

good news™

2021-2022 Object Lessons

**Love the Lord your
God with all your heart
... and love your
neighbor as
yourself.**

Luke 10:27

CATHOLIC VERSION

Good News

Catholic Gospel-Based Object Lessons for 2021-2022

About the Catholic Gospel-Based Object Lessons

In these 47 Catholic Gospel-Based Object Lessons, centered on the appointed Gospel readings for the Sundays of the 2021-2022 school year, students learn from God's Word **as they prepare to hear the Good News proclaimed on the coming Sunday**. Each lesson includes suggested Bible readings, songs, a children's message and a brief prayer based on the coming Sunday's Bible readings. These object lessons may be used for school prayer services and liturgies, for homeroom prayer or for Sunday homilies for liturgies with children.

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Catholic Gospel-Based Object Lessons for 2021-2022

Preparing for August 8, 2021

Theme Verse

[Jesus said], “It is written by the prophets: They shall all be taught by God. Everyone who listens to my Father and learns from him comes to me.” John 6:45

Bible Readings

1 Kings 19:4-8; Psalm 34:2-9; Ephesians 4:30–5: 2; John 6:41-51

Songs

“LOVE God” (*Seeds* CD-2, Track #21)
or “Come Do This In Memory of Me” (*Promise/Good News* CD-1, Track #20)

Needed

A loaf of bread

Message

☒ Can any of you tell me what this is? (*Hold up the loaf of bread and allow the children to respond.*) That’s right! It’s a loaf of bread. Jesus calls himself the Bread of Life. That means we are nourished and fed by him in our spiritual lives, just like we are nourished and fed by bread in our physical lives. Jesus keeps us well fed as Christians through the words of the Bible that tell us about the salvation story that Jesus came to give us life by dying on the cross for us that we might be forgiven and live with him forever.

So, to keep well fed on the Bread of Life, it is good for us to read the Bible often, every day even. We eat meals every day, so it only makes sense that we feed on the Bread of Life every day and take in his words to us in Scripture. Listen to what he says to us:

“I came that they may have life and have it abundantly” (John 10:10). Jesus gives us life each and every day and he gives us eternal life through his Death and Resurrection.

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28). Jesus fills us with comfort, peace and rest when we are feeling tired and are hungry for help from him.

“I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20). Jesus reminds us that we are never alone because he is always by our side to strengthen and support us as we go through our lives.

“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love” (John 15:9). Jesus wants us to know how much he loves us and he wants us to live in that love in what we say and how we treat one another.

Are you feeling well fed on the Bread of Life? I know I am. And there is so much more to feed on in God’s Word. That is why it a good idea to read the Bible before or after you eat a meal. That way you can keep getting fed and keep remembering how important it is to stay spiritually connected to Christ. Keep filling your hearts, souls and minds with the words of Jesus.

Prayer

- 📖 Jesus, thank you for being the Bread of Life for us and keeping our spirits full of faith and hope in you. Amen.

Good News

Catholic Gospel-Based Object Lessons for 2021-2022

Preparing for August 15, 2021

Theme Verse

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." Luke 1:41-42

Bible Readings

Revelation 11:19; 12:1-6, 10; Psalm 45:10-12, 16; 1 Corinthians 15:20-27; Luke 1:39-56

Songs

"Mary, You Said Yes to God" (*Seeds* CD-2, Track #24)
or "Mary, Our Mother" (*Promise/Good News* CD-2, Track #11)

Needed

A picture of Mary

Message

📖 What is this, boys and girls? (*Hold up the picture of Mary and allow the children to respond.*) That's right! It is a picture of Mary. Mary was the mother of Jesus and we honor her today as a special person.

What do we know about her and what can we learn from her as we follow Jesus? We know that she was a young woman living in the small town of Nazareth when an angel came to her and told her that she was going to be the mother of Jesus. She

didn't understand how this could be because she wasn't married, but the angel told her that the Holy Spirit would come upon her and the power of the Most High would overshadow her. The child she would bear would be the Son of God. Now some people would say, "No way!" when they heard this, but Mary trusted in God and said, "Let it be to me as you have said." Mary let God use her as part of his plan of salvation for us.

We find out in the Bible that Mary was also part of Jesus' ministry. She told Jesus at the wedding in Cana that they had no more wine and Jesus changed water into wine there, his first miracle.

Then we also see Mary at the foot of the Cross when Jesus was crucified, where she stood next to the disciple John. Jesus would tell Mary to treat John as her own son and he told John to treat Mary as his mother. John took Mary into his home after that.

These three stories about Mary help us to live our faith in Jesus. We should always be ready to serve our Lord, as Mary did. We should never be afraid to ask Jesus to help us when problems arise. And we should care for others well with the love of Jesus, as Mary did.

Today we celebrate that Mary is in Heaven with Jesus, and we look forward to the day when we will be with Jesus, too, in Heaven, praising him with Mary and all the saints above. Mary is a reminder to us that we should love, serve and follow our Savior every day of our lives and in the days to come.

Prayer

- ☐ Jesus, thank you for giving us the example of Mary to show us how to accept and grow in our roles as faithful followers of you. Amen.

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Catholic Gospel-Based Object Lessons for 2021-2022

Preparing for August 22, 2021

Theme Verse

Simon Peter answered [Jesus], “Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God.” John 6:68-69

Bible Readings

Joshua 24:1-2a, 15-18b; Psalm 34:2-3, 16-23; Ephesians 5:21-32; John 6:60-69

Songs

“The Trinity” (*Promise/Good News CD-2, Track #22*)
or “Upon This Rock” (*Promise/Good News CD-2, Track #21*)

Needed

A Bible

Message

📖 What is this, boys and girls? (*Hold up the Bible and allow the children to respond.*) That’s right! It is a Bible. It contains the Word of God. Many of the things that Jesus said are in this book. In these pages, we learn the Good News that Jesus suffered and died for our sins and rose to everlasting life that we might live with him in Heaven.

Our Bible reading for today talks about a group of disciples listening to Jesus and questioning him and not believing what he was saying. Many people left Jesus and

went away that day, the Bible says. But the twelve disciples stayed. Jesus asked Simon Peter, “Do you want to go away as well?” (John 6:67). Peter responded, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God” (John 6:68-69).

We have nowhere to go but to Jesus either. He is the only One who gives us the words of eternal life. We believe in him and stay with him by the power of the Holy Spirit within us and within his Word. We should not follow the crowds and walk away from Jesus when we don’t understand everything or when things get hard.

We should keep following Jesus and his Word wherever we go. As it says in Psalm 119:105: “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” We should keep going where the words of Jesus tell us to go. And where does he tell us to go? He tells us: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19). We are to go into all the world and tell people about Jesus, that they might follow him.

So don’t ever go away from Jesus, but go with Jesus and for Jesus to spread the Word about him with everybody. He should be the go-to guy for each person on earth.

Prayer

- 📖 Dear Jesus, help us to listen to and trust your Word, no matter what, that we might never turn away from you. Amen.

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Catholic Gospel-Based Object Lessons for 2021-2022

Preparing for August 29, 2021

Theme Verse

Jesus summoned the crowd again and said to them, "Hear me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that enters one from outside can defile that person; but the things that come out from within are what defile." Mark 7:14-15

Bible Readings

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8; Psalm 15:2-5; James 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Songs

"God's Love Is..." (*Seeds* CD-2, Track #11)
or "Take This and Eat" (*Promise/Good News* CD-1, Track #17)

Needed

A picture of a heart

Message

☒ What do I have here, boys and girls? (*Hold up the picture of a heart and allow the children to respond.*) Yes, it is a heart. The picture of this heart reminds us that we should live our lives according to our hearts. What do I mean by that? I mean that we should do and say those things that come from the heart. We should love one another greatly. We should show kindness to people. We should welcome new people we meet into our group of friends. We should help people who are in need. We should say nice things about people.

Jesus says to do and say things that come from the heart, not from selfish places within us. We should not lie, cheat or steal. We should not be mean to people or gossip about them or treat them poorly. We should not just please ourselves and forget everybody else. Those types of actions come from our human nature, which is driven by sin. Instead, we need to follow those things that come from Jesus. And Jesus comes from a place of love, not hate; a place of selflessness, not selfishness; a place of humility, not pride.

Expressing words and deeds of the heart are ways of revealing the very heart of God. As the Bible says, "God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

Jesus is at the very heart of our lives, and we need to do and say everything we can to point others to the life of Christ, who died for us out his love for us and rose again to spread his love to every life. Let his love fill your heart today and every day.

Prayer

- 📖 Jesus, out of your great love, you have brought love into our hearts. Let us live in love for you all our days. Amen.

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Catholic Gospel-Based Object Lessons for 2021-2022

Preparing for September 5, 2021

Theme Verse

[Jesus] looked up to heaven and groaned, and said to [the man], “Ephphatha!” (that is, “Be opened!”) And immediately the man’s ears were opened, and he spoke plainly.
Mark 7:34-35

Bible Readings

Isaiah 35:4-7a; Psalm 146:7-11; James 2:1-5; Mark 7:31-37

Songs

“God’s Family” (*Seeds* CD-2, Track #16)
or “Holy Spirit Live in Us” (*Promise/Good News* CD-2, Track #10)

Needed

A picture of a cartoon conversation bubble

Message

📖 What is this a picture of, boys and girls? (*Hold up the picture of a cartoon bubble and allow the children to respond.*) That’s right! It’s a conversation bubble, like ones we might see in cartoons or comic strips. It is a symbol that someone is talking. Today in our Gospel reading, we hear about a man who could not talk. When someone cannot talk, we say they are mute. The man also could not hear anything that people were saying to him. We call those who cannot hear deaf. Some people brought this man who could not talk and could not hear to Jesus and Jesus did an interesting thing. He put

his fingers in the man's ears and touched the man's tongue. Then Jesus said the word "Ephphatha," which means, "Be opened" in Jesus' language. Then guess what? The man could speak and hear and the Bible says the man began to talk plainly. If we had to put all that the man had to say in this conversation bubble (*Hold up the picture of the conversation bubble*), we probably couldn't fit in all the words! Jesus had healed the man! Life was open to him now!

We may not be literally mute or deaf, but we sometimes do not open our mouths to talk when we should and we often do not open our ears to listen when we ought to.

Have you ever closed your mouth when someone asked you about Jesus? Have you ever kept your mouth shut when someone was making fun of someone else or bullying them? Or have you ever said nothing when it was time to say something nice about somebody? When you encounter situations like this again, think of Jesus saying "Ephphatha," "Be opened," at these times and open your mouth to tell people about Jesus being our Savior, to tell a bully to stop being mean and to tell someone that they are nice and kind. Jesus will give you the words to say.

Then think about your ears. Are there times when your parents ask you to clean your room and you do not listen? Are there times when you have been in school or faith formation and didn't listen to the lesson they were teaching you? Or have there been times when you did not listen in church when the priest or deacon was talking? It's hard to listen sometimes, I know. But the next time you need to really listen, think again about Jesus saying, "Ephphatha," "Be opened," and open your ears to listen carefully to what your parents, teachers and priests have to say to you. When we are good listeners, we follow through and do what we are asked to do and we learn more about the world around us and about God. Jesus will help you to listen at home and school and church.

So open your mouth to talk and open your ears to hear, as Jesus calls us to!

Prayer

- ☐ Jesus, thank you for the gifts of speech and hearing. Help us to use these gifts to talk about you and listen to your Word every day. Amen.

Good News

Catholic Gospel-Based Object Lessons for 2021-2022

Preparing for September 12, 2021

Theme Verse

[Jesus] began to teach [his disciples] that the Son of Man must suffer greatly and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and rise after three days. Mark 8:31

Bible Readings

Isaiah 50:5-9a; Psalm 116:1-9; James 2:14-18; Mark 8:27-35

Songs

“Have You Ever Seen a Mustard Seed?” (*Promise/Good News CD-2, Track #15*)

Needed

A sign that says, “John the Baptist,” a sign that says, “Elijah,” and a sign that says, “Christ”

Message

📖 In today’s Bible reading, we hear the names of some people. They were names people were using to say who Jesus was. Here is the first name. What does this sign say? (*Hold up the “John the Baptist” sign and allow the children to respond.*) That’s right! It says, “John the Baptist.” Some people thought Jesus was John the Baptist because he was saying similar things about repenting of sins and preparing for the kingdom of God. But Jesus was not John the Baptist. John the Baptist was clear, “He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry” (Matthew 3:11). And one day when Jesus drew near to him, John the Baptist said, “Behold, the