

Topic: The Parable of the Sower

Family Small Group for FHC Cycle Week 2.1 (September 29, 2024)

Lesson Overview for Parents

Welcome parents! We are excited to begin our year. This week's lesson sets us up for the rest of the year. This week we read about the Parable of the Sower in our Sacrament books. We learn that God is like the farmer. The seeds are like God's Word. God spreads his Word everywhere, to everyone. The places the seeds fall are like the conditions of our heart. It's up to each of us to listen to God's Word and to choose to follow him. The more we listen to, follow, and live God's Word, the stronger we grow in love and the closer we grow to God. This story is a great one to come back to when we see our students or we ourselves are not keeping our hearts open to God.

We also learn a bit about the mass. The part of the mass where we hear Sacred Scripture is called the Liturgy of the Word. Each time we go to mass we hear God's Word. It is up to us to receive God's Word with an open heart and to allow it to change us.

1. Opening Prayer

Pray this prayer morning, in the car, at night, etc over the next 2 weeks to help your student learn it. If your student knows the prayer, you are welcome to work on another prayer from your list of prayers in your parent folder.

2. Mass and Mass Journal

Did your student write in their mass journal this weekend?

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day, our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
Amen

Spend a minute or two talking about what your student wrote in their mass journal.

If you haven't gone to mass yet, take a minute or two to look at the Mass Journal Bingo card and pick one or two options your student would like to write about this week. Suggesting they pick an option that relates to the Liturgy of the Word is a great way to reinforce our lesson this week!

3. Sacrament Book Readings

Remember, you are your students first and most important Catechist. You have options on how you cover the material below. You can read the information in the books below yourself and then talk about it with your student. You can read it together like story time and talk about it as you read it. We are asking you to focus on **parts** of the chapter. If you would like to go through the entire chapter with your student, you are welcomed to do that too.

Grades 1-3

Book: *God's Gift Eucharist*
Chapter 4, pages 32-36

Grades 4-6

Book: *Loyola Intermediate Reconciliation and Eucharist*
Chapter 10, pages 43-46

4. Formed Video

Before clicking the link below, log into your FORMED account or be ready with your userid/password to log in after clicking the link below. The video below does a good job relating the story to the everyday life and actions of our children. If you need to take a break and view this at a later time or another day, decide now when that will be and put it on your calendar. If your student is able, continue on. We do not want you to skip this section entirely, it just may work best for your student to watch this at a later time.

[The Parable of the Sower](#)

5. Activity

If your student learns by doing or enjoys creative activities, this section is for them! If not, skip it.

Goal: Create a mural depicting the following: 1) a healthy plant growing in good soil and one of the following: 1) a seed on the ground with a bird coming to eat it, 2) a withering away plant trying to grow among rocks, 3) a choking plant growing among weeds.

Have your student draw the mural, create the mural on the computer, or take pictures of these things and put them together on paper or on the computer. Draw upon your students' strengths and make this something they will enjoy.

Bring the finished product in to the faith formation office or email a picture of the finished product to us (faithformation@sjb-parish.org) by Wednesday, October 2 and we will put it up on our bulletin board!

6. Discussion Questions

Share with your student your answer to the following. Then ask them to share with you. Be positive! Point out that we all make mistakes, but we can all do better. God gives us the strength we need to hear his word and to open our hearts to his word and allow it to help us live the life He wants us to live, to make the choices He wants us to make. Watching the video will help you think of things to share.

1. Think of a specific example of when you made a choice that reflects each of the places the seeds fell:
 - a. The seed on the ground
 - b. The seed in the rocks
 - c. The seed in the weeds
 - d. The seed in good soil

7. Story Time

Now, prepare for next week. You may want to schedule time to read this story later in the week. Be sure to put it on your calendar or make a note on your frig so you don't forget. Be sure to read it before our Sunday Sanctuary Lesson next weekend. Read the bible story below in your Illustrated Children's Bible.

Story Name: *Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel*

Pages: *12-24*