

HOW GOD SAVED HIS PEOPLE

UNIT ONE: God Rescued His People

Lesson 5:**God Talks to Us at Mass**

CONTENT:

1. At Mass, God speaks to us because he loves us. In the Gospel especially, we hear the 'Good News' that Jesus saved us. We hear what Jesus said and did. [CCC125, 135, 571]
2. At Sunday Mass we have two readings, a psalm and a reading from the Gospel. These are taken from the Bible. We also have a homily when the priest helps us to understand the readings. [CCC1349]
3. The lectern is the special place where the Word of God is read. The book which has the readings is called the Lectionary. [CCC1184]
- 😊 4. We pay attention to God as he speaks to us, respond at the end of the readings and with the psalm. We stand for the Gospel because it is the most important reading.
- 😊 5. If we listen carefully to the Word of God at Mass and try to do what God tells us, we will become strong (spiritually) and be able to reach heaven. [CCC131]

ASSIGNMENT: Read handout at home. Do the 'Word of God' puzzle with your family.

REFERENCES: CCC 125, 131, 135, 571, 1184, 1154.

MATERIALS NEEDED: Handouts, lectionary (Special Children's lectionary if available); lectern (or some substitute).

I. STARTER:

- Last time we talked about listening to God. Who was the person who heard God and did what he asked him to do? [*Moses*]
- Who heard but did not obey? [*Pharaoh*]
- Jesus also talked about hearing and obeying. He told a story about two builders. He said that some people are like the wise man. What do wise people do? [*They hear God speaking and obey.*]
- And what do foolish people do? [*They hear but don't do what God says.*]
- Did you learn the Bible verse about hearing?

[Let the children say it in groups, with the Bible reference and with actions:]

Be doers [*hands in front, grasping*] of the Word [*open hands forming a book*]
and not hearers only [*hands behind ears, and shaking head*]
James 1 [*one finger up*] 22 [*2 fingers of each hand.*]

II. DEVELOPMENT:

STORY: Ruby Gets a Shock

Ruby was a girl who loved to talk. She just couldn't stop talking. She chattered to her mother as she got ready for school, she sang to herself as she brushed her teeth. [*Demonstrate!*]

She talked with her mouth full at breakfast. She shouted to her Daddy as they rode to school. (She had to shout above the noise of the traffic.) And sorry to say, she couldn't stop talking even during class!

If the teacher was looking at her, Ruby would look back as if she was listening, but would go on talking to herself in her mind: "Oh I wonder what Mummy has put in my dabba for lunch. I hope she has given me some laddoos. If there are two I'll give one to Sharon.." Her teacher would smile at her, thinking she was listening very well.

One day the head-girl of the school came to class to make an announcement. It was the last period of the day. “Girls, I have good news for you!” she began. Every one listened, waiting to hear what the good news was. Everyone except Ruby!

She started whispering to Sharon, “How cute our head-girl is! I wish my hair was long and black like hers! And see her dimples! I’m going to make dimples in my cheeks. It’s very easy: you just have to poke your cheeks with a pencil ten times morning and night...” Yak, yak, yak, she went on. The bell rang and everyone ran out shouting and talking. Ruby was still talking. She had not heard a single word of the announcement!

The next morning, Ruby chattered to her Daddy as usual as they rode to school on the scooter. When they reached the school gate, they got a shock. There were no school children around.

Her father asked the peon at the gate, “What’s happened? Has there been some trouble?”

“No trouble sir! The buses came on time and the children have gone long ago!”

“Buses? Where have they gone?”

“Principal’s treat, sir! They’ve all gone to the water park!”

Daddy turned to Ruby. “How is it you don’t know anything about this picnic? Didn’t your teacher tell you about it?”

“No Daddy. There was no announcement...” Ruby stopped. Suddenly she remembered the head-girl standing in front of the class and talking. She remembered everyone laughing and talking as they left the class. What were they all so excited about? She had been too busy talking about hair and dimples, and now she had missed the picnic!

“I didn’t know it was a message from the principal!” Ruby cried. “I didn’t know it was about a picnic. If I had known, I would have listened so carefully!”

She was so disappointed, she began to cry. She cried all the way home. The whole day, whenever she thought of her friends enjoying themselves in the water, tears would roll down again.

“Never, never will I talk in class again!” she decided. “I don’t want to miss any more good news!”

- Some questions to see if you were listening or not! Who had planned the special treat for the children? [*The principal*]
- Who gave the principal’s message to the children? [*The head-girl*]
- Why did Ruby miss the message? [*She was too busy talking. She didn’t realise that it was an important message from the principal.*]
- Sometimes you and I behave just like Ruby. There is a very important person (more important than a principal) who has some good news for us. [*Write GOOD NEWS on the blackboard*]
- Every Sunday someone announces this good news to us. Do you know when this happens? [*At Sunday Mass*] Who is the important person who has some news for us? [*God*]
- What is this Good News? Does God want to give us some special treat, like the principal’s water park picnic? [*God wants to take us all to heaven, not just for one day, but for ever and ever.*]
- That’s why God talks to us. He sent Jesus to save us and make the way to heaven. He tells us how to reach heaven. But many people are like Ruby. We look at the person reading and think, “Mm.. nice dress. She reads well.”
Or we think, “I wonder if there’s a cricket match today!”
Or “How many minutes more for Mass to get over?”
We don’t realise that God is saying something to us in the readings. We miss the message and like Ruby, we may miss the treat that is prepared for us!

[Give out handouts and let the children look at them. Read the words on the top, then ask the children to try and solve the puzzle at home, with the help of their families. (This will generate more interest and get the family involved.)]

NEXT CLASS:

[Review the answers to the puzzle and write the missing words on the blackboard. Talk about each point as follows:]

1. The READINGS at Mass are taken from the BIBLE.

On Sundays there are 3 readings and a psalm. All the readings are taken from the Bible. Many people read the Bible at home also, because they want to hear what God has to say to them. Do you read the Bible at home? If you read the Sunday readings before you come to Church, you will be able to understand them better.

2. After the first reading we sing the PSALM. It is a HYMN to God.

There are 150 psalms in the Bible. They are like prayers which we sing.

3. The GOSPEL means 'Good News'. It is the most IMPORTANT reading because we hear what JESUS said and did.

At Mass we do something different when the Gospel is read. What do we do? *[We stand.]*

Who reads the Gospel? *[The priest]* The Gospel is the most special part of the Bible because we hear Jesus' own words and we hear all that he did. The most important thing he did was to die for us and rise from the dead.

4. The priest then gives the HOMILY to help us UNDERSTAND God's Word.

We should try and listen carefully to what Father is saying. He explains the readings to us. God talks to us through Father's homily too.

5. The LECTERN is the special place where the WORD OF GOD is read.

6. The special book which we read from is called the LECTIONARY.

It is not the same as the Bible, but the readings are taken from the Bible.

III. REFLECTION & PRAYER:

[If possible, hold this prayer in a chapel. Otherwise, set up a 'lectern' in front of the class.]

- It is very important for us to listen carefully to God's Word. After each reading, we all thank and praise God for talking to us. Let's practice listening and also answering. At the end I will ask you to share something that God has said to you, something you remember specially, so listen with your hearts and ears.

[Use a lectionary if possible, and choose the readings for any Sunday mass. If the readings for the following Sunday are simple, use them. Assign readings to different children. The psalm should be sung if possible. (DON'T sing a non-Biblical hymn).]

[The teacher could represent the priest and read the Gospel, but remind the children that the priest reads the Gospel at Mass. The remaining children pray the responses. Encourage them to mean what they say.]

[After the liturgy, ask the children to share something that they remembered from all the readings; that they felt was a personal message. E.g. I feel God said to me, "I am your shepherd. Don't worry about anything."]

| |
|---|
| Home assignment: Read the handout at home. Do the Word of God puzzle with your family. |
|---|