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School Year 2024-25

FAITH HOPE LOVE

**Weekly Object Lessons
For Catholic Schools**



SAMPLE

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Catholic Gospel-Based Object Lessons for 2024-2025

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 2024-2025

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 2024-2025 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 2024-2025

Preparing for August 11, 2024

Theme Verse

[Jesus said,] “It is written in 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 34:1-9; Ephesians 4:30–5:2; John 6:41-51

Songs

“We Will Walk with God” (*Venture/Visions* CD-2, Track #8)
or “God’s Family” (*Seeds* CD-2, Track #16)

Needed

A picture of a loaf of bread

Message

☒ Hello, boys and girls. (*Show the picture of the loaf of bread.*) What is this a picture of? (*Allow the children to answer.*) That’s right! It is a loaf of bread. What do we use bread for? (*Allow the children to respond.*) That’s right! We use bread to make sandwiches for lunches or toast for breakfast. We use it to make fancier things like French toast and cinnamon toast as well sometimes, don’t we? Well, why do we eat bread? (*Allow the children to answer.*) That’s right! We eat it to satisfy our hunger and to nourish our bodies with the vitamins and minerals in the wheat and grain. So why does Jesus call

himself the Bread of Life, do you think? (*Allow the children to respond.*) That's right! He calls himself the Bread of Life because he nourishes our souls and fills our spirits with good things like grace and hope that we might stay strong and grow in our faith.

There are many ways in which Jesus nourishes us spiritually. He gives us his Word, the Bible, that sustains our faith with stories about his ministry among us and accounts of his many miracles and healings. We become closer to Christ by knowing more about him in the pages of Scripture.

Jesus nourishes us with his forgiveness, too. He went to the Cross to rid us of our many sins caused by the devil, the world and our own sinful flesh. In the bread of his body in holy Communion we participate in Christ's sacrifice and receive his grace and salvation..

The presence of Christ nourishes our souls so that we no longer live in fear and dread of what is to come, but we live instead in confidence and joy that we will one day eat together with all the saints in the banquet halls of heaven, where we will dine on the richest of foods and be freed from any pain and sorrow or grief.

Each time you eat some bread this week, think of Jesus and all the blessings he grants to us. Let us pray:

Prayer

- 📖 Dear Jesus, thank you for nourishing our bodies and our souls with your goodness. Amen.

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Catholic Gospel-Based Object Lessons for 2024-2025

Preparing for August 18, 2024

Theme Verse

[Jesus said to the crowds:] “Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him.” John 6:56

Bible Readings

Proverbs 9:1-6; Psalm 34:2-7; Ephesians 5:15-20; John 6:51-58

Songs

“This Is How” (*Venture/Visions* MP3)
or “Take This and Eat” (*Promise/Good News* CD-1, Track #21)

Needed

A sign that reads, “ABIDE”

Message

📖 Hello, boys and girls. What is the word that is printed on this paper? (*Hold up sign that reads, “ABIDE,” and allow the children to respond.*) That’s right! It reads, “ABIDE.” What does the word “ABIDE” mean? (*Allow the children to respond.*) That’s right. It means to be with us. Jesus abides with us, or is with us, in many ways.

Jesus tells us in the Gospel reading that he abides with us in holy Communion. You may not be old enough to take holy Communion right now, but when the time comes

when you can take Communion, you will receive the real presence of the Body and Blood of Jesus. Jesus will be with you in this sacrament and will grant you his grace in this sacred meal.

Jesus also tells us in the Bible that “where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them” (Matthew 18:20). That means that every time we get together with other people to worship or read the Bible or pray, Jesus abides with us. He is with us right now as we take part in this activity.

St. Paul says in the Bible, too, that “Christ is in you” (Romans 8:10). That means he abides in you and he abides in the people around you. Because Jesus died on the Cross and rose again on Easter, we who are the people of God “no longer live for themselves but for him” (2 Corinthians 5:15). Because Jesus dwells in us, he helps us and guides us and protects us. We can trust in him to take care of us.

At Christmastime, we sing the song, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.” Emmanuel is a fancy word that means “God with us.” I am going to sing (or speak) the first verse of this song. It goes: “O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.”

This song reminds us that we are slaves to sin and cannot free ourselves except through Jesus, our Emmanuel. So we rejoice, as the song says, We rejoice again because Jesus comes to dwell with us each and every day. Enjoy having Jesus with you all the time. Let us pray:

Prayer

- ☒ Thank you, Jesus, for abiding with us in our lives and helping us to follow your will. Amen.

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Catholic Gospel-Based Object Lessons for 2024-2025

Preparing for August 25, 2024

Theme Verse

[Jesus] said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by my Father." John 6:65

Bible Readings

Joshua 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b; Psalm 34:2-3, 16-21; Ephesians 5:21-32 or 5:2a, 25-32;
John 6:60-69

Songs

"Holy Spirit, Live in Us" (*Promise/Good News* CD-2, Track #10)
or "Come and Follow Me" (*Promise/Good News* CD-2, Track #14)

Needed

A picture of Jesus

Message

📖 Hello, boys and girls. Who is this a picture of? (*Hold up the picture of Jesus, and allow the children to respond.*) That's right! It is a picture of Jesus. In the Gospel reading for this week, Jesus was talking to people about who he was, and some people did not believe what he was saying and walked away. So Jesus said to his disciples around him, "Do you also want to leave?" (John 6:67). Then Peter spoke up and said, "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).

It's a good question from Jesus for us to answer as well. "Do you also want to leave?" Right away we want to say, like Peter, "No way!" But then, like Peter who once denied Jesus three times, we sometimes want to go away from Jesus.

What leads us away from Jesus sometimes? Maybe it's our phones or our video games that take time away from praying to Jesus or reading the Bible. Maybe it's some classmates of ours who urge us to break the one of the Ten Commandments. Maybe it is our own selfish feelings that keep us from coming to Mass regularly.

These are all ways that the devil uses to keep us away from Jesus and his words of eternal life. It is good for us to remember that Jesus is the only one who can open the doors of heaven for us through his suffering, death and resurrection. There is no one else we can go to for salvation. Let us keep that in mind day after day. Let us pray:

Prayer

☞ Lord Jesus, help us to listen to you above all other voices. Amen.

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Catholic Gospel-Based Object Lessons for 2024-2025

Preparing for September 1, 2024

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 Gave Me Hands” (*Seeds* CD-1, Track #13)
or “Word of Truth and Life” (*Venture/Visions* CD-1, Track #1)

Needed

A picture of speech bubbles

Message

☒ Hello, boys and girls. I have a kind of unusual picture for you today. (*Hold up the picture of speech bubbles.*) Can any of you tell me what these images are called? (*Allow the children to respond.*) These are what are called speech bubbles. You might have seen them in cartoons or comic books. What do we put into speech bubbles like these? (*Allow the children to respond.*) That’s right! We put in words that we say, words that come out of our mouths. Some words are nice words like, “I love you” or “You are

great!" Other words that can come out of our mouths are not so nice, like mean names or crude language.

Jesus said in the Gospel that we should watch what comes out of our mouths. What comes out of our mouths should only be loving and kind and uplifting, not mean or angry or hateful. There are two commandments that speak to the words we say. One is the Second Commandment that says, "You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain." That means we should never swear using the words God or Jesus or any other words referring to them.

The other commandment that talks about words we should and should not use is the Eighth Commandment that says, "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor." That means that we should never say anything that is not nice about somebody. We should always speak well of people and show them respect in how we talk about them.

One survey says that the average person uses at least 6000 words a day (some use a lot more; you know who you are). So we need to do all we can with God's help to use those 6000 or more words to spread the kindness and love of Christ to as many people as we can and stop ourselves from speaking if a bad or mean word wants to come out. Let us pray:

Prayer

- ① Dear Jesus, keep our mouths from speaking words that are not pleasing to you or others, but open our mouths to say words of praise to you and encouragement to one another. Amen.

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Catholic Gospel-Based Object Lessons for 2024-2025

Preparing for September 8, 2024

Theme Verse

[Jesus] put his finger into the man's ears and, spitting, touched his tongue; then he looked up to heaven and groaned, and said to him, "Ephphatha!" (that is, "Be opened!")

Mark 7:33b-34

Bible Readings

Isaiah 35:4-7a; Psalm 146:6-10; James 2:1-5; Mark 7:31-37

Songs

"Two Little Ears" (*Seeds* CD-1, Track #4)
or "Let's Celebrate Now" (*Seeds* CD-2, Track #12)

Needed

A picture of an ear

Message

☐ Hello, boys and girls. What is this a picture of? (*Hold up the picture of the ear, and allow the children to respond.*) That's right! It is a picture of an ear. I want you to try something with me. Put your hands over your ears right now. (*Put your hands over your ears, and allow the children to do so as well.*) Now see if you can hear me say something. (*Whisper quietly, "Jesus love you."*) Okay. You can uncover your ears now. Did you hear me say something to you? (*Allow children to respond.*) Some of you couldn't because it was hard to hear me with your ears covered. I whispered, "Jesus

loves you.” You all heard me say, “Jesus love you” now, I hope. Now imagine if it was like your ears were completely covered up all the time, and you could not hear anything. That would be very hard, wouldn’t it? We call people who cannot hear deaf or hearing impaired.

In the Gospel reading for this week, people brought a man who was deaf to Jesus. Jesus put his fingers into the man’s ears and said, “Be opened!” (Mark 7:34). And the man’s ears were opened right away. What do you think it must have been like for that man to go from not hearing anything to hearing everything around him? (*Allow the children to respond.*) It must have been pretty shocking to hear so many things all at once. The people were so excited that they wanted everyone they met to know what Jesus had done for the man who could not hear.

What does this story tell us? It tells us that we need to look out for people who need Jesus’ help and bring them to him in prayer. We can also bring them to doctors who can help them. We need to trust in Jesus to heal people in need, according to his will.

It is also our call to tell people when Jesus has brought healing to someone so that they, too, may trust and believe in Jesus. Let us pray:

Prayer

- ① Bring healing to those in need, dear Jesus. Help us to serve those who need our help, and open our mouths to proclaim your goodness to those you have healed. Open the ears of even those who can hear so that they listen to and follow you. Amen.

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Catholic Gospel-Based Object Lessons for 2024-2025

Preparing for September 15, 2024

Theme Verse

[Jesus] summoned the crowd with his disciples and said to them, “Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.” Mark 8:34

Bible Readings

Isaiah 50:5-9a; Psalm 116:1-6, 8-9; James 2:14-18; Mark 8:27-35

Songs

“Yes, Lord, I Believe” (*Promise/Good News CD-2, Track #26*)
or “Return to God” (*Venture/Visions MP3*)

Needed

A picture of a cross

Message

☒ Hello, boys and girls. What is this a picture of? (*Show the picture of a cross, and allow the children to respond.*) That’s right! This is a picture of a cross. What does a cross remind us of? (*Allow the children to respond.*) It reminds us that Jesus died on the Cross for us to forgive us of our sins and give us eternal life in heaven.

Sometimes it is hard for us to hear that Jesus died. It was hard for the disciples to hear that Jesus was going to die, too. In our Gospel reading for this week, Peter even pulls Jesus aside and is angry about it. But Jesus realized that no matter how hard it was

going to be, dying on the Cross was something he had to do for us that we might be saved.

Later on in the Gospel reading, Jesus says that we have take up our own cross and follow him. What does that mean? It means that we have to carry suffering and hard times with us on the way to being with Jesus in heaven. People may make fun of us for believing in Jesus. Maybe you have to talk to someone about Jesus who doesn't want to listen. Maybe you have to go to a place you do not what to go because Jesus wants you to be there to share your faith. Whatever hard thing it is, whatever your cross might be, remember that Jesus was victorious over the Cross when he rose from the dead on Easter. We know that Jesus will bring victory to us in the end, too, so we should never be afraid of the crosses we have to bear. Jesus will help us through them and bless us with strength and power that can only come from him. Let us live as disciples of Christ in good times and bad, knowing that there will always be a happy ending in heaven.

Prayer

- 📖 Thank you for going to the Cross for us, dear Jesus. Give us strength us to carry our own crosses for you, and keep us following you wherever you lead us. Amen.