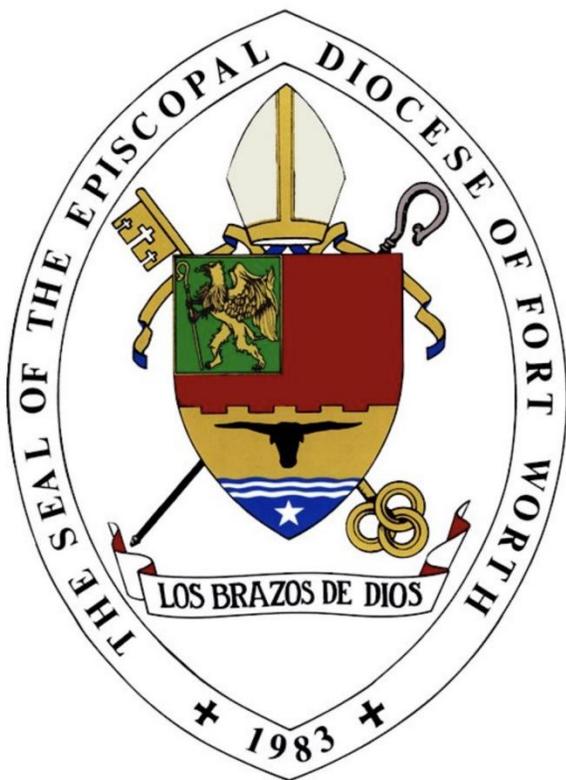


# EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

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



**PROPER 21  
YEAR C**

**Sunday  
September 25  
to October 1**

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

# Sunday School Curriculum Proper 21 – Year C

## Sunday from September 25 to October 1

### **Lectionary Texts:**

Amos 6:1-7

Psalms 146

Timothy 6:11-19

Luke 16:19-31

### ***Amos 6:1-7***

- <sup>1</sup> How terrible it will be for you men  
    who are so contented on Mount Zion!  
How terrible for you who feel secure  
    on the hill of Samaria!  
You are famous men from the greatest nation.  
    The people of Israel come to you  
    for help and advice.
- <sup>2</sup> Go to the city of Calneh. Look at it.  
    Go from there to the great city of Hamath.  
    Then go down to Gath in Philistia.  
Are those places better off than your two kingdoms?  
    Is their land larger than yours?
- <sup>3</sup> You are trying to avoid the time  
    when trouble will come.  
But you are only bringing closer  
    the Assyrian rule of terror.
- <sup>4</sup> You lie down on beds  
    that are decorated with ivory.  
    You rest on your couches.  
You eat the best lambs  
    and the fattest calves.
- <sup>5</sup> You pluck away on your harps as David did.  
    You play new songs on musical instruments.
- <sup>6</sup> You drink wine by the bowlful.  
    You use the finest lotions.  
But Joseph's people will soon be destroyed.  
    And you aren't even sad about it.
- <sup>7</sup> So you will be among the first  
    to be taken away as prisoners.

You won't be able to enjoy good food.  
You won't lie around on couches anymore.

### **Psalm 146**

- <sup>1</sup> Praise the Lord.  
I will praise the Lord.
- <sup>2</sup> I will praise the Lord all my life.  
I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.
- <sup>3</sup> Don't put your trust in human leaders.  
Don't trust in people. They can't save you.
- <sup>4</sup> When they die, they return to the ground.  
On that very day their plans are bound to fail.
- <sup>5</sup> Blessed are those who depend on the God of Jacob for help.  
Blessed are those who put their hope in the Lord their God.
- <sup>6</sup> He is the Maker of heaven and earth and the ocean.  
He made everything in them.  
The Lord remains faithful forever.
- <sup>7</sup> He stands up for those who are beaten down.  
He gives food to hungry people.  
The Lord sets prisoners free.
- <sup>8</sup> The Lord gives sight to those who are blind.  
The Lord lifts up those who feel helpless.  
The Lord loves those who do what is right.
- <sup>9</sup> The Lord watches over the outsiders who live in our land.  
He takes good care of children whose fathers have died.  
He also takes good care of widows.  
But he causes evil people to fail  
in everything they do.
- <sup>10</sup> The Lord rules forever.  
The God of Zion will rule for all time to come.  
Praise the Lord.

### **1 Timothy 6:11-19**

<sup>11</sup> But you are a man of God. Run away from all of those things. Try hard to do what is right and godly. Have faith, love and gentleness. Hold on to what you believe. <sup>12</sup> Fight the good fight along with all other believers. Take hold of eternal life. You were chosen for it when you openly told others what you believe. Many witnesses heard you.

<sup>13</sup> God gives life to everything. Christ Jesus told the truth when he gave witness to Pontius Pilate. In the sight of God and Christ, I give you a command. <sup>14</sup> Obey it until our Lord Jesus Christ appears. Obey it completely. Then no one can find fault with it or you.

<sup>15</sup> God will bring Jesus back at a time that pleases him. God is the blessed and only Ruler. He is the greatest King of all. He is the most powerful Lord of all. <sup>16</sup> God is the only one who can't die. He lives in light that no one can get close to. No one has seen him. No one can see him. Give honor and power to him forever. Amen.

<sup>17</sup> Command people who are rich in this world not to be proud. Tell them not to put their hope in riches. Wealth is so uncertain. Command those who are rich to put their hope in God. He richly provides us with everything to enjoy.

<sup>18</sup> Command the rich to do what is good. Tell them to be rich in doing good things. They must give freely. They must be willing to share. <sup>19</sup> In that way they will put riches away for themselves. It will provide a firm basis for the next life. Then they will take hold of the life that really is life.

### ***Luke 16:19-31***

<sup>19</sup> "Once there was a rich man. He was dressed in purple cloth and fine linen. He lived an easy life every day. <sup>20</sup> A man named Lazarus was placed at his gate. Lazarus was a beggar. His body was covered with sores. <sup>21</sup> Even dogs came and licked his sores. All he wanted was to eat what fell from the rich man's table.

<sup>22</sup> "The time came when the beggar died. The angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. <sup>23</sup> In hell, the rich man was suffering terribly. He looked up and saw Abraham far away. Lazarus was by his side. <sup>24</sup> So the rich man called out, 'Father Abraham! Have pity on me! Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water. Then he can cool my tongue with it. I am in terrible pain in this fire.'

<sup>25</sup> "But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember what happened in your lifetime. You received your good things. Lazarus received bad things. Now he is comforted here, and you are in terrible pain. <sup>26</sup> Besides, a wide space has been placed between us and you. So those who want to go from here to you can't go. And no one can cross over from there to us.'

<sup>27</sup> "The rich man answered, 'Then I beg you, father. Send Lazarus to my family. <sup>28</sup> I have five brothers. Let Lazarus warn them. Then they will not come to this place of terrible suffering.'

<sup>29</sup> "Abraham replied, 'They have the teachings of Moses and the Prophets. Let your brothers listen to them.'

<sup>30</sup> " 'No, father Abraham,' he said. 'But if someone from the dead goes to them, they will turn away from their sins.'

<sup>31</sup> "Abraham said to him, 'They do not listen to Moses and the Prophets. So they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.' "

### **Overview of Texts:**

Our lessons this week focus on charity and social justice, being directed almost exclusively at the rich and their responsibility to the poor. In the Old Testament reading we have Amos reprimanding the wealthy in Israel who have become complacent with their status. Their indulgences are clearly noted by the prophet as well as their disregard for their sins, "the ruin of Joseph." He then predicts their capture and subsequent exile by the Assyrians due to their disregard for God and their fellow man.

The psalm illustrates those whom the Lord cares for, most notably the poor, the oppressed, and the most vulnerable in society. It is those who are most dependent on God who will receive His blessings which are eternal.

The epistle lesson exhorts those who are rich to be generous and that by their generosity they are storing up treasure in heaven. They are to realize that there is no certainty when it comes to earthy possessions but the riches of God are certain.

In our Gospel reading we have the story of the rich man and Lazarus, a parable illustrating the eternal consequences of a life of careless luxury compared to the life of the poor. The dialogue between Abraham and the rich man drives home the point that the scriptures have always been clear about how the people of Israel were to treat the poor when Abraham tells the rich man that if his brothers had not listened to Moses and the prophets then it would make no difference if Lazarus returned from the dead to warn them.

We will be using these lessons to focus on the Works of Mercy as traditionally defined by the Church, covering the Corporal Works with the younger students and moving into both Corporal and Spiritual Works for the junior and senior high students.

### Pre K- Kindergarten Lesson Plan

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**Opening Prayer:** Lord's Prayer

### **Supplies and Preparation:**

Supplies: magazines/catalogues/printed internet images, scissors, glue sticks, index cards (8 per student), stapler or hole punch and yarn/ribbon, and ziplock bags to hold each category's images.

Preparation: Label a set of cards for each student using the categories below. Precut images from the categories below (try to find smaller images that will easily fit on an index card).

- Cover: "Works of Mercy"
- Page 1: "Feed the Hungry" (images of food)
- Page 2: "Give Drink to the Thirsty" (images of drinks)
- Page 3: "Clothe the Naked" (images of clothing)
- Page 4: "Visit Prisoners" (images of two or more people talking or sitting together)
- Page 5: "Shelter the Homeless" (images of houses or home items like towels, bedding, furniture, appliances, etc.)
- Page 6: "Visit the Sick" (images of medical supplies like bandaids, medicines, etc.)
- Page 7: "Bury the Dead" (images of flowers)

### **Lesson:**

- Greet your students. Encourage them to share something for which they are thankful or with which they want God's help.
- Read the first 2 verses of the lesson from 1 Timothy.
- Talk to you students about what it means to do what is right and godly. Explain to your students that as Christians we have certain things that we are expected to do for others and that these are known as the seven corporal works of mercy.
- Now list all of the Corporal Works of Mercy for the students and try and get them to recite them with you; 1) Feed the hungry 2) Give drink to the thirsty 3) Clothe the naked 4) Shelter the homeless 5) Visit the sick 6) Visit prisoners 7) Bury the dead
- Move into the activity by telling your students that you are now going to look at some ways they can do these things

### **Activity:**

Explain that the people on this list are in great need of kindness. Have the students work on one index card/page at a time. Provide the images that go with each page as needed. Allow the children to select one or more images and then glue them to the appropriate page making sure they do not cover up the title. Discuss each Work of Mercy as you go along and ask the children how they might be able to help in each area. Some of the Works are not practical for children, so you may wish to suggest that they pray for the individuals in need (for example prisoners and those that have died). When all the pages are complete, either staple them together into a booklet or use the hole punch to create two holes and tie off with yarn or ribbon.

**Closing Prayer:** Lord's Prayer

## Elementary Lesson Plan

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**Opening Prayer:** Lord's Prayer, Hail Mary, and Gloria Patri

**Supplies and Preparation:**

Supplies: blank index cards (8 per student), markers/colored pencils, hole punch and yarn/ribbon or a stapler.

Preparation: Print up a sheet (or several to spread around) listing all the Works of Mercy for the children to copy (see below). Hole punch the cards in sets for each child.

Works of Mercy

Feed the Hungry

Give Drink to the Thirsty

Clothe the Naked

Visit Prisoners

Shelter the Homeless

Visit the Sick

Bury the Dead

**Lesson:**

- Greet your students. Encourage them to share something for which they are thankful or with which they want God's help
- Read the lesson from 1 Timothy
- Ask your students what they think when Paul tells Timothy to do what is right and godly.
- Tell them that the Church has traditionally defined seven things that Christians should try and do for one another and that these are known as the Seven Corporal Works of Mercy.
- List the Works of Mercy and have the kids recite them with you: 1) Feed the hungry 2) Give drink to the thirsty 3) Clothe the naked 4) Shelter the homeless 5) Visit the sick 6) Visit prisoners 7) Bury the dead
- Explain that you will now talk about some of the ways in which we can perform these works through making an illustrated book.

**Activity:**

Have the students draw a picture of themselves doing an activity that corresponds to each Work of Mercy. Help them talk through some good ways to do each Work. Offer alternatives for Works that would be hard for a child to do. For example, prisoners and sick people can be sent a card or be prayed for. For burying the dead, suggest they draw flowers as an offering for a grave (try to discourage the morbid drawings some of the boys are going to come up with!). The dead can also be prayed for. As they work discuss how and why we should engage in Works of Mercy. When the drawings are complete, give the students yarn to bind them together or use a stapler. Encourage them to do at least one Work of Mercy before you meet again and tell them you will ask about it the next Sunday.

**Closing Prayer:** The Collect of the Day

Junior High/ Senior High Lesson Plan

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

**Supplies:** Whiteboard and markers

**Lesson:**

- Have one of your students read the Gospel lesson.
- Have another student read the lesson from 1 Timothy.
- Ask your students what they think the unifying theme is between these two lessons. If they don't get there, direct them to the responsibility of the rich towards the poor.
- Ask why they think these lessons are so directed at those who are rich (it is easier for the rich to trust in things other than God, the rich have the resources to help others, etc.)
- Ask your students if they think all Christians share a responsibility towards one another.
- Explain how the church has two sets of works that are expected of all Christians depending on their circumstances and that these are known as the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.
- On the whiteboard write down each of these lists.
  - Corporal Works of Mercy
    - Feed the Hungry
    - Give Drink to the Thirsty
    - Clothe the Naked
    - Visit Prisoners
    - Shelter the Homeless
    - Visit the Sick
    - Bury the Dead

- Spiritual Works of Mercy
  - To instruct the ignorant
  - To counsel the doubtful
  - To admonish sinners
  - To bear wrongs patiently
  - To forgive offences willingly
  - To comfort the afflicted
  - To pray for the living and the dead
- Go through each one of the Works and come up with some ways in which your students can fulfill these Christian obligations in their own lives and how to be adequately prepared to go about that task. Some of these may not be able to be done directly, but try to come up with creative ways to at least work towards them (sending cards to prisoners via Kairos ministry, volunteering or donating to Habitat for Humanity, visiting nursing homes, etc.).
- Some suggestions for the Spiritual Works would include
  - To instruct the ignorant
  - To counsel the doubtful
    - Encourage friends who may be struggling with their faith
    - Invite friends to church
  - To admonish sinners
    - Be a moral compass for friends who may be doing wrong things
    - Lovingly point out sinful behaviors in family and friends
  - To bear wrongs patiently
    - Try to not get angry when others wrong you
  - To forgive offences willingly
  - To comfort the afflicted
    - Be there for friends who have experienced loss
    - Stand up for those who are bullied or marginalized
  - To pray for the living and the dead
- Encourage your students to engage in some of these works in the coming week and be willing to share them during your next class.

**Closing Prayer:** The Collect of the Day