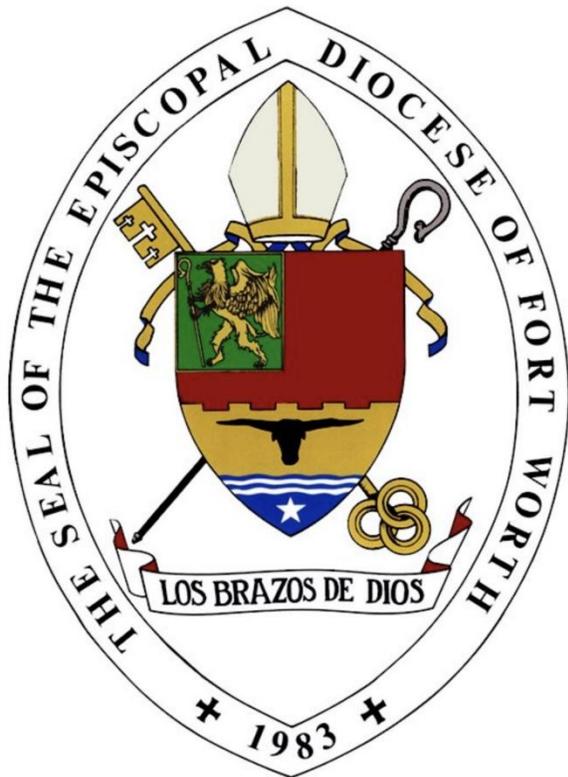


EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

A lectionary-based Sunday school curriculum for Pre-K through High School



**PROPER
20**

**Sunday from
September 18 to
September 24**

A free resource created by the Christian Education Commission
of the Anglican Diocese of Fort Worth

Sunday School Curriculum for Proper 20, Year C
Sunday from September 18 to September 24

Lectionary Texts:

Amos 8:4-7(8-12)

Psalms 138

1 Timothy 2:1-8

Luke 16:1-13

Amos 8:4-7(8-12)

⁴ Listen to me, you who walk all over needy people.
You crush those who are poor in the land.

⁵ You say, "When will the New Moon Feast be over?
Then we can sell our grain.

When will the Sabbath day come to an end?
Then people can buy our wheat."

But you don't measure out the right amount.
You raise your prices.

You cheat others by using dishonest scales.

⁶ You buy poor people to make slaves out of them.
You buy those who are in need for a mere pair of sandals.
You even sell the worthless parts of your wheat.

⁷ People of Jacob, you are proud that the Lord is your God. But he has taken an oath in his own name. He says, "I will never forget anything Israel has done.

Psalms 138

¹ Lord, I will praise you with all my heart.
In front of those who think they are gods
I will sing praise to you.

² I will bow down facing your holy temple.
I will praise your name,
because you are loving and faithful.

You have honored your name and your word
more than anything else.

³ When I called out to you, you answered me.
You made me strong and brave.

⁴ Lord, may all of the kings on earth praise you
when they hear about what you have promised.

⁵ Lord, may they sing about what you have done,
because your glory is great.

⁶ The Lord is in heaven. But he watches over those who are free of pride.
He knows those who are proud and stays far away from them.

⁷ Trouble is all around me,
but you keep me alive.

You reach out your hand to put a stop to the anger of my enemies.
With your powerful right hand you save me.

⁸ Lord, you will do everything you have planned for me.
Lord, your faithful love continues forever.
You have done so much for us. Don't stop now.

1 Timothy 2:1-8

Directions for Worship

² First, I want all of you to pray for everyone. Ask God to bless them. Give thanks for them.

² Pray for kings. Pray for all who are in authority. Pray that we will live peaceful and quiet lives. And pray that we will be godly and holy.

³ That is good. It pleases God our Savior. ⁴ He wants everyone to be saved. He wants them to come to know the truth.

⁵ There is only one God. And there is only one go-between for God and human beings. He is the man Christ Jesus. ⁶ He gave himself to pay for the sins of everyone. That was a witness given by God at just the right time.

⁷ I was appointed to be a messenger and an apostle to preach the good news. I am telling the truth. I'm not lying. God appointed me to be a teacher of the true faith to those who aren't Jews.

⁸ I want men everywhere to pray. I want them to lift up holy hands. I don't want them to be angry when they pray. I don't want them to argue.

Luke 16:1-13

The Story of the Clever Manager

¹⁶ Jesus told his disciples another story. He said, "There was a rich man who had a manager. Some said that the manager was wasting what the rich man owned. ² So the rich

man told him to come in. He asked him, 'What is this I hear about you? Tell me exactly how you have handled what I own. You can't be my manager any longer.'

³ "The manager said to himself, 'What will I do now? My master is taking away my job. I'm not strong enough to dig. And I'm too ashamed to beg. ⁴ I know what I'm going to do. I'll do something so that when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.'

⁵ "So he called in each person who owed his master something. He asked the first one, 'How much do you owe my master?'

⁶ "I owe 800 gallons of olive oil,' he replied.

"The manager told him, 'Take your bill. Sit down quickly and change it to 400 gallons.'

⁷ "Then he asked the second one, 'And how much do you owe?'

"I owe 1,000 bushels of wheat,' he replied.

"The manager told him, 'Take your bill and change it to 800 bushels.'

⁸ "The manager had not been honest. But the master praised him for being clever. The people of this world are clever in dealing with those who are like themselves. They are more clever than God's people.

⁹ "I tell you, use the riches of this world to help others. In that way, you will make friends for yourselves. Then when your riches are gone, you will be welcomed into your eternal home in heaven.

¹⁰ "Suppose you can be trusted with very little. Then you can be trusted with a lot. But suppose you are not honest with very little. Then you will not be honest with a lot.

¹¹ "Suppose you have not been worthy of trust in handling worldly wealth. Then who will trust you with true riches? ¹² Suppose you have not been worthy of trust in handling someone else's property. Then who will give you property of your own?

¹³ "No servant can serve two masters at the same time. He will hate one of them and love the other. Or he will be faithful to one and dislike the other. You can't serve God and Money at the same time.

Overview of Texts:

Today's lessons focus on how we relate to others and God in the use of His gifts and provisions for us. As we seek to understand what God expects of us and how much He loves us, it impacts the way we treat others, carry out our business, and use the resources with which God has blessed us.

The first lesson, from the book of Amos, talks about how God wants His people to live out their faith by dealing honestly with their neighbors. God cares about how people are treated when we carry out business, and it is urgent that we care more about sharing the word of God with people than making a profit from them. The second lesson, from 1 Timothy, talks about how we should pray for those who are in authority. Many times our faith does not agree with the world around us. But, the action that will change the hearts of those around us is not angry confrontations and arguments. Believers should concentrate on prayer, and trust in God's power to change things. Finally, in the Gospel lesson, Jesus tells the story of the clever steward, who understood that people judge us by our deeds. The steward was a dishonest man, but he knew people would treat him with kindness if he did good things for them. Jesus reminds the disciples that they need to remember the same is true for them (and us). The riches of this world are "the lesser," and grace and glory are "the greater." We need to be faithful servants and faithful stewards of every earthly thing we have. *"All things come of Thee, O, Lord, and of thine Own, have we given Thee."* We are to use what God has given us for the good of others, extending charity and kindness toward them. Additionally, we need to share the Gospel of grace and salvation, our knowledge and love of God, and our wisdom in knowing Him to meet people's spiritual needs and to show kindness, so that they can come to share in His grace and heavenly kingdom.

Pre K- Kindergarten Lesson Plan

Opening Prayer: Lord's Prayer

Supplies & Preparation:

Supplies: Snacks on a plate or platter (one serving per child plus a few extra), yarn or cord (2, 12 inch strands per student; if using yarn wrap scotch tape at each end so that little hands can thread beads more easily), pony beads (two of each color per student: black, red, white, blue, yellow, green), bowl or plate per student on which to collect their craft supplies.

Preparation: Learn the Gospel story and be able to retell it without reading it; make a sample of the Gospel friendship bracelet; choose a snack to share with the children and to use as the object lesson.

Lesson:

Have your choice of treat for the students on a plate where they can see it, but tell them they may not have it yet. Take a minute and speak with them about friendship, what it is and

how it is a gift of God. Ask them about their friendship with someone. Ask them, “What are some of the things that people do for each other when they are friends?”

Talk to the children about how the things we do help people to believe the things we say. Ask them, “How do you know your friend will share his toy with you?” (because he always does...) Tell them, even though you have not given them their treat yet, they can trust that you will. They know what you have done in the past, and can trust you to be kind to them in the future.

Introduce today’s reading by saying that the story Jesus tells his disciples in the Gospel shows exactly how this works. Now, have the students listen to this Bible reading: Read Luke 16:1-13 then retell it without reading.

- Ask the children what the servant was really like. (The manager was wasting what the rich man owned.)
- What was going to happen to him? (He was going to be fired.)
- Why did he help the people who owed his master money? (They would think of him as their friend and would help him when he was out of work)
- Why does Jesus say that the disciples need to understand what happened in this story? (Because the disciples needed to understand that, first, people pay attention to the things we do. Then, they decide if they will believe the things we say.)
- The most important job we have from God is to love Him and others and share the Good News of Jesus’ love for us. But, people will not believe our words, if we do not show them that we are kind and care about them.

Activity:

Teach them this little poem: (Teacher can clap a rhythm to make it interesting.)

Make a friend, be a friend

Bring a friend to Jesus.

It is just as simple as can be.

Make a friend, be a friend

Bring a friend to Jesus.

Come along and visit Him with me.

Share the treats with the children and get ready to begin your craft.

Craft:

Show the students your sample of the Gospel Friendship bracelet. Tell them the story of salvation, using the colored beads. (See below for bead colors and meaning.)

Demonstrate how to make the bracelet. Holding both ends of the string, slide the beads, in order, down one end of the string to the halfway point. For very young children, tie a knot just before and just after the beads. Tie it loosely around their wrist and trim the tails. With PreK you may need to give them the cord with the black bead already strung. Then, pass out the red beads and have them string them, and so on, one color of bead at a time. Remember to knot the cord before the black and after the green bead.

Now, let them each make a second bracelet to share with a friend. Do not tie the one for their friend. Let their parents help them with that when they are with their friend. If they want to share about the Good News of Jesus, the beads will help them tell the story.

Repeat the story:

BLACK –is our sins and how sad and empty we feel without God’s love.

RED – is Jesus’ blood that washes away our sins and brings us close to God.

WHITE – is how our life is clean and new, like a fresh piece of paper.

BLUE- is the water we are baptized in. In baptism God adopts us as His own.

YELLOW – is the light of God’s love that fills our lives and shines for others.

GREEN – shows how we grow in faith and the knowledge of God & His love..

Closing Prayer: Lord’s Prayer

Elementary Lesson Plan

Opening Prayer: Lord’s Prayer, Hail Mary, and Glory Be

Supplies & Preparation:

Supplies: Snacks on a plate/platter (one serving per child plus a few extra), bowl or paper plate per student to collect their craft supplies in, yarn or string or cord (2, 12 inch strands per student; if using yarn, put tape on each end so small hands can thread beads with ease), pony beads (two of each color per student: black, red, white, blue, yellow, green), CD/tape player, copies of lyrics printed on paper, and a tape or CD of the song, “They Will Know We Are Christians by Our Love”

Preparation: Learn the Gospel story and be able to retell it without reading it; make a sample of the Gospel friendship bracelet; choose a snack to share with the children and to use as the object lesson.

Lesson:

- Have your choice of treat for the students on a plate where they can see it, but tell them they may not have it yet. Take a minute and speak with them about friendship, what it is and how it is a gift of God. Ask them about their friendship with someone. Ask them, “What are some of the things that people do for each other when they are friends?”
- Talk to the children about how the things we do help people to believe the things we say, to know we can be trusted. Ask them to think about who the people are in their lives that they trust. Why?
- Ask them, “How do you know your friend will play fairly with you?” (Because he/she always does/has a history of playing fairly...)
- Tell them, even though you have not given them their treat yet, they can trust that you will. They know what you have done in the past, and can trust you to be kind to them in the future.
- Introduce today’s reading by saying that the story Jesus tells his disciples in the Gospel story shows exactly how this works.
- Read Luke 16:1-13, then retell it without reading.
- Ask the children what the servant was really like. (The manager was wasting what the rich man owned.)
- What was going to happen to him? (He was going to be fired.)
- Why did he help the people who owed his master money? (They would think of him as their friend and would help him when he was out of work)
- Why does Jesus say that the disciples need to understand what happened in this story? (Because the disciples needed to understand that, first, people pay attention to the things we do. Then, they decide if they will believe the things we say.)
- The most important job we have from God is to love God and others and share the Good News of Jesus’ love for us. But, people will not believe our words, if we do not show them that we are kind and care about them.

Activity:

Teach them this little poem: (Students can stomp a rhythm to make it more interesting.)

Make a friend, be a friend

Bring a friend to Jesus.

It is just as simple as can be.

Make a friend, be a friend

Bring a friend to Jesus.

Come along and visit Him with me.

Share the treats with the children and get ready to begin your craft.

Craft:

Show the students your sample Gospel Friendship bracelet. Using the beads, tell them the story of salvation, using the colored beads. (see bead colors and meaning below)

Demonstrate how to make the bracelet. Holding both ends of the string, slide the beads, in order, down one end of the string to the halfway point. For primary elementary children, you may need to tie a knot just before and just after the beads for them. Tie it loosely around their wrist and trim the tails. Give each student two sets of bracelet materials each. As they are making their bracelets, remind intermediate elementary students to knot the cord before the black and after the green bead.

Now, let them each make a second bracelet to share with a friend. Leave the final wrist knot untied for the friend's bracelet. Let the student's parents help them with that when they are with their friend. If they want to share about the Good News of Jesus, the beads will help them tell the story.

Repeat the story:

BLACK –is our sin and how sad and empty we feel without God's love.

RED – is Jesus' blood that washes away our sins and brings us close to God.

WHITE – is how our life is clean and new, like a fresh piece of paper.

BLUE- is the water we are baptized in. In baptism God adopts us as His own.

YELLOW – is the light of God's love that fills our lives and shines for others.

GREEN – shows how we grow in faith and in the knowledge of God.

Sing "They Will Know We are Christians by Our Love"

Closing Prayer: The Collect of the Day

Opening Prayer: Lord's Prayer, Apostles' Creed, and Hail Mary

Supplies & Preparation

Supplies: Copies of the readings or Bibles, plain sheets of paper, 3 x 5 cards (4 per student), poster board, pencils or markers. If making the craft, see the supply list in the lessons above. CD/tape player, copies of lyrics printed on paper, and a tape or CD of the song, "They Will Know We Are Christians by Our Love"

Preparation: Read the passages in preparation for discussion. Determine parts if having students read the parts of Bible characters in the Luke passage.

Lesson:

First, discuss with the students characteristics of their good friends and traits that they wish to demonstrate toward their friends and have them write these down on a piece of paper as a group or in pairs. (Discussion can be in pairs or as a group, depending on the size of class.) Set those aside.

Have the students read the Luke passage. Have one reader be Jesus, a second reader be the master, and the third be the bad manager. (If you have a large class, two other readers can be the two people who owe money to the master. If you do not have a large class, or many volunteers, you can read these parts.)

Discuss what Jesus means by "the less" and "the greater." The less is worldly blessings, keeping in mind that all we have comes from God; the greater is God's spiritual gifts of grace, wisdom, salvation, eternal gifts. Discuss how the measure of how we use our worldly gifts is in direct measure to how we use and share our spiritual blessings. Discuss ways to share the less and the greater. What are ways we hoard both? (not sharing, fearing we don't have enough...keeping what God has taught us or what we have learned about His love and grace to ourselves, not sharing the Good News.)

Now, direct the students back to their lists of characteristics among their friendships and discuss how they compare to Jesus' lesson in today's Gospel reading.

Activity:

Hand each student four 3x5 cards. Ask them to take two and write two serious ideas about how to share their faith with a friend – (ex: Give them a CS Lewis book, talk about a movie, or invite someone to church.) Then, ask them to take two and write a crazy idea of how to do the same thing. (Ex: Invite them to a Bible study in a bounce house; give away free pizza slices to anyone who knows a Bible verse). Let them choose two to use during this year. Be

sure they know that “what people are won with, they are won to.” If you bribe people, they are won to the bribe, not the truth, not to Jesus.

Craft:

Show them a sample of the bracelet and tell the Gospel story using the colored beads or ask for a volunteer who may be familiar with this method of sharing our faith.

Give each student two of each: cord, beads. As they are making their bracelets, remind them to knot the cord before the black and after the green bead.

Now, invite them to make a second bracelet to share with a friend. Instruct them not to tie the one for their friend until they give it to them and share the story of our faith.

Repeat the story:

BLACK –is our sins and how sad and empty we feel without God’s love.

RED – is Jesus’ blood that washes away our sins and brings us close to God.

WHITE – is how our life is clean and new, like a fresh piece of paper.

BLUE- is the water we are baptized in. In baptism God adopts us as His own.

YELLOW – is the light of God’s love that fills our lives and shines for others.

GREEN – shows how we grow in faith and in the knowledge of God.

Draw their attention to the lyrics of the song, “They Will Know We are Christians by Our Love” Play it on a CD player and/or sing it with your students if they are interested.

Closing Prayer: The Collect of the Day

Senior High Lesson Plan

Opening Prayer: Lord’s Prayer, Apostles’ Creed, and Hail Mary

Supplies and Preparation:

Supplies: Copies of the Gospel, plain sheets of paper, 3 x 5 cards (4 per student), poster board, pencils or markers,. CD/tape player, copies of lyrics printed on paper, and a tape or CD of the song, “They Will Know We Are Christians by Our Love” or other hymn/song about serving God and others. Optional supplies if making the Gospel Friendship Bracelets (see PreK lesson plan).

Preparation: Study the readings for Proper 20, listed above paying special attention to Amos and Luke passages. Become familiar with the discussion questions in the lesson below. Make a sample of the Gospel Friendship bracelet

Lesson:

Young people are very sensitive to issues of fairness and hypocrisy. Point out to them that these are issues that God is very concerned about as well. Let them talk for a few minutes about these kind of issues in their own lives. (*Double-standards, false advertising, products that cheat you out of your money.*) You will get a variety of answers. Do not let them get too far off track.

- Read the first paragraph of the Amos passage.
- Explain some of the words and customs. Nothing could be bought or sold on Holy days (New moons and Sabbaths). An ephah is a measure and a shekel is money, so it is like saying, put it in a big box, fill it half full and charge more for it. The people who cared more about money than what God's word told them to do wanted to make people owe them an extraordinary amount of money, and they could make them their slaves. They wanted to sell the people the straw and bits of grain left over after threshing out the good grain, just to make a bigger profit.
- Ask your students if they know any people today who are like this. (*Companies who sell dangerous or defective products, companies that encourage people to get into debt.*)
- Ask them what they think of people like that. (*Encourage them to have a good discussion. Young people are often sold products with big promises and no real value.*)
- Now, look at what God thinks of people who act like that.
- Read the next two sections of text. What does God promise to do to people who cheat and steal money from others? (*What they are doing makes God angry, and they will not get away with it.*)
- Read the last part of the text. This passage speaks of people who seem to care only about money. What is God saying that they should care about? (*The Word of God, following what He has told us and sharing His love with others.*) What does this lesson show us we should consider the most important purpose in our life, making money or growing into the likeness of Christ, so we can be Jesus to the world?
- Read the Gospel passage together.
- Discuss what Jesus means by "the less" and "the greater." (*The less is worldly blessings, all we have comes from God; the 'greater' is God's spiritual gifts of grace, wisdom, salvation, eternal gifts*).

- Discuss how the measure of how we use our worldly gifts is in direct measure to how we use and share our spiritual blessings.
- Discuss ways to share ‘the less’ and ‘the greater’. What are ways we ‘hoard’ both? *(not sharing, fearing we don’t have enough; fear of rejection; keeping what God has taught us or what we have learned about His love and grace to ourselves, not sharing the Good News.)*

Activity:

- Give each student four, 3x5 cards.
- Ask them to take two and write two serious ideas about how to share their faith with a friend – *(ex: Give them a CS Lewis book, talk about a movie, or invite someone to church.)*
- Then, ask them to take two and write a crazy idea of how to do the same thing. *(Ex: Invite them to a Bible study in a bounce house; give away free pizza slices to anyone who knows a Bible verse)* Invite them to choose two to use during this year. Make sure they know that “what people are won with, they are won to.” In other words, bribes and entertainment win people to the bribe, not to the truth, not to Jesus.
- Show them how to share our faith using the Gospel Friendship bracelet. Invite them to make one for themselves and a friend, if they wish.

Closing Prayer: The Collect of the