

CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD-LEVEL III 2011-12

Summary of Presentations for October 2011

THE PARABLE OF THE DEBTORS – Matthew 18:21-35

Doctrinal Content: God offers unlimited forgiveness to those who ask no matter how great or small our sin may be. We are to forgive as we are forgiven. Not forgiving has consequences for both parties.

Direct Aims: To announce to the child God's unconditional love and mercy and to announce the commandment of love and forgiveness for others.

The parable is introduced, and the Scripture text, Matthew 18:21-35, is read. Two-dimensional figures are moved as the text is read, representing the king, the two servants, and the two bags representing the debts owed. Reflection is done on who the figures represent, how the two servants felt, what the meanings of mercy and forgiveness are, and the meaning of our relationship with God. The children can work with the materials, copy the Scripture text, or do an individual art response.

At Home: Share with one another experiences where you have had to forgive someone or had someone forgive you. Talk about what this felt like. Share your past experiences of the Sacrament of Reconciliation with your children.

PRISM FOOD DRIVE:

Kid-friendly foods are being collected October 5 and 12 in support of our neighbors in need. A grocery bag and list of food ideas was sent home last week.

PCYI (Protecting Children and Youth Initiative)

This presentation is a mandate by the Archdiocese of St. Paul Minneapolis in order to remind our children how to stay safe in a variety of environments and situations. The children meet together in a particular age group (Level I includes 3-Kindergarten, Level II includes first through third graders and Level III includes fourth – sixth graders) to review a series of photographs depicting different situations they might find themselves in...such as two siblings wrestling or children walking past a neighbor's house. The content is age appropriate and carefully directed to ensure proper language and conduct. Parents are invited to observe the session. If you prefer to cover this information at home, please sign an "Opt Out" form located in the Religious Education Office.

MORAL PREACHING OF THE PROPHETS:

Doctrinal Content: Moral preaching is the way of preparing one's heart for the coming of the Messiah. It centers on nurturing a relationship with God, developing a constant interior attitude, and toally committing one's self to God.

Direct Aims: To allow the child to discover what is required to have a deep relationship with God.

The following Scripture texts are read:

Isaiah 40:3-4, Isaiah 29:15-16, Jeremiah 7:1-10
Isaiah 1:10-19, Amos 5:21-24, Isaiah 58:1-9

The children then reflect on how the prophets prepared the people for the coming of the Messiah and how we ought to live to follow God's plan for us. The children can work with the materials, copy the Scripture texts, or do an individual art response.

At Home: Read the Scripture texts as a family and reflect on their meaning. Read and talk about the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-10) and how you can incorporate these into your family life.

MESSIANIC PROPHECIES

Doctrinal Content: The entire prophetic mission is aimed at the preparation for the coming of the Reign of God and its inauguration: the Messiah. Prophetic preaching deals with one theme – salvation. Messianic preaching speaks of the person who will bring salvation.

The Messiah is an ideal God-King, one who will be filled with the Spirit of God and will be empowered to shower it on others, one who will be a bearer of light, a redeemer who suffers to expiate the sins of others.

Direct Aims: To explore who the Messiah is and to enrich our knowledge through the prophetic texts, and to introduce the face of the Messiah as “The Suffering Servant”.

The children hear about prophets, who they are and what they did. There are 15 Scripture references relating to the Messianic Preaching. One or more references are chosen, read, and reflected upon, with questions such as what the location of the prophecy is, who is involved and what is happening, what are we asked to do, how would you have felt, who and what is God asking, and where in the New Testament have you heard something similar. The children can look up other Scripture references, use maps to place names that were mentioned, or do an individual art response.

At Home: Talk with your children about what prophecies they discussed in class. Continue the discussion at home as to how we can bring Jesus’ words to others.