

Lesson 10 – The Virtues and Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Grades 6-8

Lesson Preparation:

Read Lesson 10 in the Baltimore Catechism. Print and cut the opening activity sheet. You will need a Bible for this session. Print and make copies of the comprehension worksheet.

Opening Prayer:

Scripture: “So faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love” 1Corinthians 13:13

Leader: Holy Spirit, as we learn about You today and the wonderful gifts You have given us, we pray that You will enter our hearts. Open them to be filled with the virtues and the gifts of the Spirit. Amen.

Together: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created, and You shall renew the face of the earth. O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit, we may be truly wise and ever rejoice in His consolations, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Opening:

This session will open with a game in which students match both halves of the Beatitudes. Cut apart the attached activity sheet and pass out one part to each student. Tell the students to listen carefully as you read Jesus’s words about the Beatitudes. Read Matthew 5:1-12. After listening to the Scripture, students should mingle with each other, looking for the person who has the other half of their Beatitude. Once they have matched them up, read the passage again so students can assess how well they did.

Watch the Lesson 10 Video on Catholic Brain

Comprehension Questions: *Note: These questions are asked after the video, just to check student comprehension. They are not discussion questions, but be sure students understand the answers to these questions before moving on*

1) What is a virtue?

A holy habit, or attribute that brings us closer to God and helps us do His Will and follow His Commandments.

2) What are the three theological virtues?

Faith, Hope, Charity

3) What are the 4 cardinal virtues?

Prudence, Justice, Fortitude, Temperance

4) What are the 7 gifts of the Holy Spirit?

Wisdom, Knowledge, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Piety, Fear of the Lord

5) This will be a comprehension activity – using the attached sheet, have students match the first half of each Beatitude to its meaning. Then, discuss to make sure they understand what each Beatitude means. This will be necessary for the rest of the lesson.

Discussion Questions: *Note: These questions are for student discussion. The students should consider these questions and comment on them. There are some key points included in this lesson, after each question, that you can use to help guide their discussion toward truth. It's important that the students think about and discuss these things, but that they don't leave the discussion with false impressions about what is true.*

1) What is the world's opinion of the Beatitudes? Which of them does the world admire? Which does it scorn?

Answers will vary

2) Which Beatitude is hardest to live?

Answers will vary

3) Which Beatitude is most lacking in the world?

Answers will vary

Go Deeper:

Students should be asked to look back at the second discussion question, “Which Beatitude is hardest to live?” and to reflect on it. Which of the eight Beatitudes do they struggle with? Which is really most difficult for them? Why? What obstacles do they face in living it out? Students should write a reflective journal entry exploring these questions. They may include a prayer asking God for help in living out the Beatitudes. Because this will be a very personal activity, you may invite students to share their reflections with the group, but do not require them to do so.

Activity:

For this game, you will need a soft, fuzzy ball, like a Nerf ball. Allow the students to toss the ball to each other. Whenever someone gets the ball, they must recite one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. They can receive the ball a second time, but no one can give more than two answers on the list. See if they can get all seven without missing one and without dropping the ball. Then you can play with the Corporal Works of Mercy, then the Spiritual Works of Mercy. This is a popular game that can be used with any group of items you are working on remembering throughout the year.

Closing Prayer:

Leader: Lord, thank You for the Holy Spirit, for remaining with your Church, and for living in us. Help us to bear the gifts of the Spirit, and to live the virtues, so we can help all people to know your love. Amen.

Together: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.