

## Day 1

### **Behavior Objective**

Jesus sends us grace – special grace called Sacraments. Students will be able to answer questions on a worksheet with 80% accuracy about sacraments.

### **Anticipatory Set**

Let's say you walked into this room and you figured out very quickly it was someone's birthday. What would be the clues to tell you we were celebrating someone's birthday? Let them answer.

Why would we celebrate someone's birthday? Wouldn't the person know we knew it was his/her birthday? We really don't need to celebrate the birthday then. We could just ignore it and the person would be ok with that because hey- we know, so why bother showing it? Let them answer why we need to / should celebrate the birthdays.

Ok, February 14 is Valentine's Day. Let's say you forgot it was Valentine's Day. How would you know as soon as you walked into this room it was Valentine's Day (or try Christmas.) Let them answer.

Why do we have to tell or show people we love them? Don't they just know we love them? Why give them gifts, flowers, a hug? Let them answer.

Today, we are going to understand Jesus wants to show us his love by giving us his grace – even though we can't see him -- his love --or his grace!

### **Purpose**

Children need to know of Jesus' grace and that his grace flows through the sacraments. Then, once they know the sacraments are important for Jesus' presence, then they can understand the need for priests for Jesus' grace to come to us more easily.

### **Input**

I want to tell you a story. There was a boy named John who was turning 10 years old. That is a really important age because you leave those single digits and move into double digits. Anyway, he had a great birthday planned with his mom, dad and brother. Dad was supposed to pick up the pizza for dinner. Dad worked out of town and didn't come home all the time, so this was going to be exciting because all the family would be together. Well, shortly before he was supposed to be home, Dad called and said his truck broke down and ran out of gas. Mom needed to come get him. So, Mom called the local pizza place, went and picked up the pizza, got it home, set it on the counter and said, "Here eat this. Your brother and I are going to pick up your dad. We'll be back in a few hours." So they left and John was left at home alone with his pizza on his tenth birthday. How does John feel? How do you feel for John?

A new story. It is a Wednesday Night, nothing important is happening. Suddenly, Mom and Dad come storming into your room with huge smiles on their faces and say, come outside we have something for you. There on the dining room table is the best meal with all of your favorite foods and in the dining room and outside the front window, you can see the three things you have wanted for a real long time. Now, you think about it and realize it is not your birthday; it is not Christmas and you haven't done anything special at school, so you ask, "What is this for? Why did you do this for me?" They say, "oh, no reason, just because we love you." How do you respond? How do you feel? What do you think?

It is important to know “Love” is invisible. You can show “love” many ways, but whatever you are doing to show “love”, the tools you are using to show it also have names. For example, you give flowers to someone you love and you are giving them these flowers to show them love, but they are flowers, Love is invisible. You are having a party for Mom and Dad to show them you love them, but that event is called a party; love is invisible and you are using the party to show this love. Buying a present for your Dad—whatever the gift is has a name, but you are buying it to show him you love him, the gift is visible and has a name, the love, is invisible and you are trying to make it visible in the buying of the gift.

### **Checking for understanding**

Friendship is invisible. What are some things that you do to make that invisible word of “friendship” become visible. Help the students learn this concept and use other examples besides friendship and love.

### **Input**

Jesus wants to show us love of himself. He does this by giving us special grace. Guess what? Jesus, love and grace are all invisible. So, he has to do something to bring these invisible words of Jesus, love and grace to become visible. How does Jesus do this? How does Jesus make these invisible words come to us so we can see them and touch them – touch him and his grace? He gives us visible gifts called sacraments. In these gifts of Sacraments is another gift called grace; so the sacrament is two gifts in one: Jesus’ presence and grace.

But, we have to know what this word “grace” is: Grace is God’s love coming into us so we can do what God wants us to do.

We have a test and we want to do well on the test, but we are so worried we can’t study. We ask for God’s grace so we can stop worrying and do well on the test. The grace comes into us so we stop worrying (something God doesn’t want us to do) and we do well on the test (Something God wants us to do.) It is God’s love coming into us to help us stop worrying and doing well on the test.

We want Grace so we can do what God wants us to do. We want sacraments so we can have the grace to know what God wants us to do and can feel his love for us.

Tomorrow, we will begin to learn about the different sacraments. Today, I just want you to know what a sacrament is. A sacrament is a gift given to us by God so we can see and touch and feel Jesus and his love for us and the grace he wants to give to us. Grace is really important because that is his love coming into us so we do what God wants us to do. We want to do what God wants us to do because that is what will make us happiest.

### **Independent Practice**

#### **Worksheet**

#### **Closure**

Today we were supposed to learn that some things are invisible and we want to make them visible. Love, friendship, remembering a birth of someone for examples. We learned Jesus wants to make himself, his love and his grace present to us even though they are invisible. His way of making these things visible is through his gifts called sacraments. We want sacraments because we want to see Jesus, receive his gift of grace, and be more like Jesus by doing what

God the Father asks of us. When we receive sacraments we do what God wants us to do.

Bible: Matthew 11:25-30

Catechism of the Catholic Church: 355-361

## Day 2

### **Behavior Objective**

Children will be able to demonstrate through a worksheet the information explained regarding the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation.

### **Anticipatory Set**

I want all of you to get up and come outside with me so we can play a game of baseball. But before we go outside, let's review some rules of the game. There will be no gloves. When you hit the ball with this branch I want you to run to your left. Fourth, when you pick up the ball after it has been hit, you are to throw it to home plate then to the baseman to make an out. There are 5 outs per half inning. There are 10 innings. Instead of throwing the ball as a pitcher, you will role the ball on the ground from the mound to home plate. Are you ready to go play? Sound confusing? Does it sound like I've changed some of the rules? When we keep the same rules and everyone knows the rules, even without having to explain the rules, we call that a ritual. There is a ritual in playing baseball. If we change the ritual, players will get confused and even angry because we won't be doing it right. When God gives us a gift of a sacrament, He has a ritual He wants us to go through to receive this sacrament. He is the gift-giver, so if He wants to set up the gift giving in a ritual, He can.

### **Purpose**

Children will learn about Jesus', the priests, and sister's role in the initiation sacraments.

### **Input**

So, we know from yesterday's lesson that Jesus is invisible. His love for us and his grace are also invisible. How does Jesus get these sacraments to happen? The answer is He uses people to help him. Usually, He uses teachers, priests, sisters and parents to teach us about the sacraments. In a lot of schools, sisters teach us about the sacraments. In some churches, they help us understand the ritual. We need girls to think about being sisters so the Church can have more religious sisters be teachers and helping in the ritual of the sacraments. Yes, others can do this, but sisters have a special way of doing this for Jesus. When they do it, it may look the same on the outside, but on the inside something very special is happening to the sister and to the people who are learning it.

Priests can also teach and are very important in the celebration of the ritual. Again, God is the gift giver of these sacraments, so how He wants to set up the gift-giving is up to Him. We, as the receivers of these gifts, try to follow these rituals. We don't want to change the rules of the baseball game, so we don't want to change the rules of how God chooses to give us these gifts. Boys, I hope you are thinking of being priests so you can help in important ways make these rituals happen. Let's look at 3 sacraments today.

First, Baptism. What happens at our baptism? Let them answer.

Can we see sin? No, so then can we see it get washed away? We know it is washed away because we have the visible thing of water getting poured over the baby's head. We become part of Christ. Can we see Christ? No, so then how do we become part of him? Before the baby is wet the baby is not part of the body of Christ, after the baby is wet, the baby has become part of the body of Christ. That is visible. A priest or deacon baptizes a baby when the baby is healthy. What happens if the baby is very very sick when the baby is born? Well, then anyone including you can baptize the baby. Just say baby's name and say, I baptize you in the name of the Father

and Son, and Holy Spirit as you pour water on the baby. The ritual prefers water poured on the head, but if the baby is really sick, anywhere is ok. Like every sacrament, it is the words and the action working together to make the invisible thing visible to us. For baptism, it is saying, N I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit while pouring water over the baby's head.

The parents of the baby have to be told what is going to happen at the baptism and why it is going to happen. The ritual has to be explained. Sisters, priests, deacons, or anyone else can do this teaching.

Second, Eucharist. Remember last year when you received your first communion? Who did you receive? I asked, who, not what? That should be clue. Jesus! Can you see Jesus? Can you see your sins get taken away? Here, the bread and wine becomes the invisible thing. The bread and wine becomes Jesus. There is no longer bread and wine, there is Jesus. In baptism, we have water before, during and after the child becomes one with Jesus and the baby's sins are forgiven; here we don't have bread and wine, we have Jesus. When we put Jesus inside of our mouth, our sins are taken away. We can not see our sins being taken away, but we can see Jesus coming inside of us – and the invisible thing that is happening is that our sins are being taken away.

Because God is the gift-giver and decides how He wants his ritual done, He says priests are the only ones who can change bread and wine into Jesus' body and blood. All of us are needed to pray with the priest, while the priest is praying the prayer to make this change happen, but only he can make the change take place. So, for the sacrament, bread and wine must be on the altar while the priest is praying the prayer; then bread and wine is turned into the body and blood of Jesus. Sisters can educate people on the importance of receiving Jesus' body and blood. Sisters can educate people on how to receive Jesus in the Eucharist. Sisters can show us how to show great reverence, worship and awe of the Eucharist.

Third, Confirmation: You probably will not receive Confirmation until you are in high school. Remember Jesus in his favorite book of stories, the Bible told us He had to leave, was ascended into heaven, so the Holy Spirit could come upon us. Well, it is at our Confirmation the gifts of the Holy Spirit are poured into us in a more complete way. Can you see the Holy Spirit pour into us? Or the gifts of the Holy Spirit? No. So, how does it happen? Well, in most cases, the ritual God set up has the Bishop of the diocese doing the visible thing. The visible thing is that a perfumed oil called Chrism is smeared on the person's forehead while the Bishop says, "N be sealed wit the gifts of the Holy Spirit." In that action, the Holy Spirit comes upon the person. Because priests work for the Bishop in a special way that no one else works for the Bishop, the Bishop can tell the priest to confirm a person or group of people. Sisters can teach people about the importance of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. She can lead people through Confirmation.

### **Checking for understanding**

### **Worksheet**

### **Closure**

These three sacraments are called the sacraments of initiation. Jesus uses people to make his sacraments become present to us. Each sacrament uses visible things to make invisible things present to us. Tomorrow we learn about two more sacraments.

Catechism of the Catholic Church begin with 1212.

### Day 3

#### **Behavioral Objective**

Students will be able to demonstrate their knowledge with 80% accuracy answering questions about Reconciliation and Anointing on a worksheet.

#### **Anticipatory Set**

Have you ever lost your temper and hurt someone and then noticed mom or dad standing there watching you? How did you feel once you realized mom and dad saw you? Was there a bad feeling in your stomach? Have you ever hurt yourself and wish the pain would just go away? These two types of pain are connected. Today you will learn how they are connected. Jesus can take care of each type of pain.

#### **Purpose**

Children will know Jesus', the priests', and sisters' role in the healing sacraments.

#### **Input**

When we have that bad feeling after we have been caught doing something wrong and have that bad feeling in the body when we hurt ourselves, God wants to heal us. He wants to heal us of our sins and He wants to heal us of our injuries and sicknesses. When we sin, we go to the sacrament of reconciliation. When we are sick or hurt, we receive the sacrament of anointing of the sick. In both sacraments we are healed. Jesus wants to heal us. He wants to heal us because it is the loving thing to do. And He wants to give us his grace. Since He is the gift-giver He gets to decide how the ritual is done in each of these sacraments. Let's look at each one.

Can you see your sins leaving your body and going to the crucifixion? No. Some think the most important part of reconciliation is saying our sins. We are so nervous and scared because we actually have to say these sins. You know what? You tell sins to lots of people. Mom and dad look at you and say, "What did you do to your little brother?" as little brother is standing at Mom and Dad's side balling. Well, you tell Mom and Dad because you know you have to. If you hurt little brother, that is a sin. If teacher wants to know if you cheated on your test and you did and you know you have been caught because all the evidence is there, then you sinned and you tell your teacher you sinned. If your friend overhears you saying bad things about her and says so to you and you admit it, talking bad about another is sin and you tell your friend you did it. See, we tell lots of people about our sins. We aren't happy to do it, but sometimes we have to.

However, even after you tell your parents, teacher, or friend about your sins, your sins are still on your soul. Just because you said it doesn't mean they are gone. If you want Jesus to remove them, there is a ritual He set up for us to have that done. It is His gift to us. To receive God's gift, you go to the one God sends you to. No where in scripture does He say "go to your bedroom and in your own head tell me you are sorry and I will take your sins away." But in both Matthew and John Jesus does say how He wants us to have our sins forgiven. He even says it in the third book in the Bible, Leviticus. He tells us to go to a priest. Then we tell our sins. And that is not the most important thing that happens. Some might think remembering that really long prayer that is our Act of Contrition is the most important. That's not the most important part either. The most important part is having your sins removed and placed at the crucifixion. But, you can't see that. Right! That's invisible, but Jesus knows how to make that become visible. As soon as you hear Father begin to pray

God the Father of mercies through the death and resurrection of his son has reconciled the world

to himself and sent the Holy Spirit among us for the forgiveness of sins; through the ministry of the church may God give you pardon and peace, and I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

As the priest says those words he also lifts his hand or hands over your head. These words combined with the raising of the hand, is the removal of the sins and the placement at the crucifixion.

Since God is everywhere he is beyond time and place, so He can be in every place and every time. He can be both at the present moment and location (your absolution) and in the past at Jerusalem (the crucifixion.) It's something you will have to come to believe as you fall deeper in love with Him. Sisters can get you ready to make a good confession and can teach you about this sacrament. She can be a good example and help you appreciate it more and more. We need girls and women to ask God if he is calling them to be a sister. Priests are the only ones who can absolve you from your sin (take the sins away and place them on the cross) even though you can tell lots of people about your sins. We need more priests to take away people's sins. So, tonight, boys, ask the Lord if he is calling you to be a priest so you can absolve that is take away people's sins.

What about the anointing of the sick? I want you to understand something very important. Here, the word healing means that something will get better within every person who is anointed and maybe even within that person's loved ones. If that person's illness or injury is what is healed, that is a special type of healing called a cure. Not everyone who receives anointing of the sick will receive a physical healing – cure. If no cure takes place, then some other type of healing will happen. What other types of healing are there? Nerves, relaxation, peace, family problems solved, family more at ease, or healings we don't know about. Now, I want to tell you, if it is a cure, it is visible. However, sometimes healings take place that are not visible. This is why we receive this sacrament. We believe healing will take place. The outward visible thing that is used is called "Oil of the Sick." This special oil is normally placed on the forehead and palms of the hands of the person. While we anoint the forehead and palms, there is a prayer that is prayed. The other healing that will always take place is a healing of the soul. That means sins are forgiven and absolved; taken away from the person and placed at the crucifixion. Since that happens, who is the only one who can anoint someone? The priest.

Can people besides priests pray with the sick, visit the sick? Take Communion to the sick? Visit with worried family members of the sick? Absolutely. And, some sisters spend their whole lives doing this type of ministry.

Catechism of the Catholic Church: start with 1420.

### **Checking for understanding**

### **Worksheet**

### **Closure**

Review of highlights of the lesson.

## Day 4

### **Behavioral Objective**

Students will be able to demonstrate their knowledge with 80% accuracy answering questions about Marriage and Holy Orders on a worksheet.

### **Anticipatory Set**

How many of you have been asked this question: "What do you want to do when you grow up?" What are some answers? Let them answer.

Here is what I want your ears to hear and your brain to remember you heard every time that question is asked to you from now on:

"What does God want you to do when you grow up? Who are you supposed to be in God's plan?"

Because, what do I want to do when I grow up? Be happy with God by doing what God wants me to do is the best answer. It is the most honest answer. He is the one who makes us happy. We are happy when we follow His plan for us. Remember He created us and knows why and for what purpose/ so, let's ask Him. And do what He wants. Today we will talk about the life sacraments. There are only two: they are marriage and holy orders. Religious sisters and you as single people don't fit into these sacraments. We will talk about that.

### **Purpose**

Children will be able to learn Jesus' the priests' and sisters' role in marriage and holy orders.

### **Input**

If your mom and dad are married, did you know your mom and dad are connected? I know it seems strange since Mom can be in Alabama and your dad in Alaska at the same time. Yet, by our faith, we know they are connected. They, really, are one person, not two separate persons. Seems strange doesn't it? Well, this connection is invisible. But very real. This happens at the sacrament of marriage. The two become one. Mom (one person) dad (another person) two persons at their marriage are now one person.

How do we make this visible? The words the couple says and the wedding rings they wear.

Priests, deacons, other married couples, single people and sisters help prepare the couple for marriage by talking and listening to them. God is the one who calls them together and invites them to join their lives together as one. The man and woman did not do this on their own; they simply cooperated with what God wanted of them when he created each one of them. He created them to meet the other and to bring them together as one.

But God did not create every boy/man to get married. Some He created to become priests. This means He creates them for Holy Orders. Holy Orders is the name of the sacrament priests receive to become a priest. If there were 5 older guys standing in the room dressed in the same clothes and we knew only one was a priest, could we pick out the priest? No. Even if all 5 were wearing the cleric shirt, 4 of them would be faking and one would be real. What makes him a priest, what sets him apart from the rest of the world – both of these things are invisible. God makes it come visible in his ritual when the bishop places chrism oil in the palms of the man's hands who is becoming a priest and prays a prayer over the priest. Now, if that priest becomes a bishop, then it is also Holy Orders and the chrism oil is poured over his head while the ordaining

bishop prays over the new bishop. Deacons receive Holy orders but there is no oil; it's just a prayer over the head of the deacon. God is the one who gives the gift. God is the one who sets it up in this ritual. We, as people of the church are careful to follow the ritual God has given us.

What about religious sisters? Tomorrow we will learn more about this, but for now, let me say to you God has other rituals where his grace is given to us. He definitely gives us his grace in the sacraments. But, we believe He also gives us his grace in other rituals. Usually we call these rituals ceremonies. When a woman becomes a nun or a religious sister, there is a ceremony that happens. During that ceremony there is a mass which is the sacrament of Eucharist. And, the new religious sister, like all sisters becomes a bride of Christ. She marries herself to Jesus Christ. That is the invisible thing that happens during this ceremony. But, this ceremony is not a sacrament like Holy Orders is a sacrament when men become priests.

Now, getting a person to become a priest or sister is the responsibility of everyone in the church. Those that God calls to be a priest have to go to a lot of school and lots of people have to make sure this person is living a good life. Priests, sisters, deacons, married people, single people all work together to help men become priests. All of us are called to pray for those people becoming priests. The same is true for sisters. They receive a lot of education from priests, sisters, deacons, married people, and single people. And, they all need prayer too.

Tonight, you need to ask God, what is it he wants you to do? Who does he want you to become? If you want me to be a married person, I pray for the right person to be my spouse. If you want me to be a priest, help me to be a holy priest. If you want me to be a sister, help me to be a good holy sister. Show me the way.

### **Checking for understanding**

### **Worksheet**

### **Closure**

Review highlights of lesson.

Catechism of the Catholic Church: Marriage begins at 1601

## **Day 5**

### **Behavioral Objective**

By answering 80% of the questions correctly on a worksheet students will understand God gives us his grace when we do acts of almsgiving, prayer and penance.

### **Anticipatory Set**

Review sacraments of the last three days.

Sometimes we get gifts that cause us to do something before we can use them. For example, if we get a gun, we have to take a hunter's safety course before we can use the gun. If we get a car, we have to learn to drive correctly before we can drive the car. If we want an airplane, we need to learn how to fly the airplane before the airplane means much to us. Well, we receive these gifts of sacraments from Jesus. These gifts also mean we are supposed to do something. We are supposed to live a life that God calls us to live. That, among other things means we are to do at least three things. When we do these, we get more graces from God. These three things we are supposed to do are prayer, penance and almsgiving. We will talk about all three today.

### **Purpose**

Children will know that these sacraments demand a response from us requiring us to become holier. We are to give penance, prayer, and almsgiving. Sacraments encourage us and helps us to do these things.

### **Input**

How many of you receive an allowance? How many of you put part of that allowance in the collection basket at church? If you do receive an allowance and you put money in the collection that is almsgiving. You are giving the first part of your money – to God. Since He gives you His Son and owns everything you own, it only makes sense that in order to serve him and become more like Him, you would give your first part to Him.

How is it that when we put money in the collection basket at church, we are giving money to God? Let the children answer.

OK, maybe you don't make an allowance. Do you do extra things around the house to help out without being asked to do it? This is giving your time to God. God gives us 24 hours a day 7 days a week of his time to us. He asks that we spend time serving Him in others. This is also almsgiving, only this time we are talking about time rather than our treasure. You are expected to do both, but if you are not making an allowance, you don't have money to give – but all of us have time to give. How can we spend our time giving it to God? What are some examples? Let the children answer.

What are you good at? Let them answer. How do you help others with those talents? When you help someone else with your talents, you are serving God. God the Son spent his entire earthly life using his talents to serve others. He never did it for himself. He says that to be like Him, we have to use our talents to serve others too,. We cannot be selfish and just do things for ourselves. That is not God-like. And, we are to be God-like.

All these things we've talked about: giving the first part of our money, not just our leftover money, giving time to doing things for others and using our talents to help others, these are our

responsibilities for receiving the sacraments. Like if you want a car, or a gun, you have to do certain things to show you are responsible; these are the things we do to show we are responsible in receiving the sacraments. In the Catholic Church, we call the groups of treasure, time and talent almsgiving. Almsgiving is defined as what I do with my time talent and treasure for God.

Now, remember yesterday, I said there are other ways to receive God's graces besides the sacraments. When we cooperate with God and do almsgiving, we receive his graces. There are other ways to receive his graces.

We receive God's graces when we pray. When do you pray? Let them answer.

Here are the times all of us should be praying. I should pray at these times and so should you: 1) in the morning when we wake up and before we start our day. 2) at all meals – every time we put something in our mouth, we should pray. 3) whenever something important is about to happen: before a test, before a big game, as we go see the cousin we don't like 4) as we are getting ready for bed and before we go to sleep. These are four times when we should pray each day. Some don't pray at all; some only pray one or two of these times, but if we are going to be like Jesus and do what He did – what he asks of us to do to receive the sacraments responsibly -- then we should pray all of these times each day. When we pray, we receive graces from God. How should we pray? Let them answer.

There are all kinds of prayers in the Catholic Church and all of them are fine.

Petition, thanksgiving and sorrow are three types of prayers. We can do these three by memorized prayers, talking to God or some ceremonial prayer (rosary, stations, etc.)

God also asks us to do penance regularly if we are going to be like His Son and live responsibly by receiving his sacraments. Now, you know when you leave Confession you are supposed to do penance: three Hail Marys and Three Our Fathers, a decade of the rosary, say something nice to someone today -- something like that. However, we can do penance all the time. For example, most of you do penance during lent. We ask the question, "What are you giving up for Lent?" Whatever you want but are not going to have – that is penance -- to not have that item for six weeks. But, you can do penance outside of Lent and besides right after confession too. Many people who want the world to think more about the beauty and gift of life will do penance so life is more respected. Some do not eat meat -- not because they don't like meat or because they are doing it for a diet; they don't eat meat because that is their penance for the world so the world becomes more respectful toward life. Some don't like war so they choose not to drink soda or they choose to not drive more than 100 miles a week when they were used to driving 250 miles a week. These are penances to help the world avoid and get out of wars. You can choose your penance and why you are doing the penance and you don't have to tell others about it.

Today, you should spend your prayer time asking God who it is He wants you to be and who He wants you to become. He has given you everything; might He be asking you in return to be a priest or a sister? You should ask him that question today. Don't answer it for him, just ask the question in prayer. Then, make sure you do something for someone today – that is almsgiving. Say to the Lord, for my penance so I can hear you tell me what I am supposed to be, I will \_\_\_\_\_. What will you do for your penance?

## **Checking for Understanding**

### **Worksheet**

## **Closure**

Some gifts come with responsibility: guns, cars, airplanes. So do the sacraments. When we want to receive the gift of a gun, car, or airplane we have to go to classes and learn how to use them without hurting ourselves or others. When we receive the gift of a sacrament, there are things that are expected of us as the receiver of these gifts. The things that are expected of us are: Prayer, penance, and almsgiving. Almsgiving has three parts: time, talent and treasure. If we are going to be Christ-Like, which is what the sacraments are supposed to help us become, then we do something in the way of almsgiving, prayer and penance. The neat thing, when we do, we receive more graces. So, the sacraments definitely give us grace; then we do what we are supposed to do by receiving the gift and we get more grace. God is so good to us!