

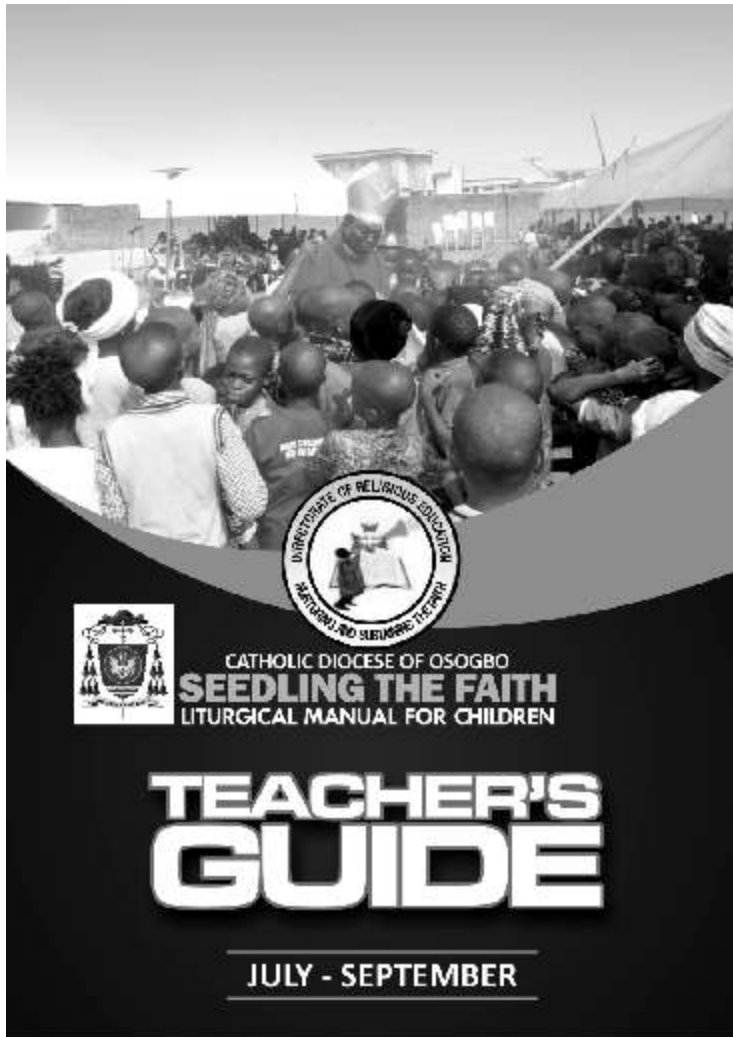


CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OSOYBO
SEEDLING THE FAITH
LITURGICAL MANUAL FOR CHILDREN

TEACHER'S GUIDE

JULY - SEPTEMBER, 2023

A Publication of
The Directorate of Religious Education
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FOREWORD

“He called a little child to him and placed the child among them. And he said: Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me” (Matthew 18:1-5)”

My beloved children and all animators of the faith for children, greetings to you all in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is another year wherein we can learn together a family of God's people among whom children are essential. In this year, we hope to continue the formation of our children in the way of the Lord, most especially during these times when things are so hard in Nigeria. It is obvious that Jesus loved the little children and he welcomed and recognized their presence in his ministry. Jesus also taught that child-like attitude must be imbibed in order to share in the kingdom of God. However, notwithstanding his charge that we should be childlike, he wants us to form the little ones in the way of the Lord. This is why Jesus exhorts his disciples to always lay good example for the children to follow. Jesus would not want that any older person will in any way be a bad example to the children so that they will not get lost.

This is why we have continued the exercise, **Seedling the faith** to form and properly teach children in the way of the Lord. If children of a nation are well-formed and built in the way of justice and of peace, that nation will dwell in happiness and peace. It becomes very necessary therefore for us to continue the formation of our nation. Parents, teachers, and guardians should make serious efforts to ensure that children are not led into error. The life of Christ should be imbued in every child right from the home and the church and hopefully the society will continue in the same formation. Because the minds of children are like empty boards, all

of us who stand in the position of leaders must make every effort to write good things in their minds. It is whatever we teach them that they will grow up with.

There is a tendency to think that because they are not grown up, children are not useful. The absolute truth is that they are very useful, the Scriptures call them the heritage of the Lord. And in our cultural setup, children actually complete the homes. Think of the chores they help with and the love that they bring to the home. We are happy to have them, and we are always ready to teach them. It is my prayer that God will bless all parents, and indeed the church in our children through Christ our Lord. I therefore present to you this booklet which will guide the faith of our children in the year 2023.

Most Rev John Akin Oyejola
Bishop, Catholic Diocese of Osogbo

PREFACE

We welcome all our Children along with their teachers to the fifth year of this regular program in the Diocese. The responses of both parents, teachers and our dear children to this every Sunday program is a strong motivation for us in the Catechetical Department of Osogbo Diocese. We are grateful for your interest and response to all the outlined program for the Children. We continue to upload all the materials of the Directorate into our website: www.osogbodiocesandre.org. We encourage children animators to visit this website regularly for information, education and interaction including the use of our email address as follows: [<info@osogbodiocesandre.org>](mailto:info@osogbodiocesandre.org) or osogbodiocesandre@gmail.com for the benefit of our children. We appreciate those who constantly contact us for their suggestions and contributions. Please let us know from time to time the areas that need attention on issues of faith that will improve our children and enable us to catch them young.

It has been planned to last for one hour during which the children will be usefully, spiritually and actively engaged; the Bible passage for each Sunday program has been chosen to be the same as the Gospel reading of the Sunday. We urge the teachers to guide the children in understanding the step-by-step study guide.

We are recommending only 10 to 15 children per group for better and effective participation by each child. The program has been designed to run in parallel with the Sunday Mass.

The Bishop and the Catechetical Commission hereby express our appreciation for the efforts of all the teachers of faith in the Diocese, in the workforce of the Directorate and ask the Lord to bless the works of their hands while we also thank all the priests in Osogbo Diocese for their interest and supports.

Sr Dr Immaculata Olu Omojola, SSMA
Director of Religious Education,
Catholic Diocese of Osogbo

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JULY THIRTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR DATE: 02/07/2023

Opening Prayer: Let the teacher invite one of the children for the opening prayer.

Songs of Praise: The teacher ought to have planned for a hymn or choruses that fit the liturgy of the day.

Introduction: The teacher revises last week's discussion. Last memory verse will be repeated three times.

Step 1: The facilitator introduces the theme for the week: **GOD FIRST**

Step 2: The Gospel reading of the Sunday will be read by two children: **Mt. 10: 37- 42**

Step 3: Sharing: Let children mention what they heard in the reading one after the other.

Step 4: Teaching: The facilitator will tell this story to enlighten children about the message of the Gospel of the day.

Daniel was a jobless man who knew how to fix little electrical faults and ride motorcycles very well. In his own little way, he decided to be rendering these services in the house of God without collecting a dime. But he still needed a job earnestly and he had been writing application all to no avail. This day, he was invited for an interview in a multinational company, he fasted and prayed to God for favour and mercy as he didn't know anyone. On his way out, the priest needed to go visit a dying woman urgently in a very remote area. Daniel was called to come take him there as usual, since the road isn't motorable. Seeing the urgency and importance, he didn't tell the priest he was heading for an interview. Daniel was confused on what to do, since he still has time before the interview set time, he decided to quickly take the priest thinking they should come back before the interview began. But his calculation didn't

work, he came back two hours after the interview, but he still had this push to get to the venue of the interview first. Entering the reception, he didn't see anyone, he concluded the interview had taken place and ended as he was about going home sorrowfully, someone came out and as Daniel was about opening his mouth for explanation on why he was late, the man interrupted him and apologized for delaying the interview that it was an intentional act, in order to reduce the number of interviewees and to test their level of patience. He was congratulated since he was the only one remaining, the company had no choice than to employ him. God came through for him, he got the job even without any rigorous test.

Step 5: Lesson Learnt: The road will not always be smooth, nevertheless, call on God.

Let three children identify some lessons from the message:

1. The cross (hard time) is an important element of our Christianity's journey.
2. Surrender all to God because he is the giver and owner.
3. The good you do have a way of coming back to you. So, imbibe doing good always!

Step 6: Task: Let children agree on a relevant and practicable task.

Suggested Task: Show hospitality, care and love to those around you as Jesus who loves and cares for everyone and most importantly children will want you to do likewise

Step 7: Memory Verse: Verse 38, *“Those who do not take up their cross and follow in my steps are not fit to be my disciple.”*

Step 8: Sunday Offering: Let the teacher collect the Sunday offering to be taken to the church during the offertory.

Step 9: Concluding prayer: The session must be concluded with a prayer to be led by one of the children asking the child to use the topic of the day.

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

DATE: 09/07/2023

Opening Prayer: Let the teacher invite one of the children for the opening prayer.

Songs of Praise: The teacher ought to have planned for a hymn or choruses that fit the liturgy of the day.

Introduction: The teacher revises last week's discussion. Last memory verse will be repeated three times.

Step 1: The facilitator introduces the theme for the week: **GOD IS THE REST**

Step 2: The Gospel reading of the Sunday will be read by two children: **Mt. 11:25-30**

Step 3: Sharing: Let children mention what they heard in the reading one after the other.

Step 4: Teaching: The facilitator will tell this story to enlighten children about the message of the Gospel of the day.

After payment deadline, a creditor decided to get his money back from his debtors. He decided to give them two options thus; either to pay him back soonest, or to work for him to offset their debts (i.e. by exchanging service for money). Since they had no means and choice, they decided to go for the second option. He instructed them to clear and cultivate huge hectares of land to quantify for their debts which if care wasn't taken would take them years to finish. They were to toil day and night without expecting food from him neither were they to be seen resting. They strived day in, day out without seeing the end of the land. They were worn out and seeking for miracle. While working one day, the son of one of them visited his father, he couldn't control his tears seeing his father's awful condition. He vowed to find means to take them away from this pitiable situation as soon as possible. He started his research and was able to invent a machine to do the work on their behalf. At last, they were able to relax!

Step 5: Lesson Learnt: Those in need should always be considered first before others.

Let three children identify some lessons from the message:

1. Our answers and peace are with God.
2. Seek God for help and relief.
3. God is our prototype (mentor) to follow.

Step 6: Task: Let children agree on a relevant and practicable task.

Suggested Task: Turn to God, your Father in prayer when you are in difficulty trusting Him with solution to every problem

Step 7: Memory Verse: Verse 28, “Come to me, all of you who are tired and carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest.”

Step 8: Sunday Offering: Let the teacher collect the Sunday offering to be taken to the church during the offertory.

Step 9: Concluding prayer: The session must be concluded with a prayer to be led by one of the children asking the child to use the topic of the day.

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

DATE: 16/07/2023

Opening Prayer: Let the teacher invite one of the children for the opening prayer.

Songs of Praise: The teacher ought to have planned for a hymn or choruses that fit the liturgy of the day.

Introduction: The teacher revises last week's discussion. Last memory verse will be repeated three times.

Step 1: The facilitator introduces the theme for the week: **HEAVEN IS THE GOAL**

Step 2: The Gospel reading of the Sunday will be read by two children: **Mt. 13:1-23**

Step 3: Sharing: Let children mention what they heard in the reading one after the other.

Step 4: Teaching: The facilitator will tell this story to enlighten children about the message of the Gospel of the day.

An advertiser devised all means of getting people to buy his product but to his greatest surprise, with all his skills and gimmicks he hardly sells very well. Although, he usually pulls crowd but most of them come to watch him, some even see him as an entertainer/comedian, while some see him as a noisemaker or scammer or liar, some concluded he didn't have anything serious to do with his time, etc. Even without sales, he wasn't demoralized, he kept on going out and advertising his product. On a particular day, he met some famous people who gave his product a trial and it really worked like magic for them. They eventually became advocates for his product and this led to the bountiful sales of his product from that time on.

Step 5: Lesson Learnt: Do not allow worldliness and sin take you away from God.

Let three children identify some lessons from the message:

1. In order to be knowledgeable, be attentive and observant.
2. Be focused; do not be distracted.
3. We as Christians should always spread God's word through our words and actions.

Step 6: Task: Let children agree on a relevant and practicable task.

Suggested Task: Be eager to always listen to your teachers or parents or pastors (without being distracted), lean and understand God's word and do what it says.

Step 7: Memory Verse: Verse 16, “As for you, how fortunate you are! Your eyes see and your ears hear.”

Step 8: Sunday Offering: Let the teacher collect the Sunday offering to be taken to the church during the offertory.

Step 9: Concluding prayer: The session must be concluded with a prayer to be led by one of the children asking the child to use the topic of the day.

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

DATE: 23/07/2023

Opening Prayer: Let the teacher invite one of the children for the opening prayer.

Songs of Praise: The teacher ought to have planned for a hymn or choruses that fit the liturgy of the day.

Introduction: The teacher revises last week's discussion. Last memory verse will be repeated three times.

Step 1: The facilitator introduces the theme for the week: **ETERNALSIEVING**

Step 2: The Gospel reading of the Sunday will be read by two children: **Mt. 13:24-43**

Step 3: Sharing: Let children mention what they heard in the reading one after the other.

Step 4: Teaching: The facilitator will tell this story to enlighten children about the message of the Gospel of the day.

In a certain school, there were handful of students but the population of the school wasn't increasing. After due deliberation on the reason behind this, a report was gotten that some sets of children were negatively influencing others but they are yet to be identified. The management wasn't quick to react, they took their time to investigate the matter. After the allegation was proven to be correct, the concerned students were expelled from the school. After this drastic step, the population of the school rapidly increased as there was nothing to be scared of.

Step 5: Lesson Learnt: Be extremely vigilant and cautious of both friends and foes.

Let three children identify some lessons from the message:

1. The world is full of different people, therefore, be watchful and prayerful not to be misled.

2. Your eternal end will be decided based on your worldly acts. Choose and act wisely!
3. Little drops of water make a mighty ocean.

Step 6: Task: Let children agree on a relevant and practicable task.

Suggested Task: Show love to all people around you including those you think are evil leaving their judgement up to God

Step 7: Memory Verse: Verse 41, *“The Son of Man will send out his angels to gather up out of his Kingdom all those who cause people to sin and all others who do evil things.”*

Step 8: Sunday Offering: Let the teacher collect the Sunday offering to be taken to the church during the offertory.

Step 9: Concluding prayer: The session must be concluded with a prayer to be led by one of the children asking the child to use the topic of the day.

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

DATE: 30/07/2023

Opening Prayer: Let the teacher invite one of the children for the opening prayer.

Songs of Praise: The teacher ought to have planned for a hymn or choruses that fit the liturgy of the day.

Introduction: The teacher revises last week's discussion. Last memory verse will be repeated three times.

Step 1: The facilitator introduces the theme for the week: **THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS WORTH ALL THE SACRIFICES**

Step 2: The Gospel reading of the Sunday will be read by two children: **Mt. 13: 44- 52**

Step 3: Sharing: Let children mention what they heard in the reading one after the other.

Step 4: Teaching: The facilitator will tell this story to enlighten children about the message of the Gospel of the day.

A poor widow sold everything she had and inherited to train her only son- Jerry in school. She would always say the only legacy she could give her son, is best education. She dressed tattered and went hungry many days just to secure her son's future for him. Both mother and son were mocked, ridiculed and discriminated against by mates, friends and family members due to the hardship they experienced and the level of their poverty. They were resolute and not moved by all the negative comments and treatments, they tilled day and night and the boy too always burn the night candle so that he wouldn't disappoint his mum or let her down. To the glory of God, today, that determination and contribution of both mother and son has yielded and birthed wealth, fame and power as Heritage is now a world class IT expert.

Step 5: Lesson Learnt: Whatever you sow, you shall eventually reap.

1. Give your all to God and you shall be bountifully rewarded.
2. Do not be tired of searching for the best and the Truth.
3. Do not misuse your freedom.

Step 6: Task: Let children agree on a relevant and practicable task.

Suggested Task: Always, do what is right with God through humble prayers in order to gain the heavenly treasure in Jesus.

Step 7: Memory Verse: Verse 52, “...every teacher of the Law who becomes a disciple in the Kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who takes new and old things out of his

Step 8: Sunday Offering: Let the teacher collect the Sunday offering to be taken to the church during the offertory.

Step 9: Concluding prayer: The session must be concluded with a prayer to be led by one of the children asking the child to use the topic of the day.

**AUGUST
TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD**

DATE: 06/08/2023

Opening Prayer: Let the teacher invite one of the children for the opening prayer.

Songs of Praise: The teacher ought to have planned for a hymn or choruses that fit the liturgy of the day.

Introduction: The teacher revises last week's discussion. Last memory verse will be repeated three times.

Step 1: The facilitator introduces the theme for the week:
WITNESSING

Step 2: The Gospel reading of the Sunday will be read by two children: **Mt. 17:1b-9**

Step 3: Sharing: Let children mention what they heard in the reading one after the other.

Step 4: Teaching: The facilitator will tell this story to enlighten children about the message of the Gospel of the day.

A brilliant, humble and friendly teacher took some of her students to a conference where she was to present a paper and receive an award. Everybody was attentive during her powerful and wonderful presentation, which ended with applause accompanied with standing ovations by all present. Her students never knew she was this influential and significant in the society. Notwithstanding, they were very happy to witness such respect and recognition she earned. They were also proud of her and counted themselves lucky to be her students and enjoyed the privilege of meeting different scholars and people of substance through her from far and near. The students were later recognized and told to hold her firmly. They were also congratulated to be lucky to learn under her tutelage. Thence, what they saw and heard at the conference, made them value her the more.

Step 5: Lesson Learnt: The presence of God eliminates fear.

Step 6: Task: Let children agree on a relevant and practicable task.

1. Follow and listen to God and you will experience miraculous wonders.
2. Be trusted and reliable enough to keep people's secrets that are entrusted to you.
3. Do not panic, since you have God.

Suggested Task: Do you want to be transformed to a better being in Jesus and experience His glory and miracle in your life, then always follow Him and listen to Him and do what pleases Him.

Step 7: Memory Verse: Verse 5, “..., *This is my own dear Son, with whom I am pleased – listen to him!*”

Step 8: Sunday Offering: Let the teacher collect the Sunday offering to be taken to the church during the offertory.

Step 9: Concluding prayer: The session must be concluded with a prayer to be led by one of the children asking the child to use the topic of the day.

NINETEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

DATE: 13/08/2023

Opening Prayer: Let the teacher invite one of the children for the opening prayer.

Songs of Praise: The teacher ought to have planned for a hymn or choruses that fit the liturgy of the day.

Introduction: The teacher revises last week's discussion. Last memory verse will be repeated three times.

Step 1: The facilitator introduces the theme for the week: **HOW STRONG IS YOUR FAITH?**

Step 2: The Gospel reading of the Sunday will be read by two children: **Mt. 14:22-33**

Step 3: Sharing: Let children mention what they heard in the reading one after the other.

Step 4: Teaching: The facilitator will tell this story to enlighten children about the message of the Gospel of the day.

One evening, Amy was asked to go and get something from the underground storeroom which was always dark no matter the time of the day. Her heart started beating very fast but her mum told her to relax as there was no 'ojuju' (masquerade) that will carry or injure her but she wasn't convinced. Although, she went but she ran back three times midway without getting to the basement. Her mum needed the object urgently, but she couldn't follow her as she mustn't leave what she was doing at that moment. She resolved to motivate Amy by telling her that her dad was working on some electrical gadgets there, she only needed to call out to him when she gets to the storeroom but he might not answer to avoid inhaling dust, she believed her mum and went. On getting to the storeroom, she called her dad without response but her hand mistakenly hit a stainless tray which fell and made a loud noise, she panicked and wanted to run away but she remembered her dad was in there, so she got what she wanted and went back joyfully to her mum. Returning to her mum, she was surprised to meet her father standing with her mother. Amy's mum asked Amy, “What now carried you in there?” she was advised to overcome the fear in her.

Step 5: Lesson Learnt: Be courageous! Testing is not meant to destroy you.

Step 6: Task: Let children agree on a relevant and practicable task.

1. Always find time to commune with God alone and quietly without any distraction.
2. Don't give room for fear and doubt.
3. Call out to God during troubles for He cares.
4. Make your request to God and He shall favour you by granting it.

Suggested Task: Keep your eyes focused on Jesus by doing His will in order to surmount fear, doubts and difficulties in your life

Step 7: Memory Verse: Verse 27, “.... Courage!” he said. “It is I. Don't be afraid!”

Step 8: Sunday Offering: Let the teacher collect the Sunday offering to be taken to the church during the offertory.

Step 9: Concluding prayer: The session must be concluded with a prayer to be led by one of the children asking the child to use the topic of the day.

TWENTIETH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

DATE: 20/08/2023

Opening Prayer: Let the teacher invite one of the children for the opening prayer.

Songs of Praise: The teacher ought to have planned for a hymn or choruses that fit the liturgy of the day.

Introduction: The teacher revises last week's discussion. Last memory verse will be repeated three times.

Step 1: The facilitator introduces the theme for the week:
UNWAVERING FAITH

Step 2: The Gospel reading of the Sunday will be read by two children: **Mt. 15:21-28**

Step 3: Sharing: Let children mention what they heard in the reading one after the other.

Step 4: Teaching: The facilitator will tell this story to enlighten children about the message of the Gospel of the day.

A wealthy man built a big hospital for the benefit of ONLY the indigenes of his town, where they were to enjoy free medical services at any point in time they wish. It happened that an inhabitant but non-indigene of the town has been ill for a while and didn't have money to visit another hospital for medical treatment. This woman had been going to this free service hospital just to be attended to or to see the rich man but she would only come back

disappointed and insulted. Nevertheless, she knew what she wanted, she wasn't dispirited, she kept going. Although, the owner of this hospital was aware of her every day visit, one day the woman came as early as she could and sat at one side of the hospital gate waiting for the owner. On sighting him, he ran to him with tears and pleas that she shouldn't be granted the privilege to run test or see the medical personnel but they should kindly give her just painkiller as she was hopeless and helpless. The man had pity on her, and because of her persistence, the protocol was broken for her sake for non-indigenes as they now had the right to visit the hospital like indigenes did.

Step 5: Lesson Learnt: Do not be wearied or discouraged.

Step 6: Task: Let children agree on a relevant and practicable task.

1. Pray and ask until you receive answers.
2. Seek God where He could be found.
3. You never know when you are being tested; don't be quick to give up or get angry.

Suggested Task: With persistence in prayer and believing heart and faith in Him come to Jesus with your request.

Step 7: Memory Verse: Verse 28, “So Jesus answered her, “You are a woman of great faith! What you want will be done for you.”

Step 8: Sunday Offering: Let the teacher collect the Sunday offering to be taken to the church during the offertory.

Step 9: Concluding prayer: The session must be concluded with a prayer to be led by one of the children asking the child to use the topic of the day.

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

DATE: 27/08/2023

Opening Prayer: Let the teacher invite one of the children for the opening prayer.

Songs of Praise: The teacher ought to have planned for a hymn or choruses that fit the liturgy of the day.

Introduction: The teacher revises last week's discussion. Last memory verse will be repeated three times.

Step 1: The facilitator introduces the theme for the week: **WHO IS JESUS TO YOU?**

Step 2: The Gospel reading of the Sunday will be read by two children: **Mt. 16:13-20**

Step 3: Sharing: Let children mention what they heard in the reading one after the other.

Step 4: Teaching: The facilitator will tell this story to enlighten children about the message of the Gospel of the day.

There had been allegations, rumors and gossips going on in the bird's kingdom about parrot being a telltale for humans. One day, he summoned all birds to see the brave one who's ready to say it to its face. All of them were scared as they didn't want to end up in human's pots as parrot's payback on them. Therefore, some were silent, others were telling it positive and complimentary words as a form of deception, but the peacock stood up ready to face whatever comes after his revelation to parrot. Other birds were scared for peacock, they were murmuring and signaled to it to keep shut. It decided to tell parrot just the way it is, "Parrot you are a snitch who always tells humans whatever you see and hear". With this divulgence, other birds exclaimed loudly in fear for the peacock. Parrot appreciated the peacock on its boldness and sincerity. It further explained that it's typically its nature and humans take good care of it, that's the only way to pay them for their kindness. As

a reward and also to prove to other birds that humans are not evil as presumed, he recommended the peacock to humans to be painted and decorated so that it could be the most beautiful bird.

Step 5: Lesson Learnt: There is a reward attached to being truthful.

Step 6: Task: Let children agree on a relevant and practicable task.

1. Your work and action will portray how others see you.
2. Think very well and ask for the help of the Holy Spirit before answering questions or talking.
3. Be bold to express yourself.

Suggested Task: Let your life and living show that you are a child of God and witness who Jesus is to others.

Step 7: Memory Verse: Verse 16, "..., *You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.*"

Step 8: Sunday Offering: Let the teacher collect the Sunday offering to be taken to the church during the offertory.

Step 9: Concluding prayer: The session must be concluded with a prayer to be led by one of the children asking the child to use the topic of the day.

SEPTEMBER

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

DATE: 03/09/2023

Opening Prayer: Let the teacher invite one of the children for the opening prayer.

Songs of Praise: The teacher ought to have planned for a hymn or choruses that fit the liturgy of the day.

Introduction: The teacher revises last week's discussion. Last memory verse will be repeated three times.

Step 1: The facilitator introduces the theme for the week: **SELF-SACRIFICE**

Step 2: The Gospel reading of the Sunday will be read by two children: **Mt. 16:21-27**

Step 3: Sharing: Let children mention what they heard in the reading one after the other.

Step 4: Teaching: The facilitator will tell this story to enlighten children about the message of the Gospel of the day.

A man was to go into a very thick and dangerous forest to get an antidote against the poison some enemies dropped in their land which affected almost everyone except the man's immediate family because they travelled for a function when the village was attacked. According to a reliable source, this antidote will not only revive the villagers but will further reinforce the village against any form of attacks and harms forever. The bitter truth is just that the journey will be very scary, tedious, time-consuming and he may eventually die but he must endure the hardship, if he's to get the remedy. This revelation frightened the man's son and pleaded with his father that he needed him more and reminded him that this people were never worth the sacrifice because of how they had been mean to them before. The boy tried to discourage his father to have a change of mind and let them relocate to another place, but all his cries and gimmicks fell on deaf ears as his father was not ready to back out. He knew if he finally succeeded, his name would be immortalized, therefore he was ready to face the aftermath, so as to restore and save his people and land forever.

Step 5: Lesson Learnt: Don't harken to carnality and the devil, be spirit driven and oriented.

Step 6: Task: Let children agree on a relevant and practicable task.

1. No one is above the manipulative nature of Satan. Be careful and watchful at all times.
2. No crown without cross, endure the suffering so you can be honoured.
3. Remove any hindrance on your way to glory and be determined to follow Jesus.

Suggested Task: Live your life for God by walking in love, putting God and others first before you, seeking and doing God's will and not your own and sacrificing the pursuits of the pleasures and things of this world for the worship of God and His blessings of eternal life.

Step 7: Memory Verse: Verse 24, “..., *If anyone wants to come with me, he must forget self, carry his cross, and follow me.*”

Step 8: Sunday Offering: Let the teacher collect the Sunday offering to be taken to the church during the offertory.

Step 9: Concluding prayer: The session must be concluded with a prayer to be led by one of the children asking the child to use the topic of the day.

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

DATE: 10/09/2023

Opening Prayer: Let the teacher invite one of the children for the opening prayer.

Songs of Praise: The teacher ought to have planned for a hymn or choruses that fit the liturgy of the day.

Introduction: The teacher revises last week's discussion. Last memory verse will be repeated three times.

Step 1: The facilitator introduces the theme for the week: **PEACE AND ONENESS**

Step 2: The Gospel reading of the Sunday will be read by two children: **Mt. 18:15-20**

Step 3: Sharing: Let children mention what they heard in the reading one after the other.

Step 4: Teaching: The facilitator will tell this story to enlighten children about the message of the Gospel of the day.

Long time ago, tortoise and dog were close friends, they always had each other's back, in fact they do literally everything together, to the extent of promising never to leave each other through thick and thin. In order to foster their relationship, they decided to have a joint business. Their proposition was successful and the business was doing well with enough profits. One fateful day, lady tortoise was critically ill and a huge sum of money was needed to save her life. It was agreed by tortoise and dog to use the money which some customers asked them to supply goods with in treating lady tortoise. As there was no money to supply the requested goods, after waiting patiently and endlessly, the customers decided to arrest them. Dog took all the blames and decided to go to jail on behalf of both of them. His friend was bittered, he promised to take care of dog's family and work earnestly so he could free his friend in no time. Surprisingly, not only did tortoise failed to fulfil his promise, he also didn't check on his friend while in prison. Eventually, dog's jail term ended and he went to tortoise's house and the office severally, he even sent people to him just to know his offence, so that things might go back to normal but all his efforts proved abortive. Dog was ready to forgive his friend for all his maltreatment against him but he was denied access. Tortoise's now very influential and didn't want to associate with an ex-convict. Sooner, everything tortoise had crumbled and fell apart. He was later told he had betrayed the vow he had with his friend. On the long run, the dog forgave him and their collaboration speedily restored all what was previously lost.

Step 5: Lesson Learnt: God inhabits in unity; He is ever present with us.

Step 6: Task: Let children agree on a relevant and practicable task.

1. Avoid keeping grudges.
2. Learn to be discreet and cover up for people.
3. Willingly have a forgiving spirit; don't stop trying to make peace with people.

Suggested Task: Become a peacemaker, resolving conflict

between friends, forgive those that have done something wrong and restore good relationship and friendship with people.

Step 7: Memory Verse: Verse 19, “... whenever two of you on earth agree about anything you pray for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven.”

Step 8: Sunday Offering: Let the teacher collect the Sunday offering to be taken to the church during the offertory.

Step 9: Concluding prayer: The session must be concluded with a prayer to be led by one of the children asking the child to use the topic of the day.

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

DATE: 17/09/2023

Opening Prayer: Let the teacher invite one of the children for the opening prayer.

Songs of Praise: The teacher ought to have planned for a hymn or choruses that fit the liturgy of the day.

Introduction: The teacher revises last week's discussion. Last memory verse will be repeated three times.

Step 1: The facilitator introduces the theme for the week: **LET (IT) GO!**

Step 2: The Gospel reading of the Sunday will be read by two children: **Mt. 18:21-35**

Step 3: Sharing: Let children mention what they heard in the reading one after the other.

Step 4: Teaching: The facilitator will tell this story to enlighten children about the message of the Gospel of the day.

A senior student of mine was rude to me this got me angry and I vowed to punish her. Luckily for her, I was in a good mood when she, her friends and a colleague of mine, came to plead on her

behalf for forgiveness. I had no choice than to accept her apology. Later in the day, I got news of how this same girl brutally beat up one of her juniors, simply because she refused to answer her. I was extremely angry, considering the age difference between me and her as opposed to that of the both them. Even the gravity of her offence to me is incomparable to that of what are junior did to her. Considering this very act of hers, since she's not tolerant, merciful and can't overlook, I decided to take her offence against me and the junior student up by reporting her to the School's Disciplinary Committee to handle her matter. Since it's against the school's rules and regulations to be rude to staff and bully or intimidate your school mates, she was severely punished, suspended and relieved of her prefect-ship. Although, she regretted her action, but the sanction still needed to be complied in order to serve as deterrent for others.

Step 5: Lesson Learnt: Forgive wholeheartedly.

Step 6: Task: Let children agree on a relevant and practicable task.

1. Be considerate, merciful and empathetic.
2. Do to people how you wish to be done to.
3. Do not repay good with evil.

Suggested Task: Always feel a desire to show mercy and forgiveness to your friends and others for countless times they do wrong

Step 7: Memory Verse: Verse 27, *“The king felt sorry for him, so he forgave him the debt and let him go.”*

Step 8: Sunday Offering: Let the teacher collect the Sunday offering to be taken to the church during the offertory.

Step 9: Concluding prayer: The session must be concluded with a prayer to be led by one of the children asking the child to use the topic of the day.

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

DATE: 24/09/2023

Opening Prayer: Let the teacher invite one of the children for the opening prayer.

Songs of Praise: The teacher ought to have planned for a hymn or choruses that fit the liturgy of the day.

Introduction: The teacher revises last week's discussion. Last memory verse will be repeated three times.

Step 1: The facilitator introduces the theme for the week: **UNWORTHY FAVOUR**

Step 2: The Gospel reading of the Sunday will be read by two children: **Mt. 20:1-16a**

Step 3: Sharing: Let children mention what they heard in the reading one after the other.

Step 4: Teaching: The facilitator will tell this story to enlighten children about the message of the Gospel of the day.

Dele, who was very poor, went to Oba Ade, and said that he wanted a hundred naira. 'But why should I give you a hundred naira?' asked the Oba. 'Because we are relatives,' said Dele. Oba Ade was surprised. He did not know Dele had never seen him before. 'Do you belong to my father or mother's family?' asked Oba. Dele replied that that was not what he meant. You see, he said 'according to the holy books, we are all children of Adam; so because of that, part of your wealth is mine.' The Oba said, 'But this is something I must think about. Come and see me again tomorrow morning.' When Dele got to the Oba's palace the next day, Oba handed him one kobo. He said, 'If we are all children of Adam, then everyone in the world is my relative. So your fair share like everyone else's is exactly one kobo.'

Step 5: Lesson Learnt: God has the final say, He's merciful and His promises will never fail.

Step 6: Task: Let children agree on a relevant and practicable task.

1. Be considerate, helpful and generous.
2. Avoid envying other people's blessings.
3. Spend your time wisely.

Suggested Task: Don't be envious of others' achievement or brag about your's but instead always be thankful to God for His grace

Step 7: Memory Verse: Verse 4, “..., *You also go and work in the vineyard, and I will pay you a fair wage.*”

Step 8: Sunday Offering: Let the teacher collect the Sunday offering to be taken to the church during the offertory.

Step 9: Concluding prayer: The session must be concluded with a prayer to be led by one of the children asking the child to use the topic of the day.

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**Sr Dr Omojola I.O, SSMA
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