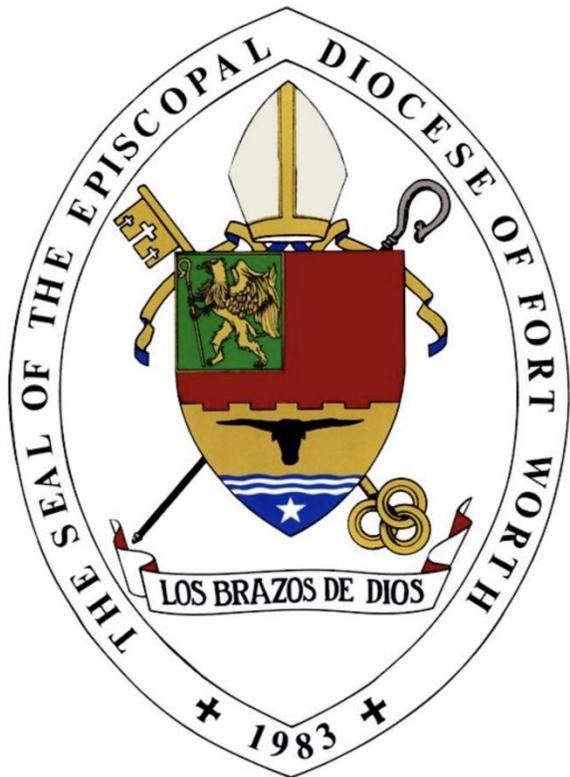


EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

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



**PROPER
23**

**Sunday from
October 9 to
October 15**

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

Sunday School Curriculum for Proper 23 – Year C

The Sunday from October 9th to October 15th

Lectionary Texts:

Ruth 1:1-19a
Psalm 113
2 Timothy 2:1-15
Luke 17:11-19

Ruth 1:1-19a

¹There was a time when Israel didn't have kings to rule over them. But they had leaders to help them. This is a story about some things that happened during that time. There wasn't enough food in the land of Judah. So a man went to live in the country of Moab for a while. He was from Bethlehem in Judah. His wife and two sons went with him.

²The man's name was Elimelech. His wife's name was Naomi. The names of his two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went to Moab and lived there.

³Naomi's husband Elimelech died. So she was left with her two sons. ⁴They got married to women from Moab. One was named Orpah. The other was named Ruth. Naomi's family lived in Moab for about ten years. ⁵Then Mahlon and Kilion also died. So Naomi was left without her two sons and her husband.

⁶While Naomi was in Moab, she heard that the LORD had helped his people. He had begun to provide food for them again. So Naomi and her daughters-in-law prepared to go from Moab back to her home. ⁷She left the place where she had been living. Her two daughters-in-law went with her. They started out on the road that would take them back to the land of Judah.

⁸Naomi spoke to her two daughters-in-law. "Both of you go back," she said. "Each of you go to your own mother's home. You were kind to your husbands, who have died. You have also been kind to me. So may the LORD be just as kind to you. ⁹May he help each of you find a secure place in the home of another husband. May he give you peace and rest." Then she kissed them good-by. They broke down and sobbed loudly.

¹⁰They said to her, "We'll go back to your people with you."

¹¹But Naomi said, "Go home, my daughters. Why would you want to come with me? Am I going to have any more sons who could become your husbands? ¹²"Go home, my daughters. I'm too old to have another husband. Suppose I thought there was still some hope for me. Suppose I got married to a man tonight. And later I had sons by him.

¹³ Would you wait until they grew up? Would you stay single until you could get married to them? No, my daughters. My life is more bitter than yours. The LORD's powerful hand has been against me!"

¹⁴ When they heard that, they broke down and sobbed again. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law good-bye. But Ruth held on to her. ¹⁵ "Look," said Naomi. "Your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her." ¹⁶ But Ruth replied, "Don't try to make me leave you and go back. Where you go I'll go. Where you stay I'll stay. Your people will be my people. Your God will be my God. ¹⁷ Where you die I'll die. And there my body will be buried. I won't let anything except death separate you from me. If I do, may the LORD punish me greatly." ¹⁸ Naomi realized that Ruth had made up her mind to go with her. So she stopped trying to make her go back. ¹⁹ The two women continued on their way. At last they arrived in Bethlehem. The whole town was stirred up because of them. The women asked, "Can this possibly be Naomi?"

Psalm 113

¹ Praise the LORD.

Praise him, you who serve the LORD.

Praise the name of the LORD.

² Let us praise the name of the LORD,
both now and forever.

³ From the sunrise in the east to the sunset in the west,
may the name of the LORD be praised.

⁴ The LORD is honored over all of the nations.
His glory reaches to the highest heavens.

⁵ Who is like the LORD our God?
He sits on his throne in heaven.

⁶ He bends down to look
at the heavens and the earth.

⁷ He raises poor people up from the trash pile.
He lifts needy people out of the ashes.

⁸ He lets them sit with princes.
He lets them sit with the princes of their own people.

⁹ He gives children to the woman who doesn't have any children.
He makes her a happy mother in her own home.

Praise the LORD.

2 Timothy 2:1-15

A Good Soldier of Christ Jesus

2 You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, ² and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful

men,¹ who will be able to teach others also. ³ Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. ⁴ No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him. ⁵ An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. ⁶ It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops. ⁷ Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.

⁸ Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel, ⁹ for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound! ¹⁰ Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. ¹¹ The saying is trustworthy, for:

If we have died with him, we will also live with him;

¹² if we endure, we will also reign with him;

if we deny him, he also will deny us;

¹³ if we are faithless, he remains faithful—

for he cannot deny himself.

A Worker Approved by God

¹⁴ Remind them of these things, and charge them before God¹ not to quarrel about words, which does no good, but only ruins the hearers. ¹⁵ Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved,¹ a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

Luke 17:11-19

¹¹ Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. He traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. ¹² As he was going into a village, ten men met him. They had a skin disease. They were standing close by. ¹³ And they called out in a loud voice, “Jesus! Master! Have pity on us!” ¹⁴ Jesus saw them and said, “Go. Show yourselves to the priests.” While they were on the way, they were healed.

¹⁵ When one of them saw that he was healed, he came back. He praised God in a loud voice. ¹⁶ He threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him. The man was a Samaritan. ¹⁷ Jesus asked, “Weren’t all ten healed? Where are the other nine? ¹⁸ Didn’t anyone else return and give praise to God except this outsider?” ¹⁹ Then Jesus said to him, “Get up and go. Your faith has healed you.”

Overview of Texts:

The dominant theme in today’s readings, made explicit in the Old Testament, the Psalm and the Gospel, is the mercy of God poured out on the outcast and foreigner, to bring those outside the covenant people of God into covenant and relationship with God. We see this primarily in Ruth’s inclusion into the community at Bethlehem (through her love

for Naomi - Ruth 1:15-19), the lifting up of the poor and childless in the Psalm (Ps. 113:6-8), and the healing and benediction of the Samaritan Leper in the Gospel (Luke 17:16-19). What is less apparent is the bearing of the Epistle on this theme. For starters, St. Paul's exhortation makes it apparent that ethnic descent is not the prerequisite for inclusion in the body of the faithful, but rather faithfulness to Christ, who is faithful to us (2Tim. 2:11-13). Moreover, St. Paul points out that our Lord's descent from David (2:8), along with His resurrection, fills the void of our lack of descent, and so makes us all equally responsible to keep the commandments of Christ. So, as a practical consequence, we are to avoid disputing about "words" - a symbol for useless, secondary arguments, such as who is descended from who, or who belongs by descent, and who by adoption - since such matters only create confusion for the people who hear such arguments. Rather, we are to live the faith of Christ, by doing what He calls us to do (2:15), and so present ourselves as diligent before God.

Pre K- Kindergarten Lesson Plan

Opening Prayer: Lord's Prayer

Supplies and Preparation:

Supplies: Assorted craft supplies (a variety so that the children can choose different ways to express the idea of the lesson).

Preparation: None

Lesson:

- Greet your students. Encourage them to share something for which they are thankful or with which they want God's help.
- Read the Gospel lesson.
- Ask your students if they know what lepers are. Explain that they are people who are very sick and that in Jesus' time they weren't allowed to live with everyone else because people were afraid that they would catch the disease from them.
- Ask your students how they would feel if they couldn't live around their friends and families because they were sick.
- Ask your students what Jesus did in response to their cry for help. Talk about how he healed them and made it so they could go back to living normally.

- Ask your students why Jesus healed them. Explain that he healed them because they asked. He didn't ask why he should heal them or where they came from or anything else; they asked for mercy and he gave it.
- Mention that the only one who came back to give thanks was a Samaritan and that Samaritans did not get along well with Jews. It would be surprising that Jesus would heal a Samaritan and embarrassing to other Jews that the

Samaritan was the only one who came back, praising God.

- Tell your students, now that we've seen how the Samaritan reacted to receiving God's mercy, we can show some ways in which we show God how we are thankful.

Activity:

- Using your craft supplies ask your students to illustrate ways in which they show that they are thankful to God.
- Some ideas – pipe cleaner person praying, a picture of someone shouting thank you, etc.

Closing Prayer: Lord's Prayer

Elementary Lesson Plan

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

Supplies and Preparation:

Supplies: Paper, scissors, and coloring supplies

Preparation: none

Lesson:

- Greet your students. Encourage them to share something for which they are thankful or with which they want God's help.
- Read the Gospel lesson.
- Ask your students if they know what lepers are. Explain that they are people who are very sick and that in Jesus' time they weren't allowed to live with everyone else because people were afraid that they would catch the disease from them.
- Ask your students how they would feel if they couldn't live around their friends and families because they were sick.
- Ask your students what Jesus did in response to their cry for help. Talk about how he healed them and made it so they could go back to living normally.
- Ask your students why Jesus healed them. Explain that he healed them because they asked. He didn't ask why he should heal them or where they came from or anything else; they asked for mercy and he gave it.
- Ask your students what was different about the one person that came back. Two things are relevant here. One is that he was a foreigner, a Samaritan who were a people who did not get along with the Jews. Two is that he was the only one to give thanks and praise God.
- Ask your students what it means to be a foreigner to God. Discuss how there are people in the world who have not heard of Jesus Christ and that there are some

who have heard but still don't believe.

- Explain to your students that Jesus wants them to help invite others to know Him so that they are no longer foreigners. He wants everyone to know the healing power of His love just like the Samaritan leper.

Activity:

- Have half of your students make a cutout of a person who doesn't know Jesus and have them write on the back how that person might feel (sad, lonely, afraid, etc.).
- Have the other half of your students make a cutout of a person who wants to invite someone to know Jesus and write on the back a way to invite someone (invite them to church, tell someone that Jesus loves them, be a caring friend, etc.).
- Have your students match up a cutout person who doesn't know Christ with one who wants to invite them.

Closing Prayer: The Collect of the Day

Junior High/Senior High Lesson Plan

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

Supplies & Preparation:

Supplies: Whiteboard and markers

Preparation: None

Lesson:

- Have one of your students read the Gospel lesson.
- Points for Discussion:
 - What are lepers?
 - Lepers are people with a pretty horrible skin disease. In Jesus' time, they were considered "unclean," so they couldn't talk to, or come into contact with anyone but other lepers.
 - What did the lepers want Jesus to do for them?
 - Heal them.
 - How did they ask for that?
 - They asked for mercy.
 - What is Mercy?
 - This is the big question for the day. Let the kids work on this for a while.
 - Short answer: Mercy means relieving some affliction - disease, punishment, whatever.
 - What is a Samaritan?
 - Essentially, a Samaritan is a pagan. When Israel was carried into exile, the conquering force imported foreigners into their land to fill

the void left by the departing Israelites. The people who moved in took up the Israelite religion - sort of. So, the Samaritans believed in Israel's God, but they didn't really belong to the chosen people, and they worshipped Him in a way that was outside the usual covenant God made with Israel.

- Why was it bad to be a Samaritan?
 - Their worship was seen as a perversion of the worship of the true God of Israel.
- Why was it strange that a Samaritan would come back and thank God, and that the Jews wouldn't?
 - Because a Samaritan wasn't supposed to know to do that, or how to - but the Jews should have known.
- So, who did what God wanted?
 - The Samaritan.
- What did God want from the lepers who were cleansed?
 - God wanted the lepers to be thankful that He had mercy on them.
- Tricky question: Were the other nine lepers punished for not coming back?
 - Oddly, no.
 - What does that mean?
 - It means God shows mercy regardless of how the other person reacts.
 - What does that tell us to do?
 - Have mercy on others.

Closing Prayer: The Collect of the Day