint Thomas Aquinas, *Conference 6 on the Creed*

## Vocabulary

**priest:** one who offers sacrifices to God to show love for God and others

**to will:** to choose; to decide

**self-discipline:** control of one's emotions, desires, or actions by one's own will

**account:** a detailed list of what one owes

**martyr:** a witness to the truth of the faith; willing to die in order to be faithful to Christ

## Concepts of Faith

### Why did God the Son become man?

*God the Son became man to teach us who we are and to show us how we should act as images of God. He became man to return the Father's love and to help us return God's love.*

### Why do we call Jesus a priest?

*The main work of a priest is to offer sacrifice. Jesus made the perfect sacrifice when He died on the Cross for the forgiveness of sins.*

### What does Jesus as Priest show us?

*How we should act and how we should offer sacrifices to God to show love for God and others. He also shows us that we should forgive others as He forgives us.*

Jesus came to this earth to show us and to guarantee to us God's love. He came to love us and to be loved. Let yourselves be loved by Christ!

Blessed John Paul II, *You Are My Favorites*

Christ the new Adam, in the very revelation of the mystery of the Father and of his love, *fully reveals man to himself* and brings to light his most high calling.

Blessed John Paul II, *Redeemer of Man*, 8, emphasis in original

# LESSON 7: JESUS' LOVING EXAMPLE

## Jesus as Priest

Because Adam and Eve sinned, they wounded their abilities to think and to choose. They did not always act as images of God. They lost grace, and they were not able to return God's love. God promised Adam and Eve that He would send a Savior. Jesus, God the Son, is our Savior. Only Jesus could make up for Original Sin and all other sins. Only Jesus could repair our relationship with God, because only Jesus is both God and man.

Jesus came to teach us who we are and show us how we should act as images of God. He came to return the Father's love and to help us to return God's love.

A priest is one who offers sacrifices to God to show love for God and others. Jesus as Priest shows us, by His example, how we should act. He shows us how we should offer ourselves in sacrifice to show love for God and others. Jesus also shows us that we should forgive others as He forgives us.

For, through the apostolic proclamation of the Gospel, the People of God is called together and assembled so that when all who belong to this People have been sanctified by the Holy Spirit, they can offer themselves as "a sacrifice, living, holy, pleasing to God" (Romans 12:1). Through the ministry of priests the spiritual sacrifice of the faithful is made perfect in union with the sacrifice of Christ, the sole Mediator. Through the hands of priests and in the name of the whole Church, the Lord's sacrifice is offered in the Eucharist in an unbloody and sacramental manner until he himself returns.

Pope Benedict XVI, *General Audience*, June 24, 2009

(CCC 1562)

Ordained priests are men who have answered God's call and have chosen to offer their lives to God and to act as co-workers of the bishops. Ordained priests serve our





# LESSON 7: JESUS' LOVING EXAMPLE

He it was, and he alone, who satisfied the Father's eternal love, that fatherhood that from the beginning found expression in creating the world, giving man all the riches of creation, and making him "little less than God", in that he was created "in the image and after the likeness of God". He and he alone also satisfied that fatherhood of God and that love which man in a way rejected by breaking the first Covenant and the later covenants that God "again and again offered to man". The redemption of the world—this tremendous mystery of love in which creation is renewed—is, at its deepest root, the fullness of justice in a human Heart—the Heart of the Firstborn Son—in order that it may become justice in the hearts of many human beings, predestined from eternity in the Firstborn Son to be children of God and called to grace, called to love.

Blessed John Paul II, *Redeemer of Man*, 9

## Scripture Story

### Jesus' Sacrifice of Love

Based on Matthew 27:51–66; Luke 23:26–47; and John 19:1–30

Late in the evening, after the Last Supper, Jesus was arrested by soldiers and others. The soldiers made fun of Jesus. They whipped Him many times, covering His back with bleeding wounds. The soldiers made a crown out of thorns and put it on Jesus' head. Then Pontius Pilate gave the order to have Jesus crucified.

Jesus was given a Cross. He had to carry this Cross to a place called Golgotha, which is just outside the city of Jerusalem. This walk must have been very hard for Jesus. The soldiers made a man, Simon the Cyrenian, help Jesus carry the Cross to Golgotha.

When they arrived at Golgotha, the soldiers nailed Jesus to the Cross. Pilate had a sign made that said, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews". This sign was put on the Cross above Jesus' head.

Two thieves were also crucified with Jesus—one on His right, and the other on His left. One of the thieves cried out to Jesus, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us." This thief was not sorry for the crime he had committed.

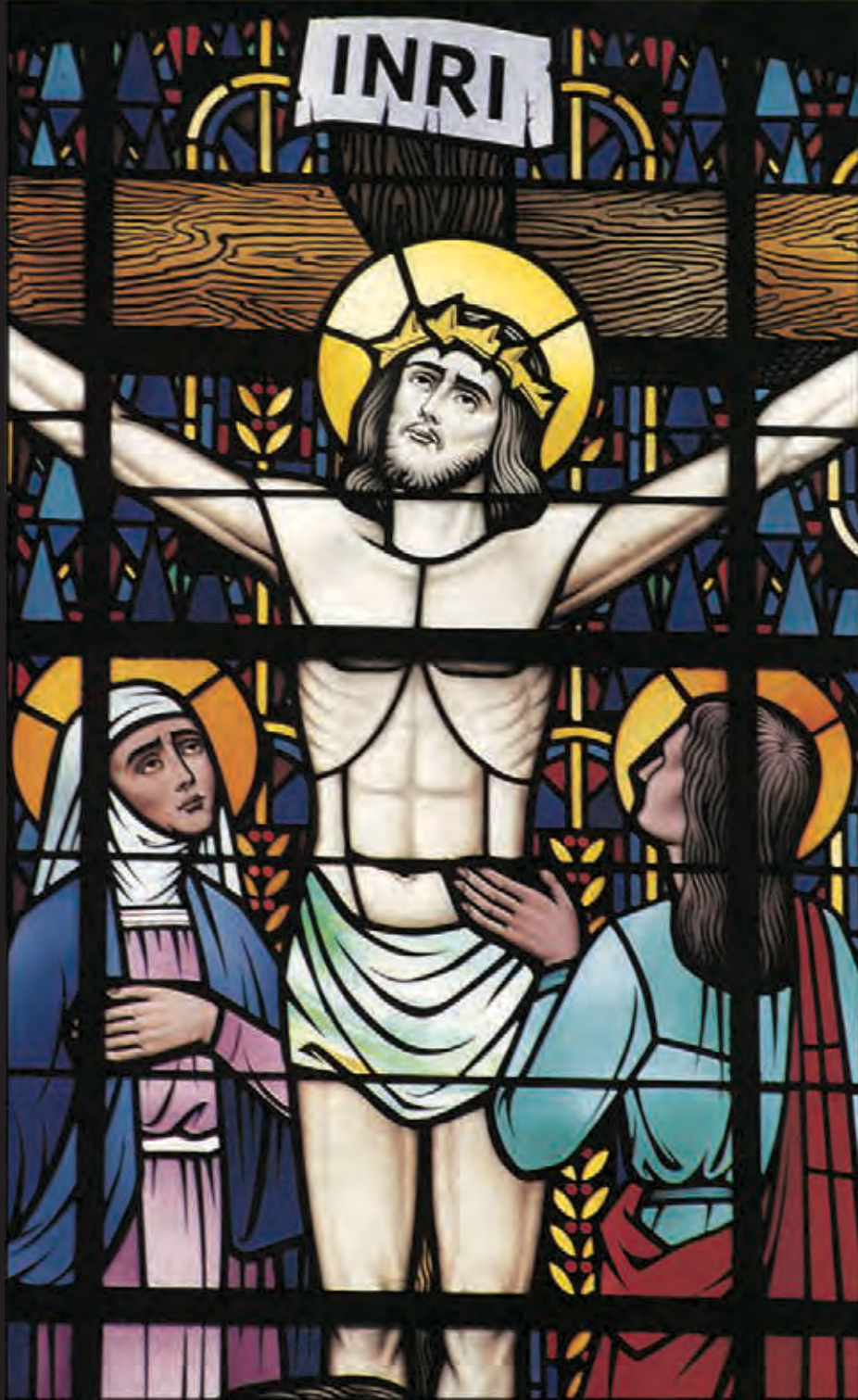
The other thief knew that what he had done was wrong. This good thief was sorry for what he had done. The good thief scolded the other thief. He reminded him that they were receiving the just punishment for their crimes, but that Jesus had done nothing wrong.

Then the good thief looked at Jesus and said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingly power." Jesus then promised the good thief that he would be with Him in Heaven.

There was a crowd of people gathered at the place of crucifixion. Some of the people were friends of Jesus, who believed in Him. Other people were not friends of Jesus. They made fun of Him, saying, "He saved others, let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, his chosen one." Jesus prayed, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."



## LESSON 7: JESUS' LOVING EXAMPLE





# LESSON 7: JESUS' LOVING EXAMPLE

Mary, Jesus' Mother, and some friends of Jesus' stood near the Cross. John, one of the Apostles, was also there. Jesus saw them standing there.

Jesus said to His Mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then Jesus spoke to John, "Behold, your mother!" From then on, John cared for Mary.

Around twelve o'clock in the afternoon, darkness came over the land. At about three o'clock, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

One of the onlookers soaked a sponge in some wine and, putting it on a stick, gave Jesus a drink. After tasting the wine, Jesus said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." After Jesus said these words, He died.

## *The Love of Jesus*

We see in Jesus' suffering and death a perfect act of love. As Priest, Jesus loves us in a merciful way. Jesus freely chose to suffer and to lay down His life according to His Father's will. Jesus willed every lash of the whip, every thorn in the crown, and every fall as He carried the Cross. Jesus offered Himself to show love for the Father and for us.

In His suffering and death, Jesus shows us that God is loving, merciful, and forgiving. Jesus loves, and He shows us how to love. When we see the love of Jesus, we know how we should love God and others.

Sometimes we make wrong choices and do not love God and others as we should. When we make wrong choices, we should seek God's merciful love and forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

In the Letter to the Hebrews it is written of Jesus:

For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sinning. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 4:15–16

This is the work of the priesthood of Christ which the Church has inherited and extended in history, in the dual form of the common priesthood of the baptized and the ordained ministers, in order to transform the world with God's love.

Pope Benedict XVI, Homily for the Solemnity of the  
Body and Blood of Our Lord [Corpus Christi],  
June 3, 2010

When he died on the Cross, Jesus loved us with a merciful love. Jesus saved us from Original Sin and from all other sins. He restored our relationship with God and drew us closer to Him. He made

## LESSON 7: JESUS' LOVING EXAMPLE

it possible that there would be harmony again between God and us, harmony within ourselves, and harmony among all of us.

Jesus as Priest loves, and He shows us how to love God and others, by offering Himself in sacrifice.

Through our Baptism we are called to share in Jesus' priestly role. We should imitate the merciful love of Jesus by loving God and by loving and forgiving others as Jesus loves and forgives us.

Almost two thousand years ago, Saint Paul wrote a Letter to a group of people called the Colossians, reminding them how they should act as images of God.

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience, forbearing one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And over all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your heart, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as you teach and admonish one another in all wisdom, and as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 3:12–17

What Saint Paul said in his Letter is just as important for us today as it was for the people in his time.

# LESSON 8: JESUS TEACHES US THE TRUTH

Man, who is the only creature on earth which God willed for itself, cannot fully find himself except through a sincere gift of himself.

Pope Paul VI, *Gaudium et Spes*, 24

## Vocabulary

**prophet:** someone who, through words and actions, gives witness to the truth about God

**prophecy:** words spoken through divine inspiration

**faith:** the power that God gives us to help us to believe in Him and all that He has revealed. We receive this power in Baptism.

## Concepts of Faith

### What is a prophet?

*A prophet is someone who, through words and actions, gives witness to the truth about God.*

### What does Jesus as Prophet teach us?

*He teaches us the truth about God, and He teaches us who we are as images of God.*

You children, always be strongly united with Christ the Truth. Be witnesses to the Truth, which is He Himself and His message, entrusted to man who is frail and strong at the same time. Beloved boys and girls! Christ is waiting for you to free you from evil, sin, and error; that is, from the real roots from which come the miseries that lower and shame man. Always be prophets and witnesses to the Truth!

Blessed John Paul II, *You Are My Favorites*

# LESSON 8: JESUS TEACHES US THE TRUTH

## The Greatest Prophet

A prophet is someone who, through words and actions, gives witness to the truth about God. In the Old Testament, there were many prophets who taught the people the truth about God. Jesus, however, is the greatest prophet because He is God Himself. He reveals the truth about Himself and His Father. He told us that He was the Truth. Out of His love for us, God the Father sent God the Son to teach us the truth about God. Throughout His life, Jesus as Prophet told us the truth about God. He told people who they were—images of God.

## Scripture Story

### Jesus the Prophet

Based on Luke 4:16–24

“**A**nd he [Jesus] came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up and he went to the synagogue, as was his custom, on the Sabbath day. And he stood up to read; and there was given him the book of the prophet Isaiah. He opened the book and found the place where it was written, ‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.’”

And he closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant, and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, ‘Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.’ And all spoke well of him, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth; and they said, ‘Is not this Joseph’s son?’ . . . And he said, ‘Truly, I say to you, no prophet is acceptable in his own country.’”

Jesus was informing the people that He was the one to fulfill this prophecy of Isaiah. Many years before Jesus was born, the prophet Isaiah spoke these words about the coming of the Savior. God inspired him to speak these words. He said these words about what the Savior would be like so the people could look forward to his coming and recognize him when he came. Jesus is saying that He was the one about whom Isaiah was writing.

Jesus came to reveal the truth about God to us. He tells us that God always speaks the truth. He told us that he is the truth. Jesus reveals that God is loving and gentle. Jesus teaches us who God is and who we are: images of God.

Christ the new Adam, in the very revelation of the mystery of the Father and of his love, *fully reveals man to himself* and brings to light his most high calling.

Blessed John Paul II, *Redeemer of Man*, 8

# LESSON 8: JESUS TEACHES US THE TRUTH

## Scripture Story

### The Temptation of Jesus

Based on Matthew 4:1–11

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And He fasted forty days and forty nights, to prepare Himself before beginning His work. Jesus also prayed to God the Father and thought about the work He was to begin.

After fasting, Jesus was hungry. And the tempter (the devil) came and said to Him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” But Jesus answered, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’” Jesus told the devil the truth: that in order to live, people needed more than food. Living means more than eating. It means acting as an image of God and doing the Father’s will. Christ always acted as an image of God, so He did not do what the devil asked.

Then the devil took Jesus to the holy city, Jerusalem, and set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, ‘He will give his angels charge of you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.’” Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not tempt the Lord your God.’” The devil wanted Jesus to test His Father’s truthfulness. Jesus told the devil that we should not test God the Father. God always loves and cares for us and tells us the truth.

Again, the devil took Jesus to a very high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them; and he said to Jesus, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God and Him only shall you serve.’” Jesus told the devil the truth, that is, we should worship only God. The devil is not God. Only God deserves our worship.

Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.



## LESSON 8: JESUS TEACHES US THE TRUTH

The devil tempted Jesus the way he tempted Adam and Eve. Adam and Eve made the wrong choice. They listened to the devil and believed his lies. They didn't trust God the Father. Jesus made the right choice and did not listen to the devil's lies. He trusted God the Father and knew that the Father always tells the truth.

He knew that the devil was the father of lies. He knew that He and the Father were one, and that He would always do the will of the Father, even if that meant dying on the Cross to save us from our sins. This was not easy. When Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane on the night before He died, He asked the Father that his suffering be taken away, but then He said, "Not my will, but yours, be done" (Luke 22:42).

Sometimes we are tempted to make wrong choices, too. We should not listen to these temptations. They are lies. We should always trust God the Father. We know from what Jesus taught us that God the Father always loves and cares for us and tells us the truth. And we should remember that God, through Jesus Christ, gives us the grace we need so that we will be able to resist temptations.

Jesus came to tell us the truth about God. The devil tempted Jesus with lies about God, just as he had tempted Adam and Eve with lies about God. The devil tempted Adam and Eve by telling them that they should not trust God. God told Adam and Eve that if they ate fruit of the tree of good and evil, they could not live with Him in Heaven. But the devil told Adam and Eve that if they ate fruit of the tree of good and evil, they would become like gods. As gods, they would be able to say what was good or evil. They would no longer have to listen to God to learn what was good or evil. Adam and Eve chose not to listen to God, but to accept the devil's lie. They sinned. When Jesus was tempted in the desert, He refused to accept the devil's lies. Instead, Jesus, as a prophet, reveals the truth about God. The truth is that God can be trusted, and that we should listen to Him and act as images of Him.



# LESSON 8: JESUS TEACHES US THE TRUTH

## Discussion Questions

**1. How did Jesus prepare to begin His work?**

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**2. Who tempted Jesus?**

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*List the three ways Jesus was tempted.*

1. 

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2. 

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3. 

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*List three truths that Jesus taught us when He refused to accept the devil's lies.*

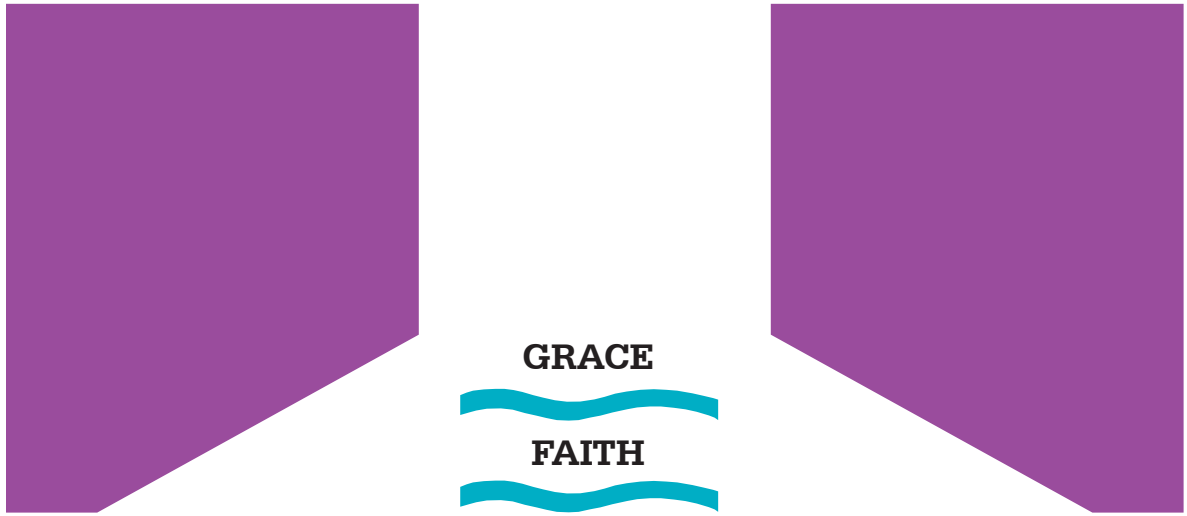
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# LESSON 8: JESUS TEACHES US THE TRUTH



## The Grace of Baptism

Through Baptism, we share in the prophetic office of Christ. As prophets, we should give witness to the truth about God. But we need to know the truth before we can give witness to it. The truth is found in the Sacred Scriptures and the teachings of the Church. We receive the power to believe the truth in Baptism. This power to believe is called faith, and faith comes to us, along with grace, in Baptism.

Once we know the truth, we should act as prophets by giving witness to the truth. Through our words and actions, we should share the truth that we believe. Like Jesus, we should give witness to the truth, even when it is difficult to do so. Through our words and actions, we should help others to understand that God is trustworthy, that He is a loving, caring Father, and that people should act as images of God.

*Directions: Think of stories in which Jesus taught us that God is a loving, caring, and trusting Father. List at least seven stories.*

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_

# LESSON 8: JESUS TEACHES US THE TRUTH

## Story of Faith

*Read the following story. In this story, does someone act as a prophet? Does this person teach the truth to other people?*

### A Witness to the Truth

Joey, Tom, and Jeff went to play basketball at the gym on Saturday. When they arrived at the gym, the rest of the team was standing outside. “Why aren’t you practicing on the court?” asked Tom. “Because there are some eighth-graders playing, and they won’t let us in the gym”, explained Cory. “But we signed up for this time. They can’t take it from us. It wouldn’t be fair”, Joey said angrily. “You try to explain that to them. They’re bigger than us, and there are more of them. They’re acting like bullies!” said Sean.

Joey, Tom, and Jeff walked into the gym. Jeff approached the older boys. “Excuse me, but I think there’s been a mistake. This is our hour to use the gym. Why don’t you check the schedule? You’ll see that we have signed up for this time.” The older boys laughed. One of them said, “We don’t pay any attention to the schedule. We are more important than other kids, and we use the gym whenever we want to. Now get out of here, you’re keeping us from our fun!”

Joey said, “No, it’s you that’s keeping us from our fun, so you leave.” At that, the older boys picked up the three younger boys (Joey, Jeff, and Tom) and carried them outside. Then they blocked the door so the boys could not get back into the gym. The boys did not know what to do. They knew that the older boys were wrong, but what could they do about it? They decided to go to Tom’s house to play video games and have some fun there. As they walked, they decided to take a shortcut across Mr. Peters’ garden. In the garden were some pumpkin vines with flowers, some carrots starting to sprout, and large corn stalks with tiny ears of corn starting to grow. Joey started to pull up some of the carrots. Tom plucked some flowers off the pumpkin vines. Soon everyone was pulling at the plants, except Jeff.

Jeff tried to get them to stop. “Hey, guys. Mr. Peters has worked hard in this garden. He always raises the largest pumpkins in the city. Leave things alone.”

No one would listen to Jeff. “Jeff, knock it off and have some fun. Who cares about Mr. Peters? He’s not our friend!” said Sean. “Besides, what is he going to do? There are more of us, and we’re a lot stronger than one old man!”

Jeff looked at his friends for a moment. “Then I’m going home. You guys sound just like the eighth-graders at the gym”, exploded Jeff. “There were more of them, and they were bigger than us, so they could be mean and rude, and we couldn’t stop them! So they thought it was okay to bully us. Now you guys are doing the same thing! Well, it is wrong. It’s wrong for the older boys to pick on us, and it’s wrong for us to pick on Mr. Peters.” Jeff left his friends and went home.

The other boys stopped what they were doing. It was hard for them to admit it, but they knew Jeff was right. “What should we do?” asked Joey. “Let’s go buy some seeds and replant Mr. Peters’ garden”, suggested Tom. “We’d better apologize to Mr. Peters, too”, said Cory.

Later, the boys went to Jeff’s house. Joey said, “Jeff, we’re sorry we called you names. You were the one who was right. We just didn’t care about Mr. Peters, and we should have. It took guts for you to stand up to all your friends.”

# LESSON 8: JESUS TEACHES US THE TRUTH

Jeff was glad to see his friends, and they went outside and played football.

Jeff acted as a prophet and witnessed to the truths that Jesus taught. Jesus taught us to love others, which involves respecting their efforts and their property. Put yourself in Jeff's place. It was probably hard for him to witness to the truth, to stand up to his friends, and to walk away from them. But he did it, because he knew it was the right choice. Jeff acted as an image of God should.

## Discussion Questions

**1. Did Jeff lose his friends?**

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**2. Did Jeff teach his friends anything?**

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# LESSON 9: JESUS, THE KING, RULES WITH LOVE

## Vocabulary

**king:** one who governs or rules

**Kingdom:** the reign or rule of God. Jesus established the Kingdom of God here on earth. The Kingdom of God will be perfect in Heaven.

**self-discipline:** control of one's emotions, desires, or actions by one's own will

**deacons:** men who have received Holy Orders for the diaconate, who practice self-discipline, who serve the Church, and who use the things of the world for the benefit of others

**ordained:** made a deacon, priest, or bishop by receiving the Sacrament of Holy Orders

**temperance:** the power or virtue of self-discipline and self-control

**fortitude:** the power or virtue that helps to have courage to do what is right, even though it is difficult

**cardinal virtues:** powers or virtues that help us to think, choose, and act as images of God

## Concepts of Faith

**Of what is Jesus the King?**

*Jesus is King of Heaven and earth. He tells us that the Kingdom of God began here on earth and will be perfected in Heaven. Wherever Jesus is known and loved, the Kingdom is there.*

**What does Jesus as King show us?**

*He shows us God's love in and through His human body. He shows us self-discipline, sacrifice, and how we should use the things of creation for the benefit of all people.*

**What Sacrament first calls us to act as priests, prophets, and kings?**

*Baptism.*

The message of love that Christ brought is always important, always up-to-date. It is not difficult to see how today's world is thirsting for more truth, for more love, for more joy. And all of this is found in Christ and in His way of life. In whatever you do, remember that Christ is calling you, in one way or another, to the service of love: the love of God and of your neighbor.

Blessed John Paul II, *You Are My Favorites*

# LESSON 9: JESUS, THE KING, RULES WITH LOVE

## *What Is a King?*

A king is one who governs or rules. A good king is just, fair, kind, self-controlled, unselfish, and concerned about the people he rules.

A king who was selfish would not be kind to or concerned about the people he ruled. He would not care if the people had food and shelter or if they were poor or sick.

A king who did not control his emotions would not be just or fair. His feelings would affect his actions. For example, if he made an important decision or ruling when he was angry, the decision or ruling might not be a good one and might hurt the country and the people he ruled.

***Directions:** Think of a king or leader who did not rule a country well. Did some of the decisions made by the king or leader hurt the country and the people in the country? In the space below, write about a king or leader who did not rule well.*

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A good king governs himself first, by controlling his emotions, desires, and actions. A good king respects, cares for, and is concerned about the people he rules. He uses the things of the earth to provide for the needs of his people.

***Directions:** Think of a king or leader who ruled a country well. Did the decisions made by the king or leader help and show concern for the country and the people in the country? In the space below, write about a king or leader who ruled well.*

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# LESSON 9: JESUS, THE KING, RULES WITH LOVE

## Jesus as King

But, what is the “truth” which Christ came into the world to witness? His whole existence reveals that God is love. This is, therefore, the truth of which he gave full testimony with the sacrifice of his own life on Calvary. The cross is the “throne” from which he manifested the sublime royalty of God-Love. By giving himself in expiation of the sin of the world, he defeated the power of the “prince of this world” (John 18:31) and established definitively the Kingdom of God. A Kingdom that is manifested in fullness at the end of time, after all his enemies and finally death, are subjected to him (cf. 1 Corinthians 15:25–26).

Pope Benedict XVI, World Youth Day 2008

Jesus as King shows us God’s truth and love in and through His human body. As King, Jesus governs Himself with self-discipline (self-control). He controls His emotions, desires, and actions by His own will.

We see how Jesus controlled His emotions when He was standing before the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate. Jesus must have experienced fear as He was questioned by Pilate. Yet, when Pilate asked Jesus if He was a king, Jesus’ kingly self-control made it possible for Him to overcome fear and speak the truth.

We see Jesus’ kingly self-control in His suffering and death on the Cross. Knowing how He would suffer and die, Jesus felt fearful and anxious in the Garden of Gethsemane. With His kingly self-control, Jesus was able to overcome His feelings of fear and anxiety. He was able to choose the pain and suffering of His Passion and death. He did the will of His Father.

With His kingly self-control, Jesus was able to do things that must have been very difficult for Him.

*Directions: Write about a time when you did what was right, even though it was difficult.*

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# LESSON 9: JESUS, THE KING, RULES WITH LOVE



# LESSON 9: JESUS, THE KING, RULES WITH LOVE

## Jesus Rules over Creation

After Adam and Eve sinned, they found it difficult to rule over creation. They had to leave the Garden of Eden, and they had to work hard for their food and clothing. They needed to be shown how to rule over creation and to use the things of the earth for the good of others.

Jesus as King rules over all creation, and He uses the things of the earth for the good of all people. Jesus has divine authority over the things of the earth. He uses the things of the earth for the benefit of all people. We see Jesus' kingly rule over the things of the earth through the miracle in which He multiplied the fish and the loaves of bread to feed the thousands of people who came one day to listen to Him speak. He used the loaves and fish to benefit all the people by feeding them (Mark 6:30–44). We also see Jesus' rule over creation through the miracle in which Jesus calmed a storm.

## Scripture Story



### Jesus Calms the Storm

Based on Mark 4:35–41

One day, when evening had come, He [Jesus] said to them [the disciples], “Let us go across to the other side.” And leaving the crowd, they took Him with them, just as He was, in the boat. And other boats were with Him. And a great storm of wind arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. But He was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke Him and said to Him, “Teacher, do you not care if we perish?” And He awoke and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. He said to them, “Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?” And they were filled with awe, and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and sea obey him?”

Jesus calmed the storm to show that He is God and to show His authority over creation. However, He also calmed the storm to relieve the fears of His disciples. In other words, Jesus, through His kingly office, showed us that God governs all things for the sake of His people.

Jesus also showed His divine authority over the things of the earth when He chose ordinary things—water, bread, and wine—to be the means of God's grace in the Sacraments. The Sacraments are great gifts given to us by Christ. When the Sacraments are celebrated, they show us that Christ the King governs all things for our sake.

In Baptism, as the proper words are said and the water is poured on the person being baptized, that person is cleansed of Original Sin and receives God's grace. If the person is older, the person is also cleansed of all personal sin. Jesus uses water to wash away our sins.

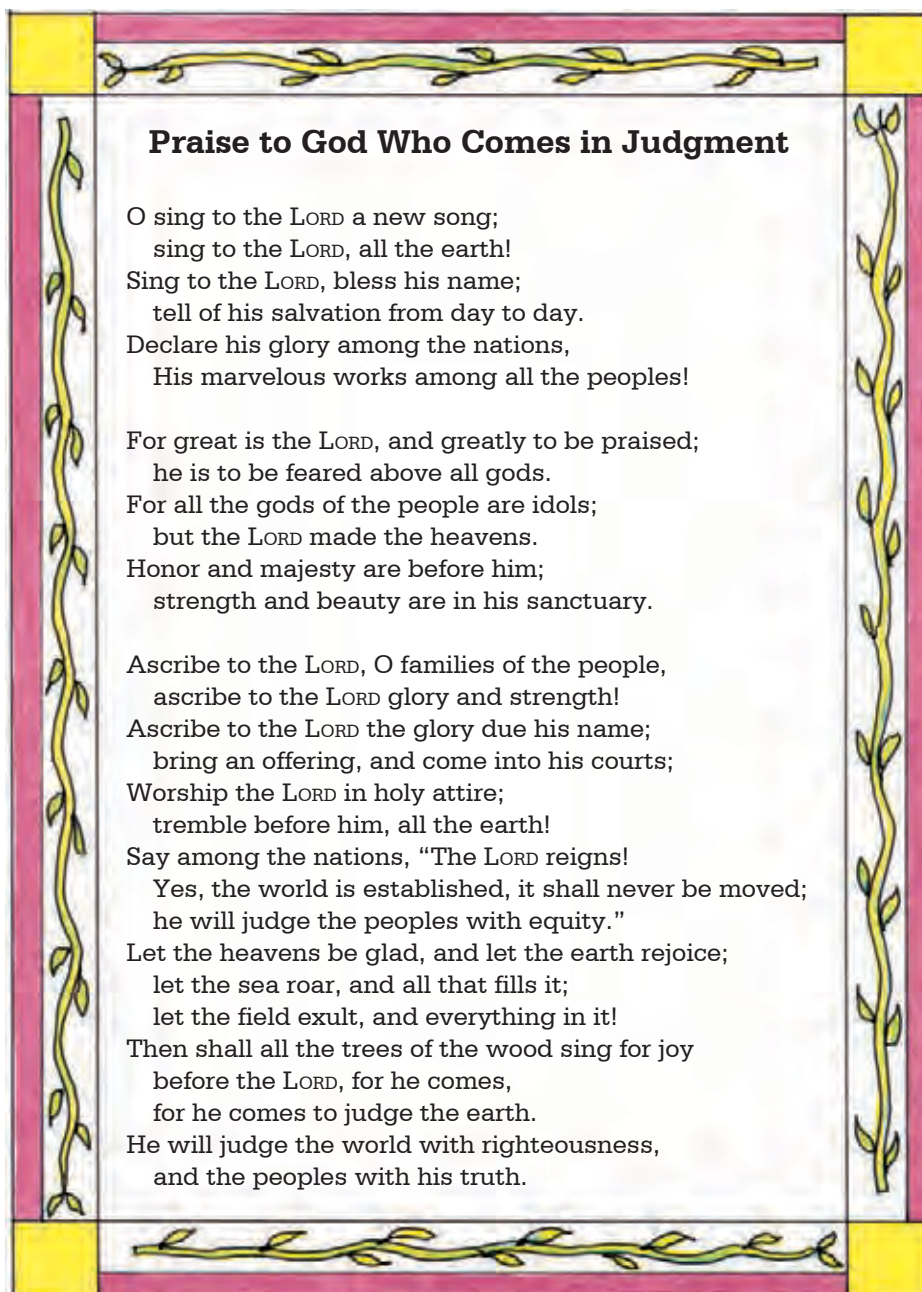


# LESSON 9: JESUS, THE KING, RULES WITH LOVE

At the Last Supper, Jesus changed bread into His Body and wine into His Blood. Today, ordained priests act for Jesus, and at the Consecration of the Mass they say the words of Jesus over the bread and wine. Through the power of God, the bread becomes the Body of Jesus and the wine becomes the Blood of Jesus. When we receive the Body and Blood of Jesus in Holy Communion, we receive God's grace.

All the Sacraments show us that Christ the King governs all things and that He uses material things to benefit us and bring us His grace.

Psalm 96 praises the Lord, the King of the Universe:



# LESSON 9: JESUS, THE KING, RULES WITH LOVE

## We Imitate Jesus

Jesus shows us God’s love and truth in and through His human body—in and through His actions. As King, Jesus uses self-control and governs Himself, and He governs creation. Jesus uses the things of the earth for our benefit. When we imitate Jesus by doing these things, we show love and truth in and through our human bodies—in and through our actions.

When we are baptized, we are made to act like kings and are called to imitate Jesus in His kingly role. We should imitate Jesus by practicing self-control over our emotions, desires, and feelings.

We are also called to rule over creation and to use material goods for the benefit of others. We receive the powers to act as kings in Baptism. The powers or virtues of fortitude and temperance give us the ability to practice self-control, to rule over creation, and to use material things for the good of other people. Fortitude is the power or virtue that helps us to have courage to do what is right, even though it is difficult. Temperance is the power or virtue of self-discipline and self-control. Fortitude and temperance are cardinal virtues that come to us along with the grace of Baptism. The cardinal virtues help us know to think, choose, and act as images of God.

## Scripture Story

*A man named Stephen was a disciple of Jesus. In the following story we see how Stephen imitated Jesus as a priest, prophet, and king.*

### Saint Stephen

Based on Acts 6–7

**A**fter Jesus ascended into Heaven, the Apostles went out and taught the people about Him. Many of the people believed in Jesus and became Christians. The number of Christians grew every day. The Kingdom of Jesus was growing larger. Some of the people who became Christians were Jews who spoke Hebrew or Aramaic. Many others were Jews who spoke only Greek.

It was the custom of the early Christians to share everything in common. All the food, clothing, land, and cattle belonged to the whole Christian community. Everything was shared among all the people.

One day, some men from the group of Jews who spoke only Greek went to speak with the Apostles. They murmured against the Hebrews because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution of food and other items.

And the Twelve Apostles summoned the body of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brethren, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this duty.”

The Apostles prayed and laid their hands on the seven men. They asked God to bless the men and give them the power to perform the tasks for which they had been chosen.

## LESSON 9: JESUS, THE KING, RULES WITH LOVE



One of the seven men appointed was named Stephen. Stephen was a Jew who spoke Greek. Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people.

One day, when Stephen was teaching about Jesus, some people who did not believe in Jesus argued with Stephen. Then they decided to accuse Stephen of speaking in the name of Jesus and speaking against God and the law of Moses. They brought Stephen before the Sanhedrin, a group of Jewish leaders who did not believe in Jesus. Stephen spoke to the Sanhedrin, telling them about the history of the Jewish people, beginning with the time of Abraham. He spoke about Moses and how he was rejected by the people. He also spoke about the prophets who told about the coming of Christ and how they were put to death.

Then Stephen said to them, “You stiff-necked people, . . . you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you.” Then Stephen reminded the Jewish leaders that they had had Jesus, God the Son, put to death.

Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth against him. But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into Heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God; and he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”

But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together upon him. Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And as they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” And he knelt down and cried in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

We see Stephen acting as priest, prophet, and king. We see Stephen as priest in his love and care for people, as he forgives the people as they stone him, and as he offers his life for love of God. We see Stephen as prophet as he teaches the people the truth about Jesus, and especially as he speaks before the Sanhedrin. We see Stephen as king as he uses things for the benefit of the Christian community, in the self-discipline he exercises as he speaks before the Sanhedrin, and in his faith as he is stoned.



# LESSON 10: WE HELP EACH OTHER

The works of mercy are charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbor in his spiritual and bodily necessities.

*Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2447*

## Vocabulary

**righteous:** in union with God's will

**admonish:** to caution someone against making a wrong choice

**counsel:** advice or suggestions

**bear:** to accept; to endure

**corporal:** having to do with the body

**instruct:** teach

**Purgatory:** after death, a temporary separation from the heavenly vision of God, during which a person's love of God is purified and made strong enough for Heaven

## Concepts of Faith

### What is a Corporal Work of Mercy?

*A Corporal Work of Mercy is an act of love we do that helps others with their physical needs.*

### What are the seven Corporal Works of Mercy?

1. *To feed the hungry.*
2. *To give drink to the thirsty.*
3. *To clothe the naked.*
4. *To visit those who are in prison.*
5. *To shelter the homeless.*
6. *To visit the sick.*
7. *To bury the dead.*

### What is a Spiritual Work of Mercy?

*A Spiritual Work of Mercy is an act of love we show to others to help them in their spiritual needs.*

### What are the seven Spiritual Works of Mercy?

1. *To admonish the sinner.*
2. *To instruct the ignorant.*
3. *To counsel the doubtful.*
4. *To comfort the sorrowful.*
5. *To bear wrongs patiently.*
6. *To forgive all injuries.*
7. *To pray for the living and the dead.*

# LESSON 10: WE HELP EACH OTHER

Dear young people, we have seen that it is the Holy Spirit who brings about the wonderful communion of believers in Jesus Christ. True to His nature as giver and gift alike, He is even now working through you ... [Let] unifying love be your measure, abiding love your challenge, self-giving love your mission!

Pope Benedict XVI, World Youth Day 2008

Love Jesus especially in those who are suffering in any way: physically, morally, spiritually. Let it be your duty and program to love your neighbor, discovering Christ's face in him.

Blessed John Paul II

## Jesus Tells Us How to Treat Others

When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations ... Then the King will say to those on his right hand, "Come, O blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you? And the King will answer them, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me."

Matthew 25:31–41

# LESSON 10: WE HELP EACH OTHER

## The Corporal Works of Mercy

The Corporal Works of Mercy are acts of love that help others with their physical needs. When we do these acts, we act the way Jesus did.

1. Feed the hungry
2. Give drink to the thirsty
3. Clothe the naked
4. Shelter the homeless
5. Visit the sick
6. Visit the imprisoned
7. Bury the dead



### How can we feed the hungry?

We learn about the people who are hungry in our city, our country, or the world on the radio or television, or the internet. We know that these people need help, and we wonder what we can do for them.

We can help by praying for them. We can also help at the local food distribution center by sorting food and getting it ready to hand out. Sometimes our parish collects money for missions, and we can donate some of our own money. We know there are poor people in our own city. We can participate in a food drive for them. We could sacrifice some of the money that we usually spend on junk food or treats and give that money to the poor. We can even do something as simple as helping to feed our baby brother or sister when one of our parents asks us to.

### How can we give drink to the thirsty?

We should always be kind to people who are in need. As images of God, we should help people as Jesus helped them when He was on earth. One way we can help is by giving part of what we have to drink to a classmate who forgot to bring something to drink. We could help a young child who is too short to reach the water fountain get a drink of water. We could bring Mom or Dad a cool drink when either of them is hot and tired from working hard.

We can help conserve water by not wasting it. We should be careful not to pollute our water supplies. This will ensure that there will be enough water for everyone in the future. Many people around the world do not have clean drinking water and catch diseases from drinking dirty water. We could sacrifice some of the money we use to buy soda or other drinks that we like and give that money to groups that are trying to supply clean water to those countries.

# LESSON 10: WE HELP EACH OTHER

## **How can we clothe the naked?**

We often hear of the homeless people, who only have the clothes they are wearing. Some of these people may be little children. We can help these people and others who don't have enough money to buy clothes by giving them the clothes that are too small for us. These clothes may be in good condition, and someone else can use them. We can also sacrifice by not insisting that we have clothes or shoes just because we want them and not because we need them. We can donate that money that we would have spent on these items to organizations that buy clothing to give to the poor. We could also sacrifice some of the money that we spend on treats to donate to organizations that buy diapers for poor women with babies. We can ask our parents or teachers where our good, used clothes can be sent. When we help others, we are acting as Jesus acted. We are acting as images of God.

Jesus once told people, "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?" (Matthew 6:25). Jesus is telling us not to worry about fancy clothes. We should not be so worried about having the latest fashions. Instead, we should help those who are less fortunate. We should be happy with the things we have.

## **How can we visit those who are in prison?**

Many people who follow Jesus' example visit those people who are in jail. For example, many Christians came to visit Saint Paul when he was in prison in Rome. As followers of Jesus, we should want to do the same. There are many people in prison today. We can help by praying for them. Some people we know might not be in a prison with criminals, but they might feel as if they are prisoners in their own homes. Sometimes elderly people are not able to leave their houses. They can no longer drive, and they might not be able to take the public transportation. They might feel isolated because they no longer have many family members or friends around to help them. Sometimes people who are blind or use a wheelchair can't get out of their houses either. How can we help these people? These people can get lonely, and having someone to talk to will make them feel better. We can give them a call, write a letter, send an e-mail, or visit them. Often these people would like to go to Mass and can't get there. Maybe we could ask our parents or guardians to take them to Mass when we go on Sunday.

## **How can we shelter the homeless?**

There are many people who do not have homes. We should be kind to people no matter where they live. We can pray for these people, that they may find a warm place for the night. If there is a shelter for the homeless in your area, you can donate a blanket or other items for these people. We can also help in other ways: by helping our parents with cleaning the house and keeping our rooms clean, or by helping our neighbors around the yard. We should make sure that we do not make fun of people who do not have homes as nice as ours are. We should never envy anyone who has a house that is nicer than ours. Rather, we should be grateful to God that we have a place to live. As images of God, we try to help others as Jesus did.

# LESSON 10: WE HELP EACH OTHER

## How can we visit the sick?

And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every infirmity.

Matthew 9:35

Remember how Jesus always helped the sick? He talked to the lepers when everyone else avoided them. Even more importantly, Jesus cured many sick and disabled people. We can't perform miracles, but we can help the sick, too. It is not always easy to visit the sick or to be around sick people. Sometimes we are frightened if someone is very sick, or maybe they are not in a good mood because they don't feel well. If we want to act as Jesus did, we will help those who are sick.

Maybe we get upset when our parents don't feel well and can't pay as much attention to us as we think they should. Instead of being hurt, we can be helpful or play quietly to give them a chance to rest.

Sometimes, too, you might have a classmate who has a sickness that doesn't allow him or her to run or play the same way you can. You can spend time doing things that they can also do, so they don't feel left out.

When people get older, their health often suffers, and they may not be able to get out and see people. We can help by visiting these people and bringing them food or items they are not able to get. There are errands we can do for them, or we can just talk with them. Sometimes people in nursing homes have no one to visit them. We can send them cards or visit them as a class and put on a program for them. Perhaps you can go with a family member to visit a sick relative or friend.



## What does it mean to bury the dead?

Jesus was very sad when His friend Lazarus died, and He tried to console Lazarus' sisters, Martha and Mary. We should try to do the same when someone we know has lost a loved one. We should try to do what we can for them. We should pray for persons who have died, and for their families. We can attend the funeral and send a card expressing our sorrow. We can put flowers on the grave of a relative or friend. When we do these things, we are acting as images of God.

# LESSON 10: WE HELP EACH OTHER

## The Spiritual Works of Mercy

The Corporal Works of Mercy help people in their physical needs. The Spiritual Works of Mercy help people in their spiritual needs. Jesus tried to meet not only the physical needs of people but their spiritual needs also. As images of God, we can do the same. These are the Spiritual Works of Mercy:

1. To admonish the sinner.
2. To instruct the ignorant.
3. To counsel the doubtful.
4. To comfort the sorrowful.
5. To bear wrongs patiently.
6. To forgive all injuries.
7. To pray for the living and the dead.

### What does it mean to admonish the sinner?

Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.

Luke 15:10

Jesus came into the world to be our Savior and Redeemer. God the Father loved us so much that He gave His only Son to redeem us by dying on the Cross. When Jesus was on earth, He helped sinners by teaching them the truth and showing them how to act as images of God. Jesus told them what the right choices were, and He asked them not to sin.

Do you remember the story of the woman who had made a wrong choice, sinned, and how people were going to stone her? The people left after Jesus confronted them. When Jesus spoke to the woman, He did not get angry with her. Rather, Jesus told her that He did not condemn her, and He asked her not to sin again.

As images of God, we should imitate Jesus by teaching and showing others through our words and actions how to make right choices. We can admonish the sinner when we caution someone against sinning or making a wrong choice. If friends tell us about wrong choices they are thinking of making, we can tell them these choices are wrong ones. We should never tell people who are making wrong choices that they are bad persons. We can pray for them, and we can show them, by our example, how to make right choices. We can ask our friends to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation with us. It is an act of love to help others know what the right and wrong choices are. We can help each other make right choices by trying to be the best images of God we can be.

### How can we instruct the ignorant?

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 5:16



# LESSON 10: WE HELP EACH OTHER

Jesus taught people about God by speaking to them about God, by telling the people parables, and by showing us His loving example.

When we instruct the ignorant, we are teaching others the truth about God. It is an act of love to help others learn the truths about God so that they can follow Him. We can do this by sharing our knowledge and love of God with others. We can help our friends with their religion homework. We can read Bible stories to our younger brothers and sisters and help them say their prayers. We can tell others what we believe about God. We can also be good examples to others by going to Mass on Sundays and holy days, and by participating in Mass, singing and saying the responses. We can be good listeners in religion class, and do our religion homework.

## How can we counsel the doubtful?

And he [Jesus] said to him, “Why do you ask me about what is good? One there is who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments.”

Matthew 19:17

One time a man came up to Jesus and asked Him what he must do to have everlasting life. Jesus told him to follow the Ten Commandments, to sell all he had, and to follow Jesus. This man was not sure of all that he had to do to reach Heaven. Jesus answered his questions and helped him to know how he could love and serve God. This was an act of love.

To counsel the doubtful is to give advice or suggestions on how to act, especially when someone is unsure about what to do. As images of God, we should imitate Jesus’ act of love by helping others who are wondering how they can love and serve God better. We can do this by helping them understand the Ten Commandments and our Catholic beliefs and traditions better. Throughout our own lives, we should continue to learn more about our Catholic faith so we can help others be more certain about the Catholic faith.

## How can we comfort the sorrowful?

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Matthew 11:28

When Jesus was on earth, He helped and comforted people. For example, Jesus comforted Martha and Mary when their brother Lazarus died, and He shared their sorrow.



# LESSON 10: WE HELP EACH OTHER

As images of God, we should imitate Jesus' act of love by giving comfort to others. We can try to cheer up a friend who is sad. We can listen in a careful and kind way when others share their troubles with us. Sometimes, when someone is very sad, we can help just by being with that person.

Jesus Himself experienced great sorrow. We remember how very, very sad Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane. He knew that soon He would be crucified. Jesus said to three of His Apostles, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death" (Matthew 26:38). Jesus experienced sorrow, so He knows how we feel when we are sad.

Sometimes there are things in our lives that make us sad. We can bring our sorrow to Jesus in prayer, and He will comfort us. This doesn't mean that Jesus will take away our sorrow, but He will be with us in our sorrow.

## What does it mean to bear wrongs patiently?

But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.

Matthew 5:44

Jesus teaches us to love our enemies. Although Jesus had done nothing wrong, He was patient with those who arrested Him and took Him away. Jesus knew that people had told lies about Him. He suffered and was crucified, but He didn't say a word. Jesus bore all these things for our sake. Jesus shows us how to be patient when others hurt us and even shows us that we should pray for those who hurt us.

We should imitate Jesus' acts of love by bearing, or accepting, wrongs patiently. For example, imagine that someone draws on your desk at school and you are blamed for it. You respectfully try to defend yourself, but the teacher does not believe you. You have no way to prove that you didn't draw on your desk. You end up having to stay after school to clean the drawing off your desk. If you accept this discipline quietly, without arguing, you are bearing a wrong patiently. You are suffering the consequences that the person who drew on your desk should suffer. This is an act of love because you are imitating Jesus, who accepted suffering and death for our sake.

## What does it mean to forgive all injuries?

For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Matthew 6:14–15

Jesus forgave people's sins while He was on earth. He forgave the good thief and many others. Jesus even forgave the people who crucified Him when, as He was dying on the Cross, He prayed, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34). Jesus shows us how to forgive others by the way He forgives others and us. We especially experience the forgiveness of Jesus in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

# LESSON 10: WE HELP EACH OTHER

As images of God, we should forgive others as Jesus forgives us, even when they hurt us badly. Sometimes forgiving can be very hard to do. We should ask Jesus to help us follow His example and be forgiving. It is a great act of love to forgive a person who has hurt us.

## What does it mean to pray for the living and the dead?

Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For every one who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

Matthew 7:7–8

Jesus prayed to God the Father, and He taught us to do the same by teaching us the prayer the Our Father. At the Last Supper Jesus prayed for His Apostles and for all who believed and would believe in Him. He prayed that all may live with Him someday in Heaven.

One special way we can pray for the dead is to have a Mass celebrated for them. You can ask your pastor how to have that done. We can also light candles in Church, and pray for the dead in a special way.

As images of God, we should pray for our families and friends that they may reach Heaven someday. We should pray for the ill, the troubled, the unemployed, and all people. We should pray for those who have died, that they may be with God in Heaven. We should especially pray for those who are in Purgatory. They cannot pray for themselves, so our prayers can help them reach Heaven sooner. It is a loving act to pray for the living and the dead.

## Story of Faith

*We should imitate the loving acts of Jesus by practicing the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. One man who imitated Jesus' loving acts was Saint Vincent de Paul. As you read the story of Saint Vincent, see if you can pick out some of the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy that he practiced.*

### *Saint Vincent de Paul*

**S**AINTE Vincent was born on April 24, 1581, in the village of Pouy, France. He and his family were French peasants who made their living by farming.

Vincent had a natural gift for organizing things. Recognizing this gift, Vincent's cousin, Father Stephen de Paul, suggested that Vincent become a priest. Vincent, who was fourteen years old, agreed eagerly, because he didn't want to spend his life taking care of sheep and pigs. The priesthood offered him the chance to reach a higher station in life than he would have as a peasant. Vincent went to the

## LESSON 10: WE HELP EACH OTHER

city of Dax, France, with his uncle and began his studies. At first he studied very hard just to please his family, but he continued his studies to please God.

Vincent's family made many sacrifices so that he could continue his education. Vincent's father even sold the family's precious oxen, which were of great importance on the farm. He used the money from the sale to pay for Vincent's education at the University of Toulouse, which is in southern France. There, Vincent studied theology and philosophy. When he saw his father sell the family's oxen, he remembered a time when he was in school at Dax. His father had come to see him at the school. But Vincent had hidden from his father because he was ashamed of how his father looked. Vincent's small, thin father had come dressed in knee breeches and rough woolen socks. His shoes were worn out, and he limped as he hobbled along with his walking stick. Unable to find Vincent, his father had shuffled away, sad and disappointed. He never returned to the school again.

Vincent felt very ashamed of himself when he saw his father selling the precious oxen to help him. When his father gave him the money, Vincent didn't want to take it. But his father knew what had happened that day at the school in Dax. He gently told his son that although he was no saint, he was a good person and he would make a good priest. The next day, Vincent left for school dressed in the new clothes his mother had made him. He had a pouch with an extra shirt and some food, and he had the money from the sale of the oxen. His parents hugged and kissed him, and Vincent began his journey to Toulouse.

In Toulouse, Vincent found a rather poor, cold place to stay. He studied very hard. His teachers were pleased with his work, and he did well. Vincent wrote to his family that winter to tell them how he was doing. When he received no reply, he wrote to a friend and asked if his friend had any news of Vincent's family. Vincent then learned that his father had become ill and had died. Although Vincent's father had made a will, stating that the family should continue to pay for Vincent's education, Vincent found work tutoring the sons of some wealthy families. The money he earned from this work paid for his education, so Vincent wrote to his family telling them that there was no need for them to continue to pay for his studies.

When Vincent was not quite twenty years old, he was ordained a priest. A period of great trial and hardship followed his ordination. He traveled to different cities, seeking a position, but had no success. When he was returning home by boat from Marseilles (a city on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea), pirates attacked and captured the boat. In the fight, Vincent was wounded in the leg by an arrow. This wound bothered him the rest of his life. The pirates took Vincent to a city called Tunis (in northern Africa) and sold him into slavery. Vincent suffered in slavery for two years, but he placed himself entirely in God's hands.

Vincent was rescued by a man named Gautier. Gautier had been a priest and had been captured by pirates and sold into slavery years before. In order to buy his freedom, Gautier had joined another religion. He owned a plantation, and he had married three women. One of Gautier's wives came to Vincent and asked him questions about the Catholic faith. Vincent answered all her questions. She, in turn, spoke with Gautier and told him he had made a great mistake in leaving the Catholic faith and the priesthood. Gautier knew that she was right. He went to Vincent, and the two escaped and returned to France.

After Vincent returned to France, he went to Paris. Having very little money and no immediate plans for his future, he needed a place to stay. Vincent and a judge rented a small room together.

## LESSON 10: WE HELP EACH OTHER

Though often sick, Vincent spent many hours each day working in the charity hospital, which cared for those who could not afford to pay for health care. The conditions in the hospital were terrible. There was filth and stench everywhere. The food was poor, and the health care was inadequate. Four patients had to share one bed. The very, very ill and dying shared beds with those who were recovering. Many patients did not live.

It was there that Vincent came each day to tend to the patients' physical and spiritual needs. He was gentle and kind and did all he could to care for them.

One day, when Vincent was outside the hospital, he met Father Pierre de Bérulle. Father de Bérulle was interested in the care of the poor, and he had heard good things about Vincent. While Father de Bérulle and Vincent were talking, the judge with whom Vincent rented a room came and spoke to Vincent. The judge accused Vincent of stealing some of his money. Vincent denied this, but the judge didn't believe him. Father de Bérulle went on his way, and Vincent thought his chance of finding a position as a priest was lost. While the judge didn't have Vincent arrested, Vincent was labeled a thief, and rumor of the charge against him spread quickly through the city. Vincent carried this label for six months, until the real thief admitted to the crime.

Shortly after Vincent had met Father de Bérulle, and after the judge had accused Vincent of theft, Father de Bérulle found Vincent a position with Queen Mother Marguerite. Vincent's job was to distribute food and other items to the poor. During his work for the Queen Mother, he became a familiar figure around Paris, as he cared for the poor and the beggars.



Next, Father de Bérulle sent Vincent to a town called Clichy in France, where Vincent could continue to serve the poor. Vincent went there and found the church in great disrepair and the people extremely poor and uncaring. Vincent cleaned up the church with the help of some women. The men built more benches in the church, and the people filled the little church for Mass. The people loved Father Vincent. He taught their children about God and the Catholic faith. He celebrated the Sacraments, he didn't scold, and he was never in too much of a hurry to sit and talk with those who were ill.

Then Vincent received a new assignment, tutoring the sons of the wealthy de Gondi family. The people of Clichy were very sad to see Vincent leave, and Vincent himself was filled with sorrow.

Vincent returned to Paris and began his work tutoring the de Gondi boys. The boys, however, were not interested in anything but sports and mischief.

When Vincent wanted to leave his teaching position

and return to work with the poor, Madame de Gondi suggested that Vincent work with the poor who lived in the villages belonging to the de Gondi family. Vincent went through the villages and found



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conditions to be very poor. Madame de Gondi herself went from hut to hut in the villages, teaching and nursing the people. Vincent followed her and administered the Sacraments. This work went on for a year, and the physical and spiritual well-being of the people in these villages showed great improvement.

During this time, Vincent became well known for his sermons, which were bringing many people back to the Church. One sermon brought so many people to confession that Vincent heard confessions the whole day. So great were the numbers of people coming to confession, that Madame de Gondi sent for additional priests to come and help Vincent.

Next, Father de Bérulle sent Vincent to a village called Châtillon-les-Dombes. When Vincent reached the village, he found the streets lined with taverns filled with people who were drinking too much. The homes were boarded up, and the church was in very poor condition.

Father Vincent met a man named John Beynier, who had been drinking and was singing and walking down the road. Vincent rented a room from this man and began his work in the village. As in Clichy, Vincent cleaned the church with the help of some of the village women. The men came with hammers and nails to help with the repairs.

Soon people were going to Mass not only on Sundays but every day. Even the very wealthy baron of the village, who was a bully, came to see Vincent.

The baron was so moved by his talks with Vincent that he sold everything he had and chose to follow the will of God. There was a very poor family that lived just outside the village. They were near starvation. Vincent spoke to the village people at Mass and told them about the starving family. That evening, all the people, wealthy and poor alike, brought food to the family. Vincent knew that many poor families were in need. He decided to start an organization to handle the gathering and distribution of supplies to these poor families. In this way, everyone could eat, and nothing would be wasted.

This organization was the first Confraternity of Charity. John Beynier, the young man whom Vincent had met upon his arrival in the village, was put in charge of the confraternity. John had become a devout young Catholic. In the years to come, Vincent's confraternities would serve all of France, in peacetime and in war.

Soon, it was time for Vincent to leave the village of Châtillon and return to work for Madame de Gondi. Vincent became her spiritual director and continued his work with the poor in the villages. He began more Confraternities of Charity with the help of the men and women of the villages. The funds for supplies came from the wealthy. Vincent taught those who worked with the poor and sick that they must see the Person of Christ in the sick, so that whatever they did for the poor and sick, they would do it for Christ.

Vincent went to the prison and visited the men there. He found them chained to the walls. The chains were so short that the prisoners could not lie down to sleep. The men were dirty, with long beards. There were no windows, and the floor was covered with moldy straw. There were no proper records kept, showing the information on each prisoner and how long his sentence was. Therefore, prisoners were often kept in prison much longer than they should have been. Vincent spoke gently to each of the men and blessed them. He spoke to them about the suffering of Jesus and about the love Jesus had for each of them. After leaving the prison, Vincent went to see the person in charge and asked him to speak to the king about having proper records kept so that the prisoners would be released



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when their sentences were finished. Then Vincent cleaned and furnished a large house and made it into a hospital where the prisoners could be cared for. Throughout all France, Vincent visited the prisons and the ships' galleys (where prisoners were chained and where they worked rowing the big ships). He encouraged the prisoners to be patient and obedient.

Vincent began a group of priests called the Congregation of the Mission. The mission of these priests was to preach the gospel to the poor and help to educate the clergy. They worked as missionaries to the small villages. He also helped to start the Sisters of Charity. With the help of these two groups, Vincent worked to improve the conditions of the charity hospital and to care for the patients there. He opened a seminary and conducted retreats for men interested in the priesthood. Vincent reformed prisons, and he opened orphanages, hospitals for galley slaves, and homes for the beggars, the mentally ill, and the elderly.

During the civil war in France, Vincent and the Sisters of Charity ran soup kitchens to feed the poor. Vincent's charity kept thousands of people alive during this time. Vincent became ill during the war, and, even after the war ended, he never regained his health.

Near the end of his life, Vincent himself had to be cared for. His room was a bare little cell that couldn't be heated. Under doctor's orders, he was moved to a more comfortable room. On September 17, 1660, Vincent died in his sleep. He was canonized in 1737.

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**After reading the story about Saint Vincent de Paul, list examples that show how he practiced the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. Next to each example, indicate whether it is a Corporal Work of Mercy (C) or a Spiritual Work of Mercy (S).**

- \_\_\_\_\_ C S
- \_\_\_\_\_ C S
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# LESSON 11: FINDING HAPPINESS IN LIFE

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.

Romans 12:9–12

## Vocabulary

**meek:** to be patient, gentle, and humble

**righteousness:** acting according to God's will

**persecuted:** mistreated and abused because of what one believes

**beatitude:** blessedness; happiness

## Concepts of Faith

### What are the beatitudes?

*The beatitudes, which were given to us by Jesus, are the best ways that a person can think, feel, and act. By living the beatitudes we can be happy here on earth and be happy someday with God in Heaven.*

Our life is a path towards paradise, where we will be loved and will love forever in a complete and perfect way. We are born only to go to paradise. The thought of paradise must make you strong against temptations. If you are united with Christ, you will triumph over every difficulty. I pray the Blessed Virgin to accompany you with her protection. Look upwards. Look up to Jesus and to those who really know Him, love Him and follow Him! Look to Jesus who is Truth, Love, the Example that illuminates, attracts and convinces! Every hope of yours is satisfied in Him! Jesus taught not only by word, but also by His actions in helping others. You have followed in His footsteps. He will surely reward you and fill you with His blessings.

Blessed John Paul II, *You Are My Favorites*

## Scripture Story

### Jesus Teaches the People

Based on Matthew 5:1–10

Seeing the crowds, He [Jesus] went up on the mountain, and when He sat down His disciples came to Him. And He opened His mouth and taught them, saying,



Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they shall be comforted.  
Blessed are the meek,  
for they shall inherit the earth.  
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they shall be satisfied.  
Blessed are the merciful,  
for they shall obtain mercy.  
Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they shall see God.  
Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they shall be called sons of God.  
Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Jesus went on to tell His disciples that they would be blessed when others insulted and persecuted them because of their love of Christ. He told them they should rejoice and be glad, for their reward in Heaven would be great.

Jesus gave us the beatitudes. They are the best attitudes we can have as images of God. They are the best ways to think, feel, and act. By living the beatitudes, we can find happiness in our everyday lives amid joys and sorrows. By living the beatitudes, we can be happy here on earth and someday in Heaven.

# LESSON 11: FINDING HAPPINESS IN LIFE

## The Beatitudes

### **Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.**

Jesus was born in Bethlehem. He was not born in a hospital and placed in a comfortable crib. He was born in a stable and placed in a manger. Material things are not important to Jesus. When He began His public ministry, Jesus said, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man has nowhere to lay his head” (Luke 9:58). People are always important to Jesus.

If we are to act as images of God and live this beatitude, we have to make God the most important Person in our lives. We should treat people as more important than things. We should not value new clothes, toys, and other things more than we value God and other people. We should think about people who have less than we do and share things with them. We should not ask our parents for everything we see on television or in the stores. We shouldn't base our friendships on what others have; for example, we shouldn't be friends with someone just because that person has a new bike or video games. We should think of all the things God has given us, through our parents, and try to be happy with what we have. We should not complain about what we have or do not have or what we are given. Then we will be poor in spirit.

### **Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.**

Do you remember the story of Lazarus (John 11:1–44)? What did Jesus do when Lazarus died? Jesus went to be with Mary and Martha when they were mourning their brother's death. He wanted to be with His friends even though it was dangerous for Him to go back to Judea, where Lazarus and his sisters lived. It was dangerous because certain people in Judea wanted to kill Jesus.

After the Last Supper, Jesus went to the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus knew He was going to die. He was sad. He asked His friends to pray with Him. Jesus turned to God the Father for strength when He was sad (Mark 14:32–42).

When Jesus was carrying the Cross, how did Veronica help Him? Even though Veronica was sad, she tried to help Jesus. She found a cloth and wiped the sweat and blood off Jesus' face.

When we are sad, we might think no one cares for us. We should remember that God always loves and cares for us. God is always there to listen to us. No matter how bad things may seem, God is always there. We should try also to console the people around us who are sad. If people are sad or troubled, we can listen to them and be friendly. We can let people know that we care by visiting with them. We should also pray for them.

### **Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.**

When Jesus was on this earth, He was thoughtful of others. He cured the sick and helped those in trouble. Jesus always acted in a loving and caring manner. Jesus was meek. He was patient and gentle

# LESSON 11: FINDING HAPPINESS IN LIFE

with His disciples when they did not understand His teachings. He was humble when others challenged Him and tried to make Him say something wrong. He did not lose His temper.

Meek people never brag about themselves or think they are better than anyone else. A meek person lets others have a turn and tries to play fair all the time. A meek person never talks unkindly about other people. Meek people do not make fun of others or laugh at them when they make a mistake. If we act in a loving and caring manner, we are being meek, and we are acting as Jesus would.

**Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.**

What does righteousness mean? It means acting according to God's will. Jesus constantly prayed to His Father and said He came to do the will of His Father. Everything He did was in obedience to His Father's will. What does it mean to be hungry and thirsty for righteousness? We know that if we are hungry or thirsty, we want something to eat or drink. To hunger and thirst for righteousness means that we want always to make the right choices. We want to do everything that God wants us to do.

What can we do in our daily lives to follow God and do His will? We can think about the Ten Commandments and try to follow them. We can listen in religion class and learn about our faith. We should receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist regularly. All of these things help us to know God and to do God's will.

**Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.**

Mercy means showing forgiveness. Jesus is merciful. Jesus forgives those who hurt Him. When Jesus was dying on the Cross, He even forgave those who had put Him there. And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34).

Jesus also showed mercy to the good thief when he was sorry for his wrong choices. Jesus promised the good thief that he would be with Jesus in Heaven. Jesus also shows us mercy. Every time we make a wrong choice, and we are sorry for it, Jesus will forgive us, especially in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

As images of God, we should forgive others the way Jesus does. Remember, when we pray the Our Father we say, "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us."

How can we show mercy to others? If someone hurts your feelings by making fun of you, you should forgive that person. We can be kind to everyone, not just the people who like us. You should forgive a friend who lied and got you into trouble. You should not stay angry with your teacher when you have had to stay in for recess.

Jesus always forgives those who hurt Him, and we should do the same.

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## **Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.**

Because Jesus was pure in heart, He was able to see the goodness in the people around Him. He saw everyone as an image of God, and therefore was able to love everyone, no matter who they were, what they owned, or what they looked like. Jesus always spoke to and helped the lepers (even though others avoided them). Jesus once stopped at a well to get a drink. There was a woman there who had committed many sins. She had made many wrong choices, and was not living as an image of God. Jesus talked to her anyway. He loved the woman, as He loves everyone.

When we love as Jesus loves, we are pure of heart. We are acting as images of God in all that we think, do, and say. We treat others as images of God, no matter who they are, what they do, or what they look like. We should love them as God loves them.

When people are being mean toward us, it is hard to love them and not say mean things to them or about them. We should try to love them anyway and to do nice things for them.

## **Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.**

What do you think a peacemaker is? A peacemaker is someone who helps people get along and who doesn't start fights. Jesus was a peacemaker. For example, Jesus stopped a fight between the Apostles and the soldiers who had come to arrest Him in the Garden of Gethsemane. Peter had cut off an ear of one of the servants. Jesus told Peter to put away his sword. Jesus then healed the servant's ear (John 18:10–11 and Luke 22:50–51).



A peacemaker is someone who treats everyone as an image of God. Through their actions, peacemakers show others how images of God should act. How can we be peacemakers? We can include everyone in our games. We should make sure everyone has a turn. In a game, we can make having fun more important than winning. At home, we can help Mom or Dad with the chores, without arguing whether it is our turn or not. We can be happy for a brother who got a new bike or sweater, instead of being envious. Like Jesus, we can be peacemakers and show our family and friends how to treat others as images of God. As peacemakers, we can also pray that all the wars in the world stop, and that all people live in peace.



# LESSON 11: FINDING HAPPINESS IN LIFE

**Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.**

What does “persecuted” mean? To persecute means to mistreat or abuse someone because of that person’s beliefs. Even today, there are many Christians who are persecuted for their faith. Many saints were persecuted because of their belief in God. Some saints even gave up their lives for Jesus. Can you think of any saints who were persecuted because they chose to believe in Jesus? You may remember the story of Saint Stephen that we read earlier. These saints are examples of people who were persecuted for the sake of righteousness.

We know that we should do things that God wants us to do. For example, we should say our prayers before a meal, help our parents around the house (especially without being asked), go to Mass on Sundays, do our homework, and learn more about God. There are people who do not think these things are important. They might even make fun of us because we choose to do these things. Other people might try to talk us into not making the right choices. They will tell us that no one else is doing a certain thing, so why should we. They use peer pressure to try to convince us to change what we are doing. We can pray to God and ask Him to help us to be strong and to act as Jesus did.

## Story of Faith

*The beatitudes are simply ways of living our lives. They are the best ways of thinking, feeling, and acting in order to be happy here on earth and someday in Heaven. One person who lived the beatitudes was a Mohawk Indian woman name Kateri Tekakwitha. When reading the following story, look for ways this woman lived the beatitudes.*

### Saint Kateri Tekakwitha

**T**ekakwitha was born in 1656 near a village that is now known as Auriesville, New York. Her father was chief of the Mohawk Native American tribe. Her mother, Kahenta, was from the Algonquin Native American tribe. Kahenta had married the Mohawk chief after she had been taken prisoner. Some Native American tribes were at war with each other frequently, and many prisoners were taken. The Mohawk Native Americans tortured and killed many of their prisoners. Other prisoners were made slaves.

Many of the Mohawks, including Tekakwitha’s father, didn’t like Christians or the missionary priests from France.

Tekakwitha’s mother, however, was a devout Christian. She had been taught and baptized by the Jesuit priests from France. Kahenta taught Tekakwitha all she knew about God and tried to live a good Christian life. She hoped that one day Tekakwitha would be baptized.

Tekakwitha was a happy and pretty child. She listened to Kahenta and learned all that her mother taught her about God. Her mother was kind and gentle, and Tekakwitha learned to be kind and gentle, too. She enjoyed doing kind, little things for others.

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When a smallpox epidemic hit the Mohawk village, many of the people became sick, including Tekakwitha and her family. Tekakwitha's parents and brother died, and though she survived, Tekakwitha suffered as a result of the smallpox. She was frail and weak, and her once beautiful face was scarred with pock marks. Her eyesight was blurred, and bright lights made her eyes sting.

Tekakwitha remembered all her mother had taught her about God, about Jesus and how He died for all people, and about Mary. Like her mother, Tekakwitha was quiet, gentle, and patient. Tekakwitha talked about God with her mother's friend Anastasia, who was a Christian. Anastasia was a comfort to Tekakwitha, and the two often met and prayed together.

Tekakwitha's uncle was made the new Mohawk chief, and he and his wife adopted Tekakwitha. Tekakwitha worked hard to please them. She learned how to cook many different things made from corn. She made breads and puddings. She carried water from the stream. Because she could not see well, she didn't play games with the other children. Instead, she happily worked hard and became very good at making useful utensils and beautiful decorations.

From corn stalks she made such things as tubes for holding medicines, fish-line floats, and lotions. From corn she made dolls, bottles, trays, baskets, and sleeping mats. She made things out of corn cobs and made decorations out of kernels of corn. She made beautiful belts, moccasins, and ribbons decorated with beads she painted.

Again, war broke out. The Mohawks were at war with the French and the Huron Native Americans. The French soldiers and the Huron Native Americans burned the Mohawk village and cornfields. The Mohawks escaped and hid in the forest. That winter was very hard on them. They had no homes to live in except makeshift shelters. Many died from the cold and from lack of food.

The Mohawks decided to sign a peace treaty with the French. The Mohawks built a new village and lived in peace with the French. The peace treaty called for the Mohawks to allow priests into their village. They also had to shelter and protect the priests. These rules didn't make Tekakwitha's uncle happy, because he didn't like Christians.

Tekakwitha's uncle gave her the responsibility of caring for the priests who came to the village. Although Tekakwitha was to wait on the priests, she was ordered by her uncle not to speak to them.

Tekakwitha wanted to receive the saving waters of Baptism and become a Christian. She watched the three priests as they went about their work. She admired the patience and love they showed the Native Americans. After three days, the priests had to travel on their way.

Two years later, one of the three priests returned. At that time, the Mohawks were at war with the Mohicans. The Mohawks had taken some Mohican prisoners. The priest felt sick as the Mohawks tortured their Mohican prisoners. Only in Tekakwitha's eyes did the priest see compassion. The priest instructed and baptized the poor Mohican victims. The priest also baptized many of the Mohawks, and he persuaded them to stop torturing their prisoners. Some of the Mohawks who were baptized went to live at a Christian mission known as the Saint Francis Xavier Mission. The Native Americans called it the Praying Castle. Some of the Mohawks who left were friends of Tekakwitha. Anastasia was one of them.

When Tekakwitha was seventeen years old, her aunt and uncle wanted her to get married. If Tekakwitha married, her husband would hunt and provide food for her aunt and uncle. When Tekakwitha told them that she didn't want to marry because she wanted to be devoted to God alone, they became angry with her. They decided to trick her into getting married. They invited guests over,

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one of whom was a warrior who wanted to marry Tekakwitha. Tekakwitha's aunt and uncle had her dress in her nicest clothes and asked her to serve the guests. Tekakwitha's aunt asked her to serve the warrior some food in a special bowl. Tekakwitha recognized that the bowl was a ceremonial one and that she was being tricked into marrying the warrior. Tekakwitha dropped the bowl and ran out of her uncle's home, into the forest. When Tekakwitha returned, her aunt and uncle were very angry with her and treated her as a slave. Tekakwitha's uncle wouldn't even speak to her. This hurt Tekakwitha very much, because she loved her uncle. But even though her aunt and uncle mistreated her, Tekakwitha continued to be loving, gentle, and kind.

The warrior whom Tekakwitha had refused to marry was also very angry with her. One day, as she was busy working in her uncle's house, the warrior came and shouted at her. When she made no reply, he became even angrier and, taking his tomahawk, threatened to kill her. When the warrior raised his tomahawk to strike Tekakwitha, she said a prayer for him. He tried to kill her, but was not able to lower his arm to hurt her. Frightened, he stared at Tekakwitha, dropped his tomahawk, and ran from her uncle's house. After this incident, Tekakwitha's aunt and uncle no longer insisted that she marry.

Another priest came to the Mohawk village. His name was Father de Lamberville. The number of Mohawks who became Christian increased every day. Many of them left to go and live at the mission.

One day, as Tekakwitha was working in the fields, she hurt her foot. Father de Lamberville went to see if he could help her. Tekakwitha told him of her great desire to be baptized and become a Christian. Listening to Tekakwitha, Father de Lamberville understood what a good and caring person she was. Father de Lamberville learned from other Native Americans in the village that Tekakwitha was a virtuous, caring, pure, and modest person.

Tekakwitha's uncle allowed Father de Lamberville to care for Tekakwitha's injured foot. This gave Tekakwitha the opportunity to learn more about God. Tekakwitha's uncle finally allowed Tekakwitha to be baptized, because he was afraid she would run away if he did not give his permission.

On Easter Sunday in 1675, Tekakwitha was baptized. She took the name of Kateri, which means Catherine. She was very happy.

Kateri would no longer work on Sundays, because it was the Lord's Day. She promised to work extra hard on the following day, but Kateri's aunt and uncle would not allow her to eat on Sundays if she would not work. So Kateri fasted on Sundays. She chose to fast on Wednesdays also.

After Kateri became a Christian, her aunt and uncle mistreated her, as did many of the other Native Americans in the village. Even the children threw rocks at Kateri. Kateri accepted this treatment with meekness and patience. She was loving and forgiving.

The harsh treatment Kateri received, along with the fasting, began to weaken her more and more. Father de Lamberville noticed her weakness and arranged for her to go to the Saint Francis Xavier



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Mission. When her uncle was away from the village, some Native Americans from the mission near Montreal (Canada), took Kateri there. They traveled almost two hundred miles by canoe. Father de Lamberville sent along a note addressed to the priests at the mission in Montreal. He told them to guard and instruct Kateri well, because she was a special treasure.

In the mission, there were a chapel and many lodges for the Native Americans who lived there. Kateri was happy to be at the mission. Her friend Anastasia was there. Anastasia taught Kateri, as did Father Cholenc, one of the priests at the mission.

There were three Masses a day at the mission. The people would work in the fields after Mass. Three times during the day, a bell was rung, and the people stopped their work to pray the Angelus. Every evening, the people were instructed by the priests.

The people in the mission noticed Kateri's holiness right away. She went to all three Masses and learned all she could about God. She loved the Blessed Virgin Mary and prayed the Rosary. She visited the chapel to pray in front of the Blessed Sacrament whenever she could. She often prayed four to seven hours at a time. She prayed late into the night and was up very early in the morning. When she prayed, she thanked God for Baptism and for His love. Then Kateri would talk to God and listen quietly for His answer. She asked God to bless her relatives with the gift of faith.

Kateri was friendly, happy, patient, and forgiving. She did all her tasks with great joy. Other Native Americans in the village tried to follow her example.

Usually, adults who were baptized had to wait two years before receiving their First Holy Communion. Kateri was allowed to make her First Holy Communion early, because of her holiness.

Of all the Native Americans in the mission, Kateri was the weakest physically, but the strongest in love for God and devotion to Him. She did many severe penances. Though she tried to do these in secret, the villagers became aware of what she was doing. She beat herself with rods, walked barefoot in the snow, and fasted often.

In addition, Kateri chose not to marry, which was very unusual for a Mohawk girl. Kateri wanted to make an official promise, a vow, to God that she would not marry. Father Cholenc finally allowed her to make this vow, which she did with great happiness.

The penances Kateri chose to do began to weaken her. She became ill and suffered from dizzy spells and vomiting. Her friends wanted her to rest, but Kateri insisted she was well and continued to work. One friend noticed that Kateri looked more and more tired. She found that Kateri had been sleeping on branches of brambles and thorns instead of on soft, warm furs. She had also walked barefoot in the snow for an hour while praying.

When Father Cholenc learned of these things, he ordered her not to do any more penances.

Kateri's illness became worse, and she had to stay in bed. She had a constant fever and was always in great pain. She suffered from headaches and vomiting. But Kateri never complained. As she lay sick in bed, she spent some of her time teaching the children about God, and she helped those who were troubled.

During Holy Week, before Easter, Kateri asked Father Cholenc if she could fast, because she wanted to suffer something in honor of Christ's Passion. Father Cholenc told her that she was suffering enough already.

Kateri grew weaker and weaker. On Wednesday of Holy Week, April 17, 1680, Kateri died at the age of twenty-four, a slight smile on her face. The priests and villagers were gathered in her lodge.



## LESSON 11: FINDING HAPPINESS IN LIFE

They knelt and prayed after her death. Fifteen minutes later, Father Cholenc looked at her. A miracle had happened. Kateri's face no longer had the scars from smallpox, her skin was beautiful, and the smile on her face had increased.

Ten days after her burial, Kateri appeared in a vision to her friend Anastasia. In her hand, Kateri carried a cross. She showed Anastasia the cross and told her that the Cross was the source of all her happiness during her life. Kateri asked Anastasia to make it hers also. Then Kateri disappeared.

In a vision to another person, Kateri said that the mission chapel would be destroyed. That August, a hurricane hit the mission, and the chapel was destroyed by the wind. The priests had prayed at Kateri's grave before the hurricane. Normally the debris would have hurt the priests or killed them. Instead, only one priest was slightly injured, and the other two were unharmed. The priests thought it was Kateri's prayers that had protected them.

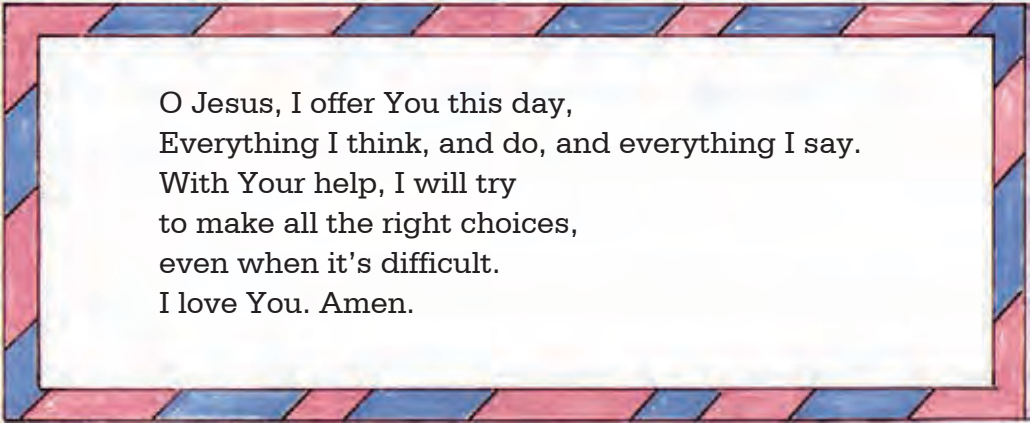
A year after Kateri's death, Father Cholenc heard of a Frenchman who was dying of lung cancer. Father Cholenc placed the man under Kateri's protection, and the man was cured of his cancer.

Many French and Native Americans begged Kateri's aid, and many cures were reported.

Kateri was declared "Blessed" by Pope John Paul II on June 22, 1980 because of her holiness and these miracles. She was canonized, that is, declared a saint in Heaven by the Church on October 21, 2012. We should ask Kateri to pray for us when we have a great need. We can see in the story of her life how she lived the beatitudes. Though she suffered a great deal, she found happiness in her love of God. Besides being called the "Lily of the Mohawks", Kateri was also called "Flower of the Algonquin" because of the beautiful life she lived. The monument which stands by her gravesite reads, "The most beautiful flower that blossomed". We celebrate a feast day in her honor on July 14.

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To help us live the beatitudes, we can say the following prayer every morning:



O Jesus, I offer You this day,  
Everything I think, and do, and everything I say.  
With Your help, I will try  
to make all the right choices,  
even when it's difficult.  
I love You. Amen.