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Object Lessons • School Year 23-24



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GRACE**

**Weekly
Object
Lessons
for
Catholic
Schools**



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Catholic Gospel-Based Object Lessons for 2023-2024

Lessons using visual aids for school prayer services and liturgies, homeroom prayer, and homilies for liturgies with children.

Music

For planning music, it is best to ask the advice of the parish music minister. If the selections planned for the main assembly for any given weekend are also appropriate for children, use the same music. Because that may not always be possible, we offer song suggestions for each Sunday.

The suggested music is available from Pflaum Publishing Group on three sets of CDs or in MP3 format. The CD sets/MP3s are part of the *Pflaum Gospel Weeklies* music collection correlated to the seasons of the Liturgical Year, featuring songs by well-known Catholic composer, John Burland, and others.

To view the lyrics for each song, visit gospelweeklies.com/lyrics.

Seeds 2-CD Set PGW-5201

Promise/Good News 2-CD Set PGW-5202

Venture/Visions 2-CD Set PGW-5203

TO ORDER, CALL 800-543-4383

OR VISIT PFLAUM.COM

MP3s are available at giamusic.com/pgw

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Catholic Gospel-Based Object Lessons for 2023-2024

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 2023-2024 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 2023-2024

Preparing for August 13, 2023

Theme Verse

At once [Jesus] spoke to them, “Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid.” Matthew 14:27

Bible Readings

1 Kings 19:9a, 11-13a; Psalm 85:9-14; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:22-33

Songs

“Like Jesus” (*Seeds* CD-1, Track #6)
or “Yes, Lord, I Believe” (*Promise/Good News* CD-2, Track #26)

Needed

A picture of a stormy sea

Message

🗨 Hello, boys and girls. Have you ever been on a boat? (*Allow the children to respond.*) It's fun to be on a boat most of the time. But what if the water your boat is on looks like this? (*Show the picture of a stormy sea.*) How would you feel then? (*Allow the children to respond.*) You would be pretty scared, wouldn't you? Well, in the Bible we read that the disciples of Jesus were on a boat in the water one night when a storm came up. The wind and the waves rocked their boat all around, and they were scared, just like you and I would be.

Then the disciples saw Jesus coming out to them. But he wasn't swimming. He was walking on the water. That scared them, too, and they wondered what was happening. But Jesus said to the disciples, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid." When Jesus got into the boat, the storm stopped and the disciples were not afraid anymore.

We can learn a lot from this story. There are times when storms come into our lives, like sickness or an injury or the death of loved one. And we can be afraid when these things happen. But Jesus tells us in the storms of our lives, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid." When Jesus is with us, he can calm us down and he can quiet the things that scare us. He can heal us. He can remind us that when believers die, they go to heaven to be with him.

We don't ever need to be afraid in this life because Jesus is by our side every step of the way. He has the power over the earth, the sea and the sky and everything in them. He has a special place in his heart for each one of us, and he will never let us be destroyed. He will be there to watch over us in this world and in heaven. Let us pray:

Prayer

📖 Dear Jesus, help us to take courage and cling to you in all the stormy times of our lives. Remind us that nothing can ever separate us from your love for us. Amen.

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Catholic Gospel-Based Object Lessons for 2023-2024

Preparing for August 20, 2023

Theme Verse

Then Jesus said to her in reply, “O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed from that hour. Matthew 15:28

Bible Readings

Isaiah 56:1, 6-7; Psalm 67:2-3, 5-6, 8; Romans 11:13-15, 29-32; Matthew 15:21-28

Songs

“Yes, Lord, I Believe” (*Venture/Visions* CD-2, Track #14)
or “God’s Family” (*Seeds* CD-2, Track #16)

Needed

A picture of praying hands

Message

☒ Hello, boys and girls. What is this a picture of? (*Show the picture of praying hands, and allow the children respond.*) That’s right! It is a picture of praying hands. How often do you pray? (*Allow the children to respond.*) That’s great! Thank you for sharing. People pray at all times, don’t they? People pray at meals, in the morning when they first get up and at bedtime before they go to sleep. People pray when things are going well and they want to give thanks to God, and people pray when things are not going as well and they want help from Jesus.

That is what we see happening in our Gospel story for today. A woman is coming to Jesus in person to ask him to heal her sick daughter. Can you imagine praying in person directly to Jesus? That is what this brave woman did. At first it seemed her prayer would not be answered, but the woman kept on praying to Jesus until Jesus answered, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." Her daughter was healed at that moment. The woman had faith in Jesus to answer her prayer, and Jesus listened to her.

This story reminds us to put our faith in Jesus and trust in him no matter what is going on in our lives. We should never doubt him or wonder what he is up to. He hears our every need and knows what is best for us. It is our faith in him that can get us through any and every trouble and trial. So let us pray to him now:

Prayer

- 📖 Dear Jesus, thank you for listening to our prayers and answering them. Give us faith to trust in you always. Amen.

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Catholic Gospel-Based Object Lessons for 2023-2024

Preparing for August 27, 2022

Theme Verse

And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 16:18-19

Bible Readings

Isaiah 22:19-23; Psalm 138:1-3, 6, 8; Romans 11:33-36; Matthew 16:13-20

Songs

“Word of Truth and Life” (*Venture/Visions* CD-1, Track #1)
or “Hello, Jesus” (*Seeds* CD-2, Track #18)

Needed

A set of keys on a key ring

Message

☒ Hello, boys and girls. Do you know what these are? (*Show the keys, and allow the children to respond.*) That’s right! They are keys. What do keys do for us? (*Allow the children to respond.*) That’s right! They lock and unlock things for us, like the doors of our houses. In the Gospel reading today, Jesus says he will give the keys of the kingdom to St. Peter. What does Jesus mean here? He means that we can unlock the way to Jesus by forgiving others and we can lock the way to Jesus by not forgiving people. It is so important for us to forgive others as Christ has forgiven us. The church

itself is built on the foundation of forgiveness in Jesus' name. We are not perfect, but Jesus made us perfect by suffering and dying for us on the cross, removing all our sins from us. We no longer need to live locked up in fear and guilt and sadness. The forgiveness of sins opens up all joy and gladness within us because of Jesus. We should never stand in the way of people coming to Jesus for help. We should welcome people in to knowing Jesus.

How can we do that? We can do that by inviting them to come to church with us. We can bring them close to Jesus by asking them to pray with us and read the Bible with us. Do you know some fun Bible songs? You can ask people to join you in singing some of them with you so that they might learn more about Jesus. Let's sing one now you all know. Let's sing, "Jesus Loves Me":

*Jesus loves me, this I know,
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong.
They are weak, but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me.
Yes, Jesus loves me. The Bible tells me so.*

That is a good song for us to sing to remind us all that the heart of Jesus is always open for us. Let us never lock the door on him. Let us pray:

Prayer

- ① Help us, O Jesus, to forgive others and open the way to your love for them through the message of the cross. Amen.

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Catholic Gospel-Based Object Lessons for 2023-2024

Preparing for September 3, 2023

Theme Verse

What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? Or what can one give in exchange for his life? Matthew 16:26

Bible Readings

Jeremiah 20:7-9; Psalm 63:2-9; Romans 12:1-2; Matthew 16:21-27

Songs

“New Life” (*Promise/Good News CD-2, Track #1*)
or “Blest Are They” (*Venture/Visions CD-2, Track #11*)

Needed

A picture of Earth from space

Message

☒ Hello, boys and girls. What is this a picture of? (*Show the picture of Earth, and allow the children to respond.*) That’s right! It is a picture of the whole world. It is the place where we live, and we are blessed by this creation of God. But Jesus tells us in our reading for today that we should not focus all our attention on earthly things. Our focus should be more on God. We should spend our time praying to and worshipping him, reading or listening to people read the Bible. The things of God are what are most important. It doesn’t matter how much money we have on this earth or how popular or famous we are or how big our houses are. All that matters is that we have faith