

BE MY DISCIPLES (MARCH OUTLINE)

“Throughout the year you have the opportunity to enter into the mystery of faith with your children and walk with them as they learn what it means to know, love, and serve God.”

CHAPTER 17

Grade 1 – The First Christians

“Christians believe in Jesus Christ and try to do what he taught; Christians today show their love for one another just as the first Christians did.”

Grade 3 – Happiness with God

“God gives us the grace to share in His divine life and to live happy and holy lives; Jesus promised us the gift of eternal life and happiness in Heaven.”

Grade 4 – Created in God’s Image

“We are each created with a body and a soul; God gave us an intellect and free will to help us make good moral decisions.”

Grade 5 – Called to Holiness

“When we live as images of God, we live truly holy lives; the grace of God helps us live holy lives.”

Grade 6/7 – Our Call to Holiness

“The theological virtues are gifts from God that strengthen us to live lives of holiness; the Grace of the Holy Spirit helps us grow in holiness; living the works of mercy is a sign we are trying to live holy lives

Theme: Put On Love

“Over all of these, put on love, that is, the bond of perfection.” (Colossians 3:14)

Background

The main focus of this chapter includes: how Christians show their love for one another just as the first Christians did; all people are to be honored and respected; God gives us the grace to live holy and happy lives; we are created with a body and soul and with the gifts of an intellect and a free will that helps us make good moral decisions; when we live as images of God, we live holy lives; the grace of God helps us live holy lives and theological virtues are gifts from God that connect us with him and strengthen us to live lives of holiness.

Main Focus

- We are called to holiness and to “put on love.”

Starting prayer

(Have children bow their heads and remember that God is present with them in this time and place. Bless yourself with the sign of the cross.)

Loving God,

You created us in your own image and likeness.

Be with us and bless us as we learn how to live as your children.

Teach us what it means to “put on love.”

Amen.

How do you “put on love” during your day to day activities?

Ask your children this question. Listen to the examples that they give and add a few of your own.

What opportunities do you have within your family to “put on love?”

In the Book

Pg. 155 – Have children/child read to themselves (or out loud) and have them share what they just read. If more than one child is learning, have them compare what they will be learning in this chapter.

Pg. 156 – This page explores how the Church sets an example for us of how to be good disciples. Read together or silently. Encourage them to share with you what they read or learned. (How did this person or group follow Jesus?)

Read “Disciple Power” and talk about how it relates to what they already read. See if they can give examples of how family members practice these virtues. Pick one to try to practice this week.

Pg. 157-159 – Read the Faith Focus question. Pages 157-159 will answer that question. When you finish reading those pages, discuss what they have learned. Have them answer the faith focus question in their own words. Ask the children who has “put on love” for their family.

Pg. 160 – This page will summarize the lesson, have an activity to tie it all together, and invites them to make a faith choice for the week. Have the children complete the activity on this page and share it with the others.

Pg. 161 – Have the children complete the Chapter review.

Closing prayer

Leader: *Living God,*

We are thankful for the time we have shared today. Be with us as we pray together.

Reader: *Over all of these, put on love, that is, the bond of perfection.*

Leader: *God, help us remember always to serve you and one another so that we may live as your children. We ask this through Christ our Lord.*

All: *Amen.*

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CHAPTER 18

Grade 1 – We Love God

“The Ten Commandments teach us to worship God; they teach us to speak God’s name with love and respect and to take part in Mass on Sunday.”

Grade 3 – God’s Laws of Love

“The first commandment teaches us to love God above all else; The second commandment teaches us to love God by honoring his name; the third Commandment teaches us to love God by keeping holy the Lord's Day.”

Grade 4 – The Beatitudes

“God wants everyone to be blessed and truly happy; living the beatitudes leads to happiness with God.”

Grade 5 – Making Moral Decisions

“Moral decisions help us grow as children of God and live as followers of Jesus Christ; conscience is our ability to know and judge what is right and what is wrong; the cardinal virtues help us live holy lives.”

Grade 6/7 – Making Moral Choices

“Sin is turning away from God; the source of morality are the object of the act, the intention of the agent, and the circumstance surrounding the act; our conscience helps us judge whether an act is good or bad.”

Theme: Seek the Lord

“Happy those who observe God’s decree, who seek the Lord with all their hearts.”

(Psalm 119:2)

Background

The main focus of this chapter includes: the Ten Commandments which teach us to worship God; Jesus taught us the Greatest Commandment; the first, second and third commandments teach us to love God; the Beatitudes guide us in making choices that lead to happiness; moral decisions help us grow as children of God and live as followers of Jesus Christ; our consciences help us to judge whether or not an act is good or evil.

Main Focus

- In all we do, we “seek the Lord.”

Starting prayer

(Have children bow their heads and remember that God is present with them in this time and place. Bless yourself with the sign of the cross.)

Loving God,

Be with us and bless us as we learn to follow your decrees and to seek you always.

Amen.

How can following God's love help us be happy? How can seeking God with all our hearts help us to be happy?

Ask your children this question. Listen to the examples that they give and add a few of your own. Suggest that following God's law and seeking Him in everything we do is a path to happiness.

How do you "seek the Lord" in your family?

In the Book

Pg. 163 – Have children/child read to themselves (or out loud) and have them share what they just read. If more than one child is learning, have them compare what they will be learning in this chapter.

Pg. 164 – This page explores how the church sets an example for us of how to be good disciples. Read together or silently. Encourage them to share with you what they read or learned. (How did this person or group follow Jesus?)

Read "Disciple Power" and talk about how it relates to what they already read. See if they can give examples of how family members practice these virtues. Pick one to try to practice this week.

Pg. 165-167 – Read Faith Focus question. Pages 165-167 will answer that question. When you finish reading those pages, discuss what they have learned. Have them answer the faith focus question in their own words. Ask the children in what ways does their family observe the decrees of God.

Pg. 168 – This page will summarize the lesson, have an activity to tie it all together, and invites them to make a faith choice for the week. Have the children complete the activity on this page and share it with the others.

Pg. 169 – Have the children complete the chapter review

Closing prayer

Leader: *Living God,*

We are thankful for the time we have shared today.

Be with us as we pray

Let us pray together

Leader: *Happy are they whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord.*

All: *Blessed are you, O Lord. Teach me your way*

Leader: *Happy are they who observe God's decrees, who seek him with all their hearts*

All: *Blessed are you, O Lord. Teach me your way*

Leader: *With all my heart I seek you; let me not stray from your command*

All: *Blessed are you, O Lord. Teach me your way*

Leader: *In your laws I delight, I will not forget your words.*

All: *Blessed are you, O Lord. Teach me your way*

Leader: *Let my soul live to praise you and may your laws help me*

All: *Blessed are you, O Lord. Teach me your way*

Leader: *God, send your Holy Spirit to guide and protect us as we seek to follow your will. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

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CHAPTER 19

Grade 1 – We Love Others

“We are to treat ourselves and others as children of God; we are to show respect for other people and tell the truth.”

Grade 3 – Love One Another

“The last seven commandments teach us how to love and respect others and ourselves; they teach us to be honest and truthful, kind and generous.”

Grade 4 – Living A Holy Life

“Conscience and the virtues help us make good moral choices; sin is freely choosing to say or do something we know is against God’s will; the Gifts of the Holy Spirit help us choose to live as followers of Jesus.”

Grade 5 – Living the Covenant

“We are a covenant people; God gave Moses the Ten Commandments to guide us in living the covenant; Jesus, the Son of God, is the new and everlasting covenant.”

Grade 6/7 – The Law of Love

“Do good and avoid evil is a principle of the Natural Law; Love of God and love of neighbor is essentially the Great commandment; The Law of love is the way we are called to be friends with Jesus and with one another.”

Theme: Come, Follow Me

“Come, Follow me.” (Luke 18:22)

Background

The main focus of this chapter includes: we are to treat ourselves and others as children of God; we are to show respect for others and tell the truth; the first three commandments teach us to love and honor God; the last seven commandments teach us to love and respect ourselves and others; conscience and the virtues help us to make good moral choices; the Gifts of the Holy Spirit help us choose to live as followers of Jesus; we are a covenant people; Jesus is the new and everlasting covenant; the law of love is the way we are called to be friends with Jesus and one another.

Main Focus

- Jesus invites us to follow Him and to be His disciples.

Starting prayer

(Have children bow their heads and remember that God is present with them in this time and place. Bless yourself with the sign of the cross.)

Loving God,

Be with us and bless us as we seek to respond to your Son Jesus’ invitation, “Come, follow me”.

Amen.

How would you respond to God asking you to follow him?

Ask your children this question. Listen to the examples that they give and add a few of your own. Would they want to ask Jesus any questions about what it means to follow him? What do they think Jesus would say?

How do you respond to Jesus' invitation: "Come, follow me?"

In the Book

Pg. 171 – Have children/child read to themselves (or out loud) and have them share what they just read. If more than one child is learning, have them compare what they will be learning in this chapter.

Pg. 172 – This page explores how the church sets an example for us of how to be good disciples. Read together or silently. Encourage them to share with you what they read or learned. (How did this person or group follow Jesus?)

Read "Disciple Power" and talk about how it relates to what they already read. See if they can give examples of how family members practice these virtues. Pick one to try to practice this week.

Pg. 173-175 – Read Faith Focus question. Pages 173 - 175 will answer that question. When you finish reading those pages, discuss what they have learned. Have them answer the faith focus question in their own words. Ask the children how the Ten Commandments and the law of love help our family follow Jesus.

Pg. 176 – This page will summarize the lesson, have an activity to tie it all together, and invites them to make a faith choice for the week. Have the children complete the activity on this page and share it with the others.

Pg. 177 – Have the children complete the Chapter review.

Closing prayer

***Leader:** God, our creator, we are thankful for the time we have shared today. Help us respond to Jesus' invitation to follow him.*

***All:** Our father....*

***All:** Amen.*

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CHAPTER 20

Grade 1 – We Live as a Community

“The great commandment teaches us to love God and to love others as we love ourselves, and to love as good members of the community.”

Grade 3 – The Great Commandment

“We live the covenant when we love God with our whole hearts and when we love other people as we love ourselves.”

Grade 4 – Living God’s Covenant

“The Ten Commandments teach us how to love God and our neighbors as ourselves; Jesus came to show us how to live the Ten Commandments.”

Grade 5 – The Beatitudes

“The Beatitudes show ways Jesus wants his disciples to live; they describe the qualities and actions of people blessed by God.”

Grade 6/7 – Ways of Happiness

“The Beatitudes are teachings of Jesus from the Sermon on the Mount; living the Beatitudes is the way to follow the Law of Love.”

Theme: Rejoice in the Lord

“Rejoice and be glad” (Matthew 5:12)

Background

The main focus of this chapter includes: The Great Commandment, the Ten Commandments, we live the covenant when we love God with our whole heart; Jesus came to show us how to live the Ten Commandments; the beatitudes; the law of love.

Main Focus

- Jesus’ disciples “rejoice and be glad”

Starting prayer

(Have children bow their heads and remember that God is present with them in this time and place. Bless yourself with the sign of the cross.)

Loving God,

Be with us and bless us as we seek to respond to your son Jesus’ invitation to be His disciples. We rejoice and are glad because we follow His command.

Amen.

Discuss the following questions/ideas

1. Jesus teaches us to love God above all else. Jesus also teaches us to love one another. What do these teachings mean to you?
2. What are some of the other teachings of Jesus you can share? What do these teachings mean to you?
3. What are the Beatitudes? Can you name a few of them?

How does living as a disciple of Jesus cause you to “rejoice and be glad?”

In the Book

Pg. 179 – Have children/child read to themselves (or out loud) and have them share what they just read. If more than one child is learning, have them compare what they will be learning in this chapter.

Pg. 180 – This page explores how the church sets an example for us of how to be good disciples. Read together or silently. Encourage them to share with you what they read or learned. (How did this person or group follow Jesus?)

Read “Disciple Power” and talk about how it relates to what they already read. See if they can give examples of how family members practice these virtues. Pick one to try to practice this week.

Pg. 181-183 – Read Faith Focus question. Pages 181-183 will answer that question. When you finish reading those pages, discuss what they have learned. Have them answer the faith focus question in their own words. Ask the children what reasons do members of your family have to be glad.

Pg. 184 – This page will summarize the lesson, have an activity to tie it all together, and invites them to make a faith choice for the week. Have the children complete the activity on this page and share it with the others.

Pg. 185 – Have the children complete the Chapter review

Closing prayer

Leader: *God our creator,
We are thankful for the time we have shared today.
Help us respond to Jesus’ invitation to follow him
Be with us as we pray together...*

All: *God our loving father,
Help us always “rejoice and be glad” because we follow Jesus’ way.
May we always live the Great Commandment and the Beatitudes.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.*

All: *Amen.*