

11th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle A

Focus: Spreading the word of God.

Gathering, Attendance Stickers (children find/sit on a carpet square)

Say: *Good Morning everyone, my name is _____. Last week we talked about Jesus inviting the tax collector to follow him and why we need to help those that really need help.*

Today we are going to talk about ways we can spread the word of God and help more people to know Jesus.

Opening Prayer

Together we make the Sign of the Cross (do in reverse so children can mirror).

Say: *Now let's put our hands together and bow our heads.*

Telling the whole world about you, God, and your Son, Jesus, is what you are calling us to do. May we always be unselfish and never count the cost. We make this prayer to you through Christ our Lord. Amen

Song/Movement

“Do Everything Without Complaining” track 4 from Hide'm In our Heart, Vol. 1, Play music, encourage children to stretch or move to the music (clapping, stamp feet march in place to the beat), turn to each other and shake hands, saying hello, etc. Have children sit on their carpet squares when finished.

Memory Verse

Say: *Now let's take a moment together to learn a verse from the bible.*

The kingdom of heaven is near.

Have the children repeat the verse after you a couple of times.

Say: *What do you think this means? We are going to hear more about this in today's lesson.*

Gospel Story

Say: *Today we are reading from the Gospel of Matthew.*

Have children make sign of the cross on their forehead, mouth and heart saying. *“Lord, open my mind, my lips and my heart so that I may learn it, speak it and love it.”*

Do you ever read the newspaper? I read it every day. That's how I keep up with what's happening in the world. Every morning, before I eat breakfast, I walk out my front door and pick up the newspaper which has been delivered to my doorstep by a person whose job it is to deliver the news.

When I open my newspaper, the first thing I look at is the front page. That's where they put the most important stuff. Next, I look at the sports page. I like sports and like to see if my favorite teams won. Some days they do, and some days they don't. Finally, I turn to my favorite part -- the comics! Why do I save the comics for last? Well, sometimes, some of the news might not be good news, so I like to finish reading the newspaper with a smile on my face! The person who delivers the newspaper to my doorstep each day helps me to get my day started with a smile. You know, I don't even know that person. He, or she, gets up very early in the morning while I am still asleep, rolls the newspapers, and drives all around the town delivering the news.

The Bible tells us that Jesus traveled all around the countryside. He went to many different towns and villages, and everywhere he went he saw crowds of people who were lost and helpless. It broke his heart. One day, he turned to his followers and said to them, "There are so many who need help, but there are not enough who are willing to help them. Get on your knees and pray that the Lord will send workers to help them."

When they had finished praying, Jesus called twelve of his followers to come to him. "Go," he said, "heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons." Do you know what else Jesus told his disciples? He said, "As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.'"

Wow! That's good news, isn't it? Think about it. "The kingdom of heaven is near." It isn't some far off place where we will go at some far off time. In fact, you might even say, "It's right here -- right now." Of course Jesus came to give us eternal life in heaven, but he also came so that we could have life, and have it to the fullest -- right now. (John 10:10) Now, that's good news that everyone should hear!

My newspaper carrier has been given the job of delivering the news. When I go out to get my newspaper, I expect it to be there. If the carrier doesn't do his job, I don't get the news. Just as Jesus called the twelve to deliver the good news, he has also called you and me to deliver the good news. If we don't do our job, someone won't get the good news today.

Gospel Activity

(Do not have to complete all of these; any necessary materials will be in cabinet)
See the Filler Options Sheet if you need more activities.

Coloring Page- “Christ Gave Me The Work”

Complete the weekly bulletin as a group

Closing Prayer

(Children respond: “We Believe!”)

Ask: *Do we believe in God, who calls us to follow him?*

Do we believe in Jesus, who shows us the way to bring God’s peace to others?

Do we believe in the Holy Spirit, who fills our hearts with God’s peace to share with everyone we meet?

Sending Forth

Say: *Bring the word of God to someone you know. Who are you going to tell about God?*

Lining Up/Closing Song

Play “This Little Light of Mine” track 10 from “25 Sunday School Songs” while children put away any materials and line up. Hand out weekly bulletins. Remind them it is important that they return to their family quietly so that we may all listen and pray together in church.



Christ gave me the work of preaching the Good News.