
5TH SUNDAY OF LENT (B)

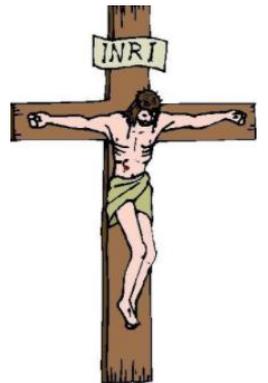
JESUS IS GOING TO DIE

Aim of this Catechesis:

To invite the children to listen to Jesus as he tells his disciples that he is going to die and to learn that the death of Jesus will be his Father's way of saving all people.

The Gospel text at the heart of this lesson is:

John 12:20-30



Jesus foretells his death and his glorification by the Father. This took place in the final week of Jesus' life. He had come to the realisation that his obedience to his Father would lead him to death on the cross. But his death would also be the beginning of his vindication.

Jesus made several prophecies about his coming death. We find these in Mark 8:31-33, 9:30-32 and 10:32-34. They are to be found in Luke 9:22, 9:44-45 and 18:31-34. They are also to be found in Matthew 16:21-23, 17:22-23 and 20:17-19.

These passages give us an indication that Jesus became more and more aware of the fate he would have to suffer. His confrontations with the Jewish leaders also contributed to his growing feeling that they would eventually put him to death. His message was just too much for them!

In John's story today, we get another indication that Jesus was ready to fully obey his Father. The voice and the thunder are symbols of the Father in communication with the people standing by. It confirms the mission of Jesus for them.

Jesus uses the well-understood image of the grain falling into the ground and dying in order to produce fruit. He too, must die if there are to be any fruits from his mission on earth.

We will reflect on these in our catechesis.

Equipment Needed:

A Bible or Sunday Missal

Candle & Matches

Crucifix or a picture of Christ crucified.

Thin strips of cardboard (1 cm. wide) Cut these out beforehand.

Some small buttons (for the heads)

Glue

A4 size paper or cardboard.

Flash Cards (See each Step in the Lesson)

Worksheet: ***“Prayer to Christ on the Cross”***

LESSON PLAN

Begin the Lesson with a prayer.

Explain to the children:

- Today is the 5th Sunday of Lent.
- We will listen to Jesus as he foretells his coming death on the cross.

Step 1: I am going to die!

Read or tell the following story:

Joe was a hard-working man. One day he took ill. He went to the doctor. The doctor did some tests on him and the results of the tests were bad news for Joe. The doctor had to tell him: Joe, you have cancer, you have only two more months to live!”

Now ask the children:

- How do you think Joe felt?
- How would you feel if you were Joe?

Allow the children time to give their answers.

Step 2: Our Gospel Text John 12:20-30

Its special meaning for us as Christians

Tell the children:

- Jesus began to realise that he would one day suffer and die for what he was teaching.
- He was constantly being opposed by the Jewish Leaders.

- It was becoming clear that they wanted to get rid of him.
- But Jesus was also becoming aware that his death would be a sign to all that his Father would glorify him.
- Let us listen to the way in which Jesus tells his disciples about his coming death.

Light the candle beside the Bible.

Place the crucifix or the picture of the crucifixion nearby.

Encourage the children to be respectful as they listen to the Gospel.

Read the Gospel text to them.

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus.' Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them:

*'Now the hour has come
for the Son of Man to be glorified.*

*I tell you, most solemnly,
unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies,
it remains only a single grain;
but if it dies,
it yields a rich harvest.*

*Anyone who loves his life loses it;
anyone who hates his life in this world
will keep it for the eternal life.
If a man serves me, he must follow me,
wherever I am, my servant will be there too.
If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him.
Now my soul is troubled.*

*What shall I say:
Father, save me from this hour?
But it was for this very reason that I have come
to this hour.*

Father, glorify your name!'

A voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, 'It was an angel speaking to him.' Jesus answered, 'It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours.

'Now sentence is being passed on this world;



*now the prince of this world is to be overthrown.
And when I am lifted up from the earth,
I shall draw all men to myself.'*
By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

(John 12:20-30)

If necessary read the Gospel text again.

You can also ask some of the children to read the text out loud for the others.

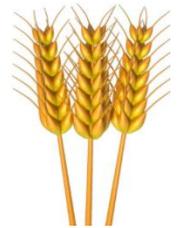
Now ask the children:

- How do you think Jesus felt as he prophesied that he was going to die?
- Why did Jesus have to die?
- What did Jesus say about the grain of wheat?

Allow the children to give their answers freely.

Now tell the children:

- Like the grain of wheat, Jesus had to die so that his Father could raise him up and glorify him.
- This would make people realise that his message was true.
- This would lead them to follow him and believe in the message of the Good News.



Step 3: What can we do? Practice & Prayer

Practice:

Invite the children to make some of the Stations of the Cross:

Suggested Stations: Jesus falling (3,7,9) or carrying his Cross (2,5).

Allow the children time to complete their work.

Link to Sunday Mass:

Tell the children:

- In all our churches, we find a Crucifix hanging over the Altar. This is to remind us that Jesus every time we celebrate Holy Mass we are remembering what Jesus did for us. He died to save us.
- When we come into the church we genuflect to the tabernacle and we bow to

the Cross.

Memory Bytes:

Invite the children to read the following in their workbooks:

- The sufferings that Jesus endured in order to save us were:
- His agony in the Garden of Gethsemane
- When he was scourged by then Rona soldiers
- When he was crowned with thorns,
- When he had to carry the cross through the streets of Jerusalem
- When he was nailed to the cross
- When he died on the cross.

Now encourage them to learn this off by heart.

Prayer:

Conclude the lesson by inviting the children to pray together the: ***“Prayer to Jesus on the Cross”*** It is in their workbooks.

WORKSHEET

Memory Bytes:

Learn the following:

- The sufferings that Jesus endured in order to save us were:
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- When he died on the cross.



Prayer to Jesus on the Cross

Dear Jesus,

When you died on the cross

You gave your life to all of us.

You gave your life for me.

Thank you for doing this for all of us

Thank you for doing this for me.

I will do my best to live by your law

So that you will not have died in vain for me.

Amen.

