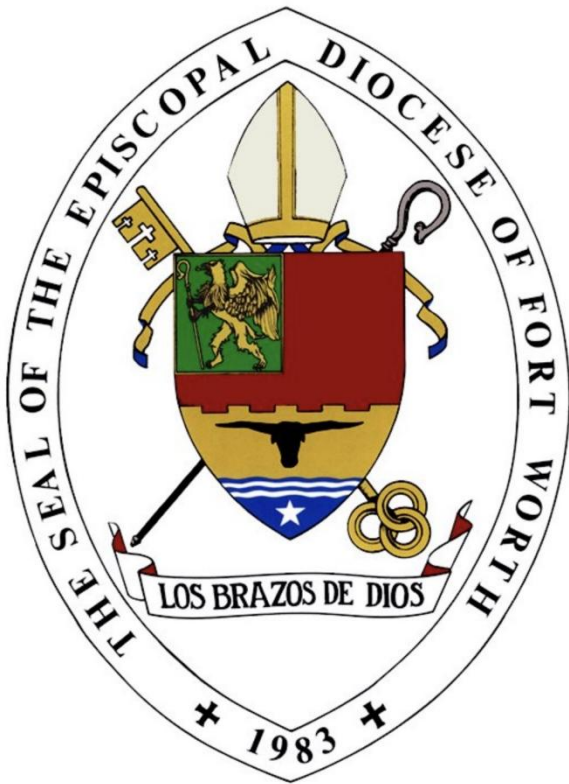


EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

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



**PROPER 15
YEAR A**

**Sunday from
August 14 to
August 20**

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

Sunday School Curriculum for the Sunday from August 14 to August 20, Proper 15, Year A

Lectionary Texts:

Isaiah 56:1-8
Psalm 67
Romans 11:13-24
Matthew 15:21-28

Isaiah 56:1-8

¹The LORD says,

“Do what is fair and right.

I will soon come and save you.

Soon everyone will know that what I do is right.

²Blessed is the person who does what I want them to.

They are faithful in keeping the Sabbath day.

They do not misuse it.

They do not do what is evil on that day.”

³Suppose an outsider wants to follow the LORD.

Then that person shouldn't say,

“The LORD won't accept me as one of his people.”

And a eunuch shouldn't say,

“I'm like a dry tree

that doesn't bear any fruit.”

⁴The LORD says,

“Suppose some eunuchs keep my Sabbath days.

They choose to do what pleases me.

And they are faithful in keeping my covenant.

⁵Then I will set up a monument in the area of my temple.

Their names will be written on it.

That will be better for them than having sons and daughters.

The names of the eunuchs will be remembered forever.

They will never be forgotten.

⁶“Suppose outsiders want to follow me
and serve me.

They want to love me

and worship me.

They keep the Sabbath day and do not misuse it.

And they are faithful in keeping my covenant.
⁷ Then I will bring them to my holy mountain of Zion.
I will give them joy in my house.
They can pray there.
I will accept their burnt offerings and sacrifices on my altar.
My house will be called
a house where people from all nations can pray.”
⁸ The LORD and King will gather
those who were taken away from their homes in Israel.
He announces, “I will gather them to myself.
And I will gather others to join them.”

Psalm 67

¹ God, have mercy on us and bless us.
May you be pleased with us.
² Then your ways will be known on earth.
All nations will see that you have the power to save.
³ God, may the nations praise you.
May all the people on earth praise you.
⁴ May the nations be glad and sing for joy.
You rule the people of the earth fairly.
You guide the nations of the earth.
⁵ God, may the nations praise you.
May all the people on earth praise you.
⁶ The land produces its crops.
God, our God, blesses us.
⁷ May God continue to bless us.
Then people from one end of the earth to the other
will have respect for him.

Romans 11:13-24

¹³ I am talking to you who are not Jews. I am the apostle to the Gentiles. So I take pride in the work I do for God and others. ¹⁴ I hope somehow to stir up my own people to want what you have. Perhaps I can save some of them. ¹⁵ When they were not accepted, it became possible for the whole world to be brought back to God. So what will happen when they are accepted? It will be like life from the dead. ¹⁶ The first handful of dough that is offered is holy. This makes all of the dough holy. If the root is holy, so are the branches.

¹⁷ Some of the natural branches have been broken off. You are a wild olive branch. But you have been joined to the tree with the other branches. Now you enjoy the life-giving sap of the olive tree root. ¹⁸ So don't think you are better than the other branches. Remember, you don't give life to the root. The root gives life to you. ¹⁹ You will say, “Some branches were broken off so that I could be joined to the tree.” ²⁰ That's true. But

they were broken off because they didn't believe. You stand only because you do believe. So don't be proud, but tremble. ²¹ God didn't spare the natural branches. He won't spare you either.

²² Think about how kind God is! Also think about how firm he is! He was hard on those who stopped following him. But he is kind to you. So you must continue to live in his kindness. If you don't, you also will be cut off. ²³ If the people of Israel do not continue in their unbelief, they will again be joined to the tree. God is able to join them to the tree again. ²⁴ After all, weren't you cut from a wild olive tree? Weren't you joined to an olive tree that was taken care of? And wasn't that the opposite of how things should be done? How much more easily will the natural branches be joined to their own olive tree!

Matthew 15:21-28

²¹ Jesus left Galilee and went to the area of Tyre and Sidon. ²² A woman from Canaan lived near Tyre and Sidon. She came to him and cried out, "Lord! Son of David! Have mercy on me! A demon controls my daughter. She is suffering terribly."

²³ Jesus did not say a word. So his disciples came to him. They begged him, "Send her away. She keeps crying out after us."

²⁴ Jesus answered, "I was sent only to the people of Israel. They are like lost sheep."

²⁵ Then the woman fell to her knees in front of him. "Lord! Help me!" she said.

²⁶ He replied, "It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs."

²⁷ "Yes it is, Lord," she said. "Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their owner's table."

²⁸ Then Jesus said to her, "Woman, you have great faith! You will be given what you are asking for." And her daughter was healed at that moment.

Overview of Texts:

In today's readings the theme is of the Jewish people being taught to please God by keeping His covenants, to obey the Sabbath, to worship and praise Him, and ultimately accepting the Gospel of Jesus Christ in faith. In the Psalm David sings that God's pleasure over His people will cause all nations to see that God has the power to save, causing them to seek God's blessings, and resulting in people from one end of earth to the other to have respect for Him. Paul, apostle to the Gentiles (and exiles, unbelieving Jews) teaches that the Jew's rejection of the Gospel brings salvation to the Gentiles; causing the apostles to turn to the "outsiders." His hope is that as Gentiles enjoy God, the Jewish people will want what they have: reconciliation with God, the great riches. The loss of Israel (for not believing) leads to the salvation of the Gentiles, which was dependent on the patriarchs of the Abrahamic covenant. Finally, in Matthew's gospel,

when Jesus encounters a Canaanite woman who recognizes Him as Lord, calling Him “Lord, Son of David,” he says to her that he was only sent to the people of Israel who are like lost sheep. Undeterred she falls to her knees in worship, asking, “Lord! Help me!” Jesus replies that it isn’t right to take the children’s bread (the children being the Jewish people) and give it to the “little dogs,” and in faith the woman states that even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their owner’s table. When Jesus witnesses her great faith, he gives her what she wants; her daughter is healed of the demon possession. Jesus’ recognition of her faith and the consequences of her belief in Him, prove that He came to save all people, Jews and Gentiles.

Pre K- Kindergarten Lesson Plan:

Opening Prayer: Lord’s Prayer

Supplies & Preparation:

Supplies: bibles, crayons or markers, kneelers or pillows to kneel on, a music playing device with a song of praise to sing, copy of the 10 Commandments (highlighting the 4th), copies of the activity illustrating the faith of the Canaanite woman, copies of the coloring page at the end of this lesson. All copying materials located at the end of this lesson.

Preparation: Study the bible texts and overview to be able to help the students to learn that having and showing faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior are what pleases God, Our Father. Our worship and praise and thanksgiving for the blessing of His Son and His forgiveness are what pleases Him. Honoring the Sabbath is a commandment, and He wants us to obey His commandments. Make copies of the materials at the end of the curriculum. You will need to make an example version of the Canaanite woman paper craft. You may need to cut the arms out ahead of class for younger students.

Lesson:

- Greet your students. Encourage them to share something for which they are thankful or with which they want God’s help.
- Ask them to help you summarize who Jesus is and what He did for the world and why. Remind them that this is called the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Tell them that believing the Gospel is having faith.
- Remind them that in the beginning story of God, after creation and the fall of Adam and Eve, that the world needed a Savior. God chose His special people, the people of Israel, the Jews, and he told them that He would give a Savior to bring them back into a relationship with Him.
- God wanted His people to worship Him and give Him praise and commanded them to keep the Sabbath set apart/special (that is Sundays for us) and keep it Holy by loving Him together at church. Show the children the copy of the Ten Commandments, drawing their focus to #4.

- Read passages in the readings about pleasing God by keeping the Sabbath and worshipping Him. Read or retell the story about the Canaanite woman's faith.
- Explain that Jesus was pleased with her faith and healed her daughter because she showed that she believed Jesus could heal her daughter.
- Explain to your students that God provided Jesus for the Israelites, but some rejected Jesus and didn't believe the Gospel story.
- Jesus taught the disciples to spread the Gospel to ALL people so they would believe and be saved.

Activity:

- Ask the children what we can do to please God.
- Ask how we can practice pleasing God at home, in school, alone, and together.
- Ask the children what we do in our worship on Sundays, the Sabbath. (dress handsomely/pretty for worship, enter quietly and focus on God's love and gift of Jesus, kneel to pray, listen to bible verses, listen to beautiful music, sing hymns and praises, light prayer candles, pass the Peace of Christ to one another)
- Talk about other things we can do on Sundays that would please God. (spending time with family playing games and reading, sharing a meal and conversation together sharing our blessings, playing outside together, visit a sick or elder family member or neighbor)
- Talk about why this pleases God. (sharing God's love and telling of His blessings)
- Practice kneeling together and invite the children to pray, giving thanks to God and asking for what they need and what others need.
- Sing a song of praise together, loving God with their voices.

Craft:

- Have the children cut out and assemble the craft of Jesus and the Canaanite Woman.
- In addition, students can color the coloring page of children singing praise songs in church.

Closing Prayer: Lord's Prayer

Elementary Lesson Plan:

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

Supplies & Preparation:

Supplies: Copies of the skit script for each person, optional: simple costumes for skit (see below in skit instructions).

Preparation: Study the bible texts and overview to be able to help the students to learn that having and showing faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior are what pleases God, Our Father. Make copies of the script page below for each student.

Lesson:

- Read or retell the story about the Canaanite woman's faith.
- Explain that a Canaanite would have been someone who was from a community of people that didn't get along with the Israelites. It was surprising that she would even try to talk to Jesus. She approaches him with a desperate request. At first, Jesus tells her he is there for the Israelites and not for other people. But the woman is persistent. This is just what Jesus wanted!
- Explain that Jesus was pleased with her faith and healed her daughter because she showed that she believed Jesus could heal her daughter.
- Explain to your students that God provided Jesus for the Israelites, but He had a bigger plan in mind. Jesus taught the disciples to spread the Gospel to ALL people so they would believe and be saved.
- Read through the Isaiah reading. Pay special attention to verses 6-7. You may wish to assign the last part of verse 7 as a memory verse: My house will be called a house where people from all nations can pray. How do these verses tie in to the Gospel reading? The Canaanite woman is a perfect example of someone showing the right kind of faith in Jesus and being welcomed into the love of God.
- Ask the children if they'd like to act out the Gospel story. Hand out copies of the script included on the next page.

Activity: Role-Play Script: The Woman Who Wouldn't Give Up

Characters Needed:

- Narrator (can be you or a confident reader)
- Jesus
- Woman from Canaan
- Disciples (2–4 kids)
- Daughter (optional, can just sit quietly or pretend to be sick)

Props/Costumes (optional):

- A scarf or shawl for the woman
- A blanket for the “sick” daughter
- A walking stick for Jesus
- A small basket or pretend bread for the “crumbs” part
- Simple bedsheet tunics for all

The Woman Who Wouldn't Give Up

Narrator: Jesus and His friends were traveling near a place called Tyre and Sidon. It was far from their home, and the people there were from different nations.

(The Woman runs in, looking worried)

Woman: (calling out loudly) *Lord! Son of David! Please help me! My daughter is very sick!*

Narrator: At first, Jesus didn't answer her.

Disciples: (whispering to Jesus) *Send her away! She keeps shouting after us!*

Narrator: But the woman didn't give up. She came closer and knelt in front of Jesus.

Woman: *Lord, please help me!*

Jesus: *I was sent to help the people of Israel first.*

Woman: (smiling with hope) *Yes, Lord, but even dogs get the crumbs that fall from their master's table.*

Jesus: (smiling warmly) *Woman, you have great faith! What you asked for will be done.*

Narrator: And right then, her daughter was healed!

Daughter: (jumps up, smiling) *I feel better!*

All Characters: (cheer together) *God's love is for everyone!*

Debrief with Kids:

- Ask: "What did the woman do when things got hard?" (She kept asking and believing.)
- Ask: "What does this story tell us about God's love?" (It's for everyone, everywhere.)

Closing Prayer: The Collect of the Day**Junior and Senior High Lesson Plan:**

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

Supplies: bibles, paper, markers, copies of The 1982 Hymnal or copies of hymn 390, "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty," copies of The Doxology (all included at the end of the lesson).

Preparation: Study the bible texts and overview to be able to help the students to learn that having and showing faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior is what pleases God, Our Father, and that our worship and praise and thanksgiving for the blessing of His Son and His forgiveness are what pleases Him. Honoring the Sabbath is a commandment, and He wants us to obey His commandments. Also, be able to help them understand that God provided a savior through the Jewish people, but many of them rejected Jesus. Jesus never planned to stop there and instructed the apostles to spread the Gospel to the outsiders, called Gentiles (non-Jews), and that the belief and faith of the Gentiles would lead the Jews to also believe because they would want what Christians had: peace and joy in believing the Gospel.

Lesson and Activity:

- Greet your students and ask about the true mysteries of our faith:
 - the sacraments
 - knowing in faith that God hears our prayers
 - knowing the Holy Spirit indwells us, transforms our minds and wills, informs our decisions, helps us be able to believe the Gospel message, and have faith in Jesus as we ask Him.
- Have the students read the lessons for today. Ask them to note what each of the four readings say about having faith and pleasing God. See how many connections they can make between the texts.
- Once finished reading the lessons, discuss them and have a student record on paper what the lessons stated about having faith and about what pleases God.
- Using the Overview of the Texts section above, discuss what they think Paul meant when he said Israel's unbelief, led the Gentiles to believe in the Gospel.
- Ask them to think about if the reference to the outsiders, i.e. the Gentiles, has anything to do with us? How? Is the fact that the Apostles preached the Good News to everyone, not just the Jews, the reason we were able to hear the

Gospel?

- What is Paul talking about with the branches of the tended olive tree and the wild olive tree? The Jews are the tree that was taken care of. The Gentiles are the branch taken from the wild olive tree. Paul is speaking of grafting here. Grafting is when a branch of one plant is placed into a notch cut into another plant with the purpose of that branch growing into that plant, becoming part of it, and bearing fruit. Usually a branch is taken from a tended, desired plant and grafted onto a healthy plant of another variety (sometimes wild) for the purpose of giving the branch a new, healthy plant with a strong root system from which to draw nutrients (via the sap). In this case, Paul explains that the wild branch of Gentiles is grafted onto the tree of God's chosen people, the Israelites, for the purpose of being drawn into God's plan, with its strong roots in the Israelites, and bearing fruit.
- Reread the passage from Matthew about the Canaanite woman (a Gentile) and the metaphor of "dogs," and "bread," and "crumbs," and how she showed her faith in Him? What does Jesus imply are the dogs? Gentiles. How did she reply? That even dogs get the crumbs. How did this demonstrate that she believed Jesus was the Christ, who had the power to heal her daughter? She was persistent because she really believed that not only could he help but that he would. Why do you think Jesus responded the way he did when she first asked? He wanted to draw out of her what she really believed. Think about how you might have responded to Jesus when he told the woman that "it wasn't right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs?" Do you have the faith to believe that even the crumbs that drop under a table are enough if they come from Jesus, the Master?
- Ask the students if they have heard something like the dogs gathering the crumbs under the master's table before somewhere else. Does it sound familiar? Where have you heard it before? Is it something you've heard during the Mass before? A similar sentiment is present in the Prayer of Humble Access that is said right before receiving communion. The similar line is: "We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy/your table; but thou/you art/are the same Lord whose property/character is always to have mercy." Ask the students what they think about that prayer and how it connects with the Gospel story.
- Discuss how we can demonstrate our faith at home, when we're alone, at school, in our various environments, together with other believers, and in Church.
- Discuss the variety of ways to praise God, worship God, love God, and that Christians use many different disciplines to praise, worship, and adore our Lord. Invite them to share their go-to ways, habits, and practices (for example: prayer, kneeling to pray, singing praise songs and hymns, making the sign of the cross before and after prayer, genuflecting or bowing toward the consecrated bread in the tabernacle in the church, reading a daily bible passage, lighting a prayer candle at home or church with a prayer, keeping the Sabbath holy by attending the Mass at church on Sundays, attending a Mass on other days, meeting together with other Christians to share about their day and how you encountered God that day, telling someone about Jesus and why you have faith and trust in Him).

- Finally, what pleases God? How does keeping the 4th Commandment bless God and us?
- Play a recording of Hymn 390, “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” using device with YouTube or other source. Provide the lyrics so students can sing along. Sing the Doxology. Students may want to suggest other favorite hymns and/or contemporary worship and praise hymns.

Closing Prayer: The Collect of the Day

I THOU SHALT HAVE
NO OTHER GODS
BEFORE ME

II THOU SHALT NOT
MAKE UNTO THEE
ANY GRAVEN IMAGE

III THOU SHALT NOT
TAKE THE NAME
OF THE LORD THY
GOD IN VAIN

IV REMEMBER THE
SABBATH DAY,
TO KEEP IT HOLY

V HONOUR THY FATHER
AND THY MOTHER

VI THOU SHALT
NOT KILL

VII THOU SHALT NOT
COMMIT ADULTERY

VIII THOU SHALT
NOT STEAL

IX THOU SHALT NOT
BEAR FALSE
WITNESS AGAINST
THY NEIGHBOUR

X THOU SHALT
NOT COVET



You'll need:

Scissors
Glue stick



Instructions

Cut out the pieces

Fold the background along the dotted line

Fold all the tabs so the colour is on the inside.

Attach the two hands together

Add glue to the arm tabs and glue either side of the woman

Attach glue to the word bubble tabs and attach in the middle.

Woman, you have great faith!

