

Jesus Teaches about God's Kingdom

New Testament 3

Bulletin Notes

The following summaries of this quarter's *Growing in Christ*® and *Cross Explorations* Sunday School lessons are intended to provide a Sunday School link to parents and the congregation. These paragraphs can be copied from the Director CD using a word-processing program.

Consider using these summaries:

- Print them in your congregation's weekly bulletin or newsletter.
- E-mail them as a weekly e-mail encouragement for student and parent Sunday School participation.
- E-mail them as a review e-mail follow-up to Sunday School each week.
- E-mail them as a "staying in touch" note or e-mail for students or families who are absent.

Lesson 1

"Jesus Preaches on the Mount" is today's Sunday School lesson. Jesus explains in His Word that He was poor, hungry, sorrowful, hated, and rejected for our sake so that God would grant us His gifts and blessings. *Discuss with your children, "How does our sin blinds us? What does Jesus offers us through faith in Him?"*

Lesson 2

In today's Sunday School lesson, "Jesus Teaches Us to Trust," we hear another portion of Jesus Sermon on the Mount. The theme? Do not worry! Talk with your children about how God has provided for them. List the blessings God gives your family in this life. Then talk about the eternal and spiritual blessings that God gives through His Son, Jesus. *Ask your children, "What do you worry about? How has God answered that worry?"*

Lesson 3

In today's Sunday School lesson, "Jesus Is Anointed," the children learned how in faith, a sinful woman lovingly anointed Jesus. They also learned how in faith we grasp God's free mercy, receive the forgiveness of sins, and respond with acts of love and praise. As a family, consider ways that you might respond to God's mercy. *Ask your children, "What sins will God forgive?"*

Lesson 4

Today, the Sunday School classes learned about "Jesus Feeds Five Thousand." They learned that in His love, God promises to care for all our physical and spiritual needs and gives us the greatest treasure—His Son and the gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation. *As a family discuss, "In what ways has God provided for both your physical and spiritual needs?"*

Lesson 5

Today's Sunday School, lesson is "The Transfiguration" of our Lord. At the transfiguration, Jesus' glory was unveiled before the disciples. Today, His glory is unveiled for us in the Word preached by the pastor, in the water of Baptism, and in the bread and wine of His Holy Supper. In heaven, we shall see Him in all His glory! *Discuss with your children, "How are we like the disciples who trembled at the sound of God's voice?"*

Lesson 6

Today's Sunday School lesson "Jesus Sends the Seventy-two" tells about Jesus sending His followers to go and tell others about Himself. God places us in various callings, giving us opportunities to serve Him and share our faith with others. *As a family discuss, "What various callings (vocations) do each of us have? Who in your life needs to hear about the Savior?"*

Lesson 7

The Sunday School lesson this week is "The Good Samaritan." Students will learn that Jesus is our neighbor, the one who showed mercy to us, and calls us to be neighbors to all who are in need. *As a family you could discuss, "Who could we consider our neighbor? How could we share God's love with our neighbor?"*

Lesson 8

"The Good Shepherd" is our Sunday School lesson today. The children learned how we are all like sheep who have gone astray, in need of Jesus, our Shepherd, who rescues, gathers, and cares for us through His Word and Sacraments. *As family consider discussing, "In what ways has Jesus rescued you? Where can we find our Shepherd?"*

Lesson 9

In today's Sunday School lesson "Jesus Teaches Us to Pray." The children learned that our heavenly Father invites us to pray and promises to hear our prayer for the sake of His Son, Jesus. *Ask your children, "What things have you prayed for? How has God answered your prayers?"*

Lesson 10

Today's Sunday School lesson is "Jesus Raises Lazarus." In resurrecting Lazarus, Jesus demonstrated that He can indeed raise all who believe in Him for salvation. True life is eternal life with Jesus. *Consider asking, "Where do we see and experience the effects of sin in our lives? What does Jesus promise to all who believe in Him as Savior?"*

Lesson 11

In our sin, we are lost from God and doomed to die, but God, in His love, sought and found us and keeps us with Him forever. Today's Bible story is, "Jesus Seeks the Lost" as recorded by St. Luke (Luke 15). *Talk about, "How does God the Holy Spirit work through the the Word and the Sacraments?"*

Lesson 12

In Sunday School today, the children learned, "Jesus Heals Ten Lepers." Jesus forgives and heals us from the sickness of sin and death. *Discuss, "What does it mean to be healed of our sin-sickness? How do we thank God for His grace?"*

Lesson 13

The Sunday School lesson for this week focuses on the story of "Jesus and the Little Children." In our sin, we are like small children: helpless, dependent, and needy. So Jesus came to bestow His love and eternal gifts upon us. *Parents could discuss, "How did Jesus show His compassion on these little children? How does Jesus shower His compassion on us?"*