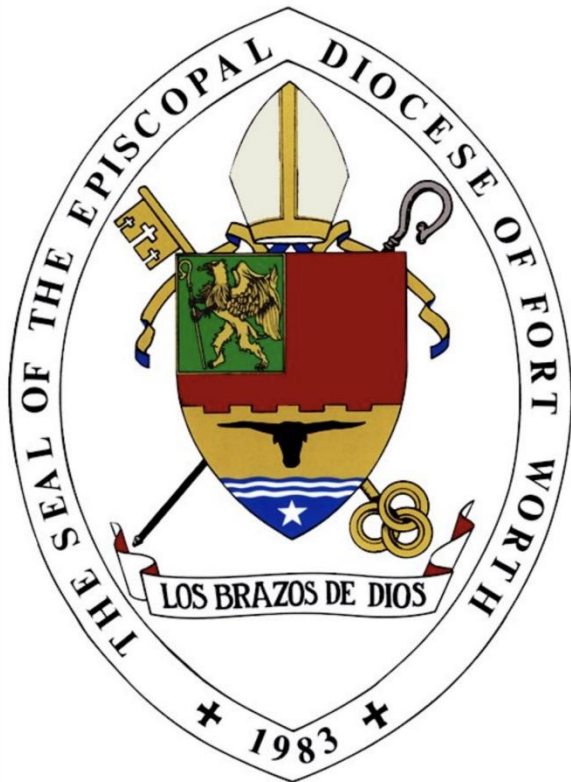


EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

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



**PROPER
18
YEAR A**

**Sunday from
September 4 to
September 10**

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

Sunday School Curriculum for the Sunday from September 4 to September 10 – Proper 18, Year A

Lectionary Texts:

Ezekiel 33:1-11

Psalm 119:33-48

Romans 12:9-21

Matthew 18:15-20

Ezekiel 33: (1-6) 7-11

¹ A message came to me from the Lord. He said, ² "Son of man, speak to the people of your own country. Tell them, 'Suppose I send enemies against a land. And its people choose one of their men to stand guard. ³ He sees the enemies coming against the land. He blows a trumpet to warn the people.

⁴ " 'Someone hears the trumpet. But he does not pay any attention to the warning. The enemies come and kill him. Then what happens to him will be his own fault. ⁵ He heard the sound of the trumpet. But he did not pay any attention to the warning. So what happened to him was his own fault. If he had paid attention, he would have saved himself.

⁶ " 'But suppose the guard sees the enemies coming. And he does not blow the trumpet to warn the people. The enemies come and kill one of them. Then his life has been taken away from him because he sinned. But I will hold the guard accountable for his death.'

⁷ "Son of man, I have appointed you as a prophet to warn the people of Israel. So listen to my message. Give them a warning from me.

⁸ "Suppose I say to a sinful person, 'You can be sure that you will die.' And suppose you do not try to get him to change his ways. Then he will die because he has sinned. And I will hold you accountable for his death.

⁹ "But suppose you do warn that sinful person. You tell him to change his ways. But he does not do it. Then he will die because he has sinned. But you will have saved yourself.

¹⁰ "Son of man, speak to the people of Israel. Tell them, 'You are saying, "Our sins and the wrong things we have done weigh us down. We are wasting away because we have sinned so much. So how can we live?" ' "

¹¹ "Tell them, 'When sinful people die, it does not give me any joy. But when they turn away from their sins and live, that makes me very happy. And that is just as sure as I am

alive,' announces the Lord and King. 'So turn away from your sins! Change your evil ways! Why should you die, people of Israel?'"

Psalm 119:33-48(33-40)

- ³³ Lord, teach me to follow your orders. Then I will obey them to the very end.
³⁴ Help me understand your law. Then I will follow it and obey it with all my heart.
³⁵ Teach me to live as you command, because that makes me very happy.
³⁶ Make me want to follow your covenant laws instead of wanting to gain things only for myself.
³⁷ Turn my eyes away from things that are worthless. Keep me alive as you have promised.
³⁸ Keep your promise to me. Then other people will have respect for you.
³⁹ Please don't let me be put to shame. Your laws are good.
⁴⁰ I really want to follow your rules. Keep me alive, because you do what is right.
⁴¹ Lord, show me your faithful love. Save me as you have promised.
⁴² Then I will answer those who make fun of me, because I trust in your word.
⁴³ Help me always to tell the truth about how faithful you are. I have put my hope in your laws.
⁴⁴ I will always obey your law, for ever and ever.
⁴⁵ I will lead a full and happy life, because I've tried to obey your rules.
⁴⁶ I will talk about your covenant laws to kings. I will not be put to shame.
⁴⁷ I take delight in obeying your commands because I love them.
⁴⁸ I praise your commands, and I love them. I spend time thinking about your orders.

Romans 12:9-21

- ⁹ Love must be honest and true. Hate what is evil. Hold on to what is good. ¹⁰ Love each other deeply. Honor others more than yourselves. ¹¹ Never let the fire in your heart go out. Keep it alive. Serve the Lord.
¹² When you hope, be joyful. When you suffer, be patient. When you pray, be faithful. ¹³ Share with God's people who are in need. Welcome others into your homes.
¹⁴ Bless those who hurt you. Bless them, and do not call down curses on them. ¹⁵ Be joyful with those who are joyful. Be sad with those who are sad. ¹⁶ Agree with each other. Don't be proud. Be willing to be a friend of people who aren't considered important. Don't think that you are better than others.
¹⁷ Don't pay back evil with evil. Be careful to do what everyone thinks is right. ¹⁸ If possible, live in peace with everyone. Do that as much as you can.
¹⁹ My friends, don't try to get even. Leave room for God to show his anger. It is written, "I am the One who judges people. I will pay them back," says the Lord. ²⁰ Do just the opposite. Scripture says, "If your enemies are hungry, give them food to eat. If they are

thirsty, give them something to drink. By doing those things, you will pile up burning coals on their heads." ²¹ Don't let evil overcome you. Overcome evil by doing good

Matthew 18:15-20

¹⁵ "If your brother sins against you, go to him. Tell him what he did wrong. Keep it between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won him back.

¹⁶ "But what if he won't listen to you? Then take one or two others with you. Scripture says, 'Every matter must be proved by the words of two or three witnesses.'—

(*Deuteronomy 19:15*) ¹⁷ But what if he also refuses to listen to the witnesses? Then tell it to the church. And what if he refuses to listen even to the church? Then don't treat him as your brother. Treat him as you would treat an ungodly person or a tax collector.

¹⁸ "What I'm about to tell you is true. What you lock on earth will be locked in heaven. What you unlock on earth will be unlocked in heaven. ¹⁹ "Again, here is what I tell you. Suppose two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for. My Father in heaven will do it for you. ²⁰ Where two or three people meet together in my name, I am there with them."

Overview of the Texts:

The theme for today's lessons is our relationship and obligations to the people around us. The Old Testament lesson reminds us that we need to be open with those around us about our faith. We have a responsibility to share how far we fall short of what God wants us to do and how loving and merciful He is if we ask Him to help us. The Epistle gives us a list of practical actions we can take to live out the gospel in the world around us. The Gospel gives us a picture of how to deal with disagreements and encourages us to understand how far reaching the consequences of our actions can be. Today classes will be working with the Epistle lesson.

Memory Verse:

Younger students: "Overcome evil by doing good." Romans 12:21b

Older students: "Don't let evil overcome you. Overcome evil by doing good." Romans 12:21

Pre K- Kindergarten Lesson Plan:

Opening Prayer: Lord's Prayer

Supplies & Preparation:

Supplies: light colored 8 ½ x 11 sheets of construction paper, additional red construction paper, crayons and glue.

Preparation: Cut out some 1" hearts out of red construction paper. In gold or black, draw a cross.

Lesson:

- Greet your students. Encourage them to share something for which they are thankful or with which they want God's help.
- Have the students sit down and listen. Ask them if they know the difference between being good and being bad. Make a list of things they know are good and bad things to do. Point out that their parents and teachers have helped them to learn what is good and bad behavior.
- Tell them that God is the one who helps us understand what is good and bad. Have them listen to the reading from Romans.
- Help them to find and talk about 3 good things they can do and 3 bad things they can avoid that you can find in the text. Take a minute to let each of them say something they could do as a good thing for someone who might not deserve it. Remind the children how God looks at how we treat other people as well as how we pay attention to him.

Craft:

Have each child take a light colored sheet of construction paper. Let them trace around their hand and darken the line. Glue the paper heart with the cross in the center of the child's handprint. Write across the top of the paper, MY HAND, and across the bottom, GOD'S HEART. (You may wish to write this ahead of time). Tell them that this paper is to remind them that God expects us to show His love whenever we reach out to other people.

Closing Prayer: Lord's Prayer

Elementary Lesson Plan:

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

Supplies & Preparation:

Supplies: light colored 8 ½ x 11 sheets of construction paper, additional red construction paper, crayons and glue.

Preparation: Cut out some 1" hearts out of red construction paper. In gold or black, draw a cross.

Lesson:

- Greet your students. Encourage them to share something for which they are thankful or with which they want God's help.
- Start the lesson portion of your class with the Lord's Prayer, and either or both the Apostles Creed and Hail Mary.
- Have the students sit down and listen. Ask them if they know the difference between being good and being bad. Make a list of things they know are good and bad things to do. Point out that their parents and teachers have helped them to learn what is good and bad behavior.
- Tell them that God is the one who helps us understand what is good and bad. Have them listen to the reading from Romans.
- Ask them to listen to verses 9-13 again. Read the verses again. What things does God say we should do to please him?
- Read verses 14-18 again. These are more details about what it means to honor others more than yourself.
- Ask them how much time they spend worrying about themselves, will they get what they want?
- Scripture says that when we treat others well, they will learn how they should treat us. Being good will actually get us much more than doing bad things.
- Take a minute to let each of them say something they could do to as a good thing for someone who might not deserve it.

Craft:

Have each child take a light colored sheet of construction paper. Let them trace around their hand and darken the line. Glue the paper heart with the cross in the center of the child's handprint. Write across the top of the paper, MY HAND, and across the bottom, GOD'S HEART. (You may wish to write this ahead of time). Tell them that this paper is

to remind them that God expects us to show His love whenever we reach out to other people.

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: one sheet of white poster paper, paint, scissors, brightly colored construction paper, glue and pens or markers.

Preparation: None

Lesson:

- Greet your students. Encourage them to share something for which they are thankful or with which they want God's help.
- Take a minute to talk about the lesson. Explain how God cares about us spending time with Him, but He also cares about how we treat each other. Point out how we do not have to guess what He wants us to do. He explains in this scripture passage how we can show love and respect to each other.
- Let the students take turns reading through the passage from Romans.
- Go down through each verse. Ask the students to give examples of things they or their families might have done to follow these instructions. If they can't give an example, ask them what they should begin doing to show God's love to others.
- Ask them how much time they spend worrying about themselves, will they get what they want?
- Scripture says that when we treat others well, they will learn how they should treat us. Being good will actually get us much more than doing bad things.
- Take a minute to let each of them say something they could do as a good thing for someone who might not deserve it.

Craft:

Have each student take a sheet of poster paper. Trace their handprints on brightly colored construction paper. Cut out the handprints (or if appropriate for your group, let them put paint on the palms of their hands and place their handprints around the edge

of the poster). In each handprint glue a small heart with a cross on it. In the center, have them write MY LIFE SHOWS GOD'S LOVE. Have a selection of brightly colored markers. Let each student sign their name in the white space around the hands. Put the poster on the wall and encourage them to think about verse 21 from today's lesson.

Closing Prayer: The Collect of the Day.