

Young Apprentices

A RESOURCE FOR THE RCIA

CATECHUMENATE SESSION

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year B • February 4, 2024

Catechist Preparation

Scripture

FIRST READING—JOB 7:1-4, 6-7

Job describes the human condition. We are beset by misery. It seems as if happiness eludes our grasp.

SECOND READING—1 CORINTHIANS 9:16-19, 22-23

Saint Paul's divine commission must be discharged in order to win over many to Christ.

GOSPEL—MARK 1:29-39

Here is a typical day in Jesus' life of ministry. He travels everywhere in Galilee preaching and healing.

Church Teaching: Evil in the World

The world is not a perfect place. Harsh realities abound. Evil is afoot in the world. We believers pinpoint two distinct types of evil. Moral evil is evidenced in Original Sin and personal sin. Physical evil is evidenced in phenomena such as natural disasters; pain; physical debilitation due to sickness, bodily disorders, and mental disorders; and all sorts of accidents and mishaps that harm us.

To resolve the difficulty of evil, believers rely on the Revelation of divine love in Jesus Christ. The Son of God shares in our hurts. He himself suffered and died on the Cross and rose from the dead that, like Simon's mother-in-law in today's Gospel account, we might be grasped by the hand and lifted up to newness of life by the Lord.

Additional Background

Catechism of the Catholic Church: 375, 385, 395, 407

United States Catholic Catechism for Adults: Chapter 6 (Man and Woman in the Beginning), especially the section entitled "Understanding the Impact of Original Sin," pages 69–71

Our Catholic Heritage, Levels I and II: page 34

Dismissal Session

(Approximately 20 minutes)

Set the space with chairs in a circle. On a small table, place a green cloth, an open Bible or Lectionary, and a candle.

Discover

1. Invite the children to think about the liturgy just celebrated.
2. Invite volunteers to share how it feels when it seems like everything is going wrong at school or at home or with friends. What do they do when they feel that way? How they could make the situation better?

Deepen

1. Share with the children that today's First Reading is about Job, whose story is told in the Old Testament of the Bible.
2. Read aloud the First Reading, Job 7:1-4, 6-7.
3. Ask the children to describe how Job is feeling in this story. What makes them think so?
4. Share the following about Job's story:
 - The Book of Job begins with questions raised in Heaven. Is Job faithful because of the blessings he has received? Would Job remain faithful if trials came his way?
 - Job then experiences many tragedies—loss of family, personal illness, loss of wealth—but he does not turn away from God.
 - His friends try to convince him that his trials are punishment for some sin, but Job resists their teasing and remains faithful to God.
 - Job is blessed for his faithfulness and trust in God.
5. Invite volunteers to share how they keep hopeful when bad or hard things are happening. What do they do? Who helps them?

Pray

Pray together the prayer on the participant handout.

Extended Catechesis Session

(Approximately 45 to 60 minutes)

Supplies

In addition to the prayer table setup, you will need the participant handouts, a flip chart or whiteboard, and markers.

Sunday Word

Job 7:1-4, 6-7

Psalms 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6

1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23

Mark 1:29-39

Welcome

Welcome everyone and invite one or two children to share some of the key points from the Dismissal Session.

Invite

1. On the flip chart or whiteboard, make a list of what the children consider to be bad things that are happening in their schools, in their neighborhoods, and in the world.
2. Ask the children what they think causes these bad things to happen.
3. Continue the discussion by asking: *If you could, what would you like to change in your school, in your neighborhood, or in the world? Why?*
4. Ask the children whether they know the meaning of the word *evil*. Explain that *evil* is the harm we do to one another and to God's creation.
5. Invite volunteers to share what they think is the cause of evil. (*People do not follow God's Laws; people do not obey the laws of a city or school or group; people make wrong choices; people do not care for one another; people do not care for God's creation, and so on.*)

Teach

1. Before proclaiming the Gospel, recall with the children that:
 - God created all things good. In the beginning, everything existed in harmony and peace.

- Through Adam and Eve's choice to give in to temptation and turn away from God, evil entered the world.
- There is evil in the world because people harm one another and God's creation.
- God stands with us in the midst of evil. God sent Jesus into the world that we might know of his great love for us.

2. Proclaim the Gospel, Mark 1:29-39.
3. Invite the children to name how Jesus showed God's great love in this Gospel passage.
4. Explain that throughout the Gospels, Jesus invites people to new life by healing the sick, curing the blind and those possessed, and raising the dead. (*Ask volunteers to share stories of Jesus they remember in which he heals, cures, and raises the dead. Recall, for example, last week's Gospel.*)
5. Read and discuss Key Teachings from the participant handout.

Faith Words

Review with the children this week's Faith Words: *evil* and *Original Sin*.

Challenge

Encourage the children to take some time each night before they go to sleep to thank Jesus for the love he shows them. Suggest a simple prayer such as, "Thank you, Jesus, for loving me."

Also, invite them to ask Jesus to help people who are suffering, especially children, because of storms, disasters, or hard things happening in our world today.

Pray

Pray all or part of the Prayer of Exorcism 94H in the RCIA (*Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*).

In accord with the *Code of Canon Law*, I hereby grant the *Imprimatur* ("Permission to Publish") regarding the publication of *Young Apprentices: A Resource for the RCIA*.

Most Reverend Joseph R. Binzer, Auxiliary Bishop, Vicar General • Archdiocese of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio • December 3, 2014.

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