

Lesson 23: How do I build the kingdom? (Saying “Yes” to the Mission of Christ and His Church)

Opening Reflection

(Please read this over with your child to begin to think about what they are going to be learning today)

Spreading the kingdom of God – through words and actions – is a mandatory part of the Christian life, not just for priests and religious, but for all believers. Pope Francis shared in an interview the reasons that we should be feeding the hungry, clothing the poor and helping the sick...

“We need to avoid the spiritual sickness of a church that is wrapped up in its own world: When a church becomes like this, it grows sick. It is true that going out on to the streets implies the risk of accidents happening, as they would to any ordinary man or woman. But ... if I had to choose between a wounded church that goes out on to the streets and a sick, withdrawn church, I would definitely choose the first one.”

Opening Prayer

Today we are going to start by reading what Jesus told us about the Last Judgement.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Then the king will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by 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, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him and say, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?’ And the king will say to them in reply, ‘Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.’

Now close your eyes and consider how this Gospel applies to you and the people in your life...

Who in your life is hungry or thirsty for love, attention, or friendship? What can you do to feed them? Who in your school is lonely, left out, or rejected? Do you approach them at lunch or let them sit alone for fear of looking “uncool”?

Who are those who are literally hungry or who are so poor they cannot even afford clothes? What can you do to help? Who in your life is sick or elderly? Do you make the time to reach out to them? Do you know anyone in prison, or their family members? In what ways can you support or encourage them?

Now, silently, talk to Jesus in your own words about the reading.

Take a few moments to reflect on these questions, write down the names of those who you thought of if it might help. Now take a moment and say an Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be for any of those that you thought of during this time of reflection.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen

Challenge of the Week

Talk about the challenge from last week that is found on page 191. Talk about how the experience was or how they could keep the challenge up every week of their lives.

Dive in Story

Read the story on page 186 together, and then talk about what you read.

Talking points:

- How are you taking the steps to build your kingdom?
- Have you built a place in your heart for Jesus so that he can give you courage and strength to spread the Good News?

How do I build the kingdom? – with Chris Padgett

Video Segment 1: We're on a Mission

Play video the following video.

<https://youtu.be/uBsgPlhXJXE>

Talking points after the video:

1. How have you grown spiritually during this time of Confirmation preparation?
2. In Matthew 25, Jesus talks about “the least” and says that the way we treat them is the way we treat him. Who are some of “the least” among us today? The weak, small, vulnerable, forgotten, or unprotected?

Video Segment 2: Building the Kingdom

Play video the following video.

<https://youtu.be/e8svS7wb8CU>

Talking points after the video:

1. What are some ways you can be Christ in your world?
2. Why do you think people are so hesitant to talk about their faith? Why is it easy to talk openly about other relationships, but not our relationship with God?

Video Segment 3: The Works of Mercy

Play video the following video.

https://youtu.be/gxL2-Qw5q_Q

Talking points after the video:

1. Chris talked about getting out of our comfort zones. What does he mean, and how can we do that?
2. In what ways will Confirmation empower and oblige us to spread the kingdom of God in word and action?

****ANSWER KEY FOR ALL SEGMENTS IS BELOW**

To the Heart with Chris Padgett

Read the story on page 158 together, and then talk about what you read.

Talk points:

- Tell of a time when you felt you were a part of something really great – in school, at church, or in your family. What made it “great”?
- Find It!
 - Which saint lived as a soldier and gambler before becoming a priest and starting the Red Cross movement, caring for the outcast poor and sick in prisons, on battlefields, and in the hospitals?

Hero of the Week

Read the Saint story on page 220 together, and then talk about what you read.

Talk points:

- This story of sainthood involves peace and faith in the gifts we can't see, how when we devote ourselves to these gifts, we are able to become better people that lead us to being saints.

Challenge of the Week

- Ask the confirmation student to read the challenges on page 221 and choose one of the three to complete this week. Remind them to write about their experiences in the space provided.
- Read over the “Wrap-up” and the “What’s the Word” sections of the workbook to review all the major words that have been mentioned throughout the lesson.

Closing Prayer

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Lord, you love the poor and disadvantaged, and you're calling us to love them, too.

Help us to see you when we see anyone suffering, spiritually or physically, and give us the courage to reach out and help someone this week.

Every good thing comes from you, so increase our faith and make us generous, Lord, like you. Amen.

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

LINK FOR KNOWLEDGE CHECK: <https://forms.gle/WZoL77t1Gyedxsaj6>

Answer Key:

Segment 1:

1. pear
2. life

Segment 2:

1. truth
2. C. Head

Segment 3:

1. corporal
2. spiritual
3. Christ

Find it! St. Camillus de Lellis