


Lesson 4: Keeping Sundays for God**CONTENT:**

1. Jesus told the parable of the Wedding Feast. God is like the king in the story. He invites us to enjoy the feast of his love at every Mass, especially every Sunday.
2. The third Commandment that God gave Moses was to keep God's day holy. On Sunday, we all come together to church for Mass. This shows that we believe in God and belong to his family.
3. The people who come to one church are called a parish. The parish priest takes care of us. We also love and help each other.
-  4. Sunday is a day to rest and be happy. On this day we stop our work and keep time for God, our family and also visit old or sick people.
5. I show my love for God by keeping Sunday (the Lord's Day) as a special day for God.

ASSIGNMENT: Ask your parents to read the paper given to them and bring the answer back.

REFERENCES: Matthew 22:1-14 (Luke 14:1-14) Psalm 118:24.

CCC 1329; 2177-2185. 'Deus Domini' 7,35,36,44.

MATERIALS NEEDED: Handouts, letter to parents.

NB. This topic has been briefly dealt with in Std I, but bears repeating. It is important for parents to understand the implications of the 3rd Commandment. A letter is sent to them which they read and write a response to.

I. STARTER:

- Have you ever had a birthday party and invited your friends to it? What did you do to prepare for the party? Did all the people you invited come, or did some miss your party? How did you feel when some didn't come?

[Allow students to share their experiences.]

II. DEVELOPMENT:

Jesus once told a story about a party:

Once there was a king who had a son. (A king's son is a prince!) The prince was getting married, and the king planned a wonderful party for his son's wedding. He sent invitations to all the people in his kingdom.

For many weeks the cooks in the palace prepared for the feast. They made delicious sweets, pastries, meats, wines and juices. The whole palace was decorated from top to bottom. At last everything was ready.

The king sent his servants out to call the guests. They went from door to door saying, "Everything is ready! Come for the wedding feast of the Prince!"

But the people of that kingdom were very stupid people. They didn't realise how lucky they were to be invited. The first man opened the door and said, "I've just bought some land and I must go and look at it. Tell the king I'm very sorry, but I can't come."

The next man said, "Oh no! This is not the right time! I've just bought some bulls for my farm and I'm going to try them out and see how well they work. Please tell the king I can't come!"

Another man said, "I've just got married myself. No need for any more wedding parties."

The servants went back and told the king what his guests had said. The king was very angry (and sad too!) He said, “Forget those foolish people! Go out again and invite all the people from the road-side, the huts, the poor and the blind and the lame. I want many people to come and enjoy the feast.”

The servants went out and did what he said. Soon the palace was full of guests and the party began!

- If a king invited you for a wedding party, would you go or say sorry, I’m too busy? ... Actually a king has invited you to his Son’s wedding party. That king is God and his Son is Jesus. When the world comes to an end, all the people who said, ‘yes’ will gather in heaven and enjoy the feast.

But we don’t have to wait for the end of the world. Every Sunday, there is a special feast in God’s house and everyone is invited. Do you know what I’m talking about? [*Sunday Mass*] At this feast, Jesus himself is the special food we eat. God wants all of us to come together and enjoy this feast every Sunday.

- But there are some foolish people who say, “I’m too busy! I have work to do.” “I have to sleep.” “I have to study!” And they miss the feast. These people will also miss the big feast in heaven, because they are so foolish.

[The students could enact the story of the Wedding Banquet.]

NEXT CLASS:

- Last time we heard about the king who called the people in his kingdom to a wedding feast. Who is the king who invites you to a feast? [*God*]
- Where will this feast be? [*In heaven*]
- Even now, there is a feast where we can meet God’s Son. What is that feast? [*Mass*]
- God loves us so much that he calls us to keep one day every week for him. The third Commandment that God gave Moses was to keep God’s day holy. Every Sunday he asks us to stop our work and remember him. That’s why we call Sunday the Lord’s Day.

[Give out the handouts and go through the written matter, filling in the missing words:

LORD’S DAY; FEAST; PARISH, PARISH PRIEST

Talk about what we should do on Sundays (besides going for Mass). The students draw their own family 1. Enjoying time together 2. Visiting an old or sick person.]

III. REFLECTION & PRAYER:

- Close your eyes. Imagine God dressed like a king standing in front of your church and saying, “Come to my special feast. I want you to come and meet my Son Jesus. I want you to meet your parish family. I love to see my children praying together and loving each other. Will you come every Sunday? Even if you don’t feel like it?”

Answer God in your heart.

[End by singing ‘We are Happy Christians’]

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<p>Home assignment: Read the handout at home. Ask your parents to read the paper given to them and bring the answer back for the next class.</p>
