

**WEEK:**

The Solemnity of Christ the King (November 22, 2020)

**THEME:**

Royal Roundup

**MASS READINGS:****FIRST READING:**

Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

Psalm 23:1-2, 2-3, 5, 6

**SECOND READING:**

1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28

**GOSPEL:**

Matthew 25:31-46

**KEY WORDS:**

Shepherd, Judgment, Sin, Death, Resurrection, Inheritance, Poor, Compassion, Service, Outreach

**KEY THEMES:**

1. Christ is the good shepherd, judge, and king.
2. His judgment is of mercy, but still there are repercussions for those who do good and those who do evil.
3. In Adam, sin entered the world; in Christ, forgiveness for our sins gives us everlasting life.
4. Death is destroyed. We are to serve the poor at all times. God judges us on the good we do.

**THE ASCENT****Welcome and Introduction (5 min)**

Welcome all of the teens to the discipleship group and invite them to share one “high point” and one “low point” from their week. If there are new teens, invite them to introduce themselves.

**Unbreakable (10 min)**

Begin the session with a game that highlights the teens’ ability to separate something that is hard to divide: Oreos. Invite two teens to compete in a challenge to see who can separate the most Oreos in 60 seconds. If the cookies break, they do not count toward the total. The teen who separates the most Oreos at the end of 60 seconds wins. If time allows, repeat the activity with different teens.

**LECTIO****Opening Prayer**

Jesus, you are the king of our hearts. May all that we do contribute to the building of your Kingdom on Earth. Ignite our hearts and strengthen our minds as we answer your call and continue your mission, making disciples of all the nations. We make this prayer in your holy name. Amen.

**Our Voice (10 min)**

Use the following questions to prepare the group for the topic of the session:

- Why do we focus on being ready for the Second Coming of Christ at the end of the liturgical year?
- Why is it important to be ready for the Lord’s Second Coming?

**Reflection: Royal Roundup (5 min)**

Play the *Summit* reflection video, “Royal Roundup,” found online at [lifeteen.com](http://lifeteen.com). The video can also be found on the Life

Teen YouTube channel under the Summit Teaching Videos playlist. Use this video to provide a thematic overview to the session before entering into God's Word.

### **God's Voice (5 min)**

Read Matthew 25:31-46 aloud and then invite a teen to read the passage aloud. Encourage the teens to actively listen. After the second read-through, invite the teens to open their Bibles and silently read the passage a third time. Allow time to pause and reflect between read-throughs.

## **MEDITATIO** \_\_\_\_\_

### **Reflecting on God's Voice (10 min)**

Invite the teens to take a few minutes to silently reflect and journal on the following questions:

- If the Lord were to come today, what do you think He would say about the way you are living your life?
- Reflect on each work of mercy listed in the Gospel passage: feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, welcoming the stranger, clothing the naked, visiting the sick, and visiting the imprisoned. How do you live out each of these works in your day-to-day life? How can you better live out these works in your life?

## **ORATIO** \_\_\_\_\_

### **Discussing God's Voice (30 min)**

Following the silent reflection, guide the teens in a time of discussion. The following questions are a great starting point for the discussion, but be open to where the Holy Spirit may guide it:

- What are your initial thoughts after hearing this reading? What stands out to you?
- Jesus said, "What you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me" (Matthew 25:45). What did He mean by this? Does it cause you to pause and consider anything about your life?

- What are the works of mercy listed in today's Gospel? Why are they so important?
- Is it easy or difficult to live out the works of mercy? Why? Is there one in particular that is easier or more difficult than the others? How can you grow in that area?
- Do you practice the works of mercy Jesus alluded to in the Gospel reading in your life? Why or why not? How can you better incorporate these works into your life?
- How can we, as a group, better incorporate these works of mercy?

## **CONTEMPLATIO** \_\_\_\_\_

### **The Works of Mercy (10 min)**

At the end of the session, give a brief recap of the Corporal Works of Mercy. Then, give the teens time to participate in a work of mercy. Encourage them, as a group, to brainstorm how they can live out the works of mercy. Consider using this time to plan a service project the teens can complete together, like volunteering at a soup kitchen, organizing a clothing drive, or hosting a bake sale to raise money for a charity.

### **Closing Challenge**

Invite the teens to determine which work of mercy is most difficult for them to live out in their daily lives and challenge them to incorporate this work into their lives in a concrete way this week.