

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SALT LAKE CITY



A Christian Steward is one who:

- Receives God's gifts with gratitude
- Cherishes and tends gifts in a responsible and accountable manner
- Shares gifts in justice and love with others
- Returns gifts with increase to the Lord

Bishops' Pastoral Letter of 1992
Stewardship: A Disciple's Response

Office of Stewardship and Development
Second Grade and Third Grade Curriculum

*“Gratitude
in
Action”*



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Gratitude in Action
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General Instructions

Each lesson is divided into four sections:

- Scripture Reading
- Teaching for the Day
- Activity
- Closing Prayer

Scripture Reading *(2 minutes at the most)*

- The instructor should proclaim the Scripture as one would at Mass.

An example: “A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians...” ending with “The Word of the Lord” and all respond “Thanks be to God.”

Teaching of the Day *(7-8 minutes)*

- The saint(s) of the day are there to provide a real life example of someone who demonstrates the theme of the day.

Activity *(4-7 minutes)*

- Dialogue options are given to engage students.
- The instructor is free to choose/create other suitable activities not listed.

Closing Prayer *(less than a minute)*

Total Lesson Length: 15 minutes



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Lesson 1: I am a child of God, and my life is a Gift from God. I am created in God's image.

Objective:

To know and understand we are all children of God, made in His image and likeness. He gives us life.

Scripture:

"God created man in his image; in the divine image he created him; male and female he created them." *Genesis 1:27*

Teaching:

"Christ, ... in the very revelation of the mystery of the Father and of his love, makes man fully manifest to himself and brings to light his exalted vocation." *Catechism of the Catholic Church, Second Edition, Part Three: Life in Christ, ¶1701*

"God's gift of life to you each morning is a sign that He has a mission for you that day." —
from *Tweet Inspiration*

Activity:

Do you understand you are a child of God and made like God?

Do you understand that your life is a gift from God?

What do you believe is your mission or purpose in life?

Saint of the Day – what did this saint feel was his or her purpose in life?

<http://www.americancatholic.org/features/saints/byname.aspx>

Closing Prayer:

Dear God,
Thank You for so many great gifts! I will take good care of these gifts and will share them with others in a special way. Thank you for all You do for me. Help me love You and all those I care about more and more every day. **Amen.**



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Lesson 2: Who I am and what I can do are gifts and talents from God.

Objective:

To make children aware that their talents and skills are gifts from God.

Scripture: The Parable of the Talents

“It will be as when a man who was going on a journey called in his servants and entrusted his possessions to them. To one he gave five talents; to another, two; to a third, one – to each according to his ability. Then he went away. Immediately the one who received five talents went and traded with them, and made another five. Likewise, the one who received two made another two. But the man who received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and buried his master’s money. After a long time the master of those servants came back and settled accounts with them. The one who had received five talents came forward bringing the additional five. He said, ‘Master, you gave me five talents. See, I have made five more.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master’s joy.’ [Then] the one who had received two talents also came forward and said, ‘Master, you gave me two talents. See, I have made two more.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master’s joy.’ Then the one who had received the one talent came forward and said, ‘Master, I knew you were a demanding person, harvesting where you did not plant and gathering where you did not scatter; so out of fear I went off and buried your talent in the ground. Here it is back.’ His master said to him in reply, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I did not plant and gather where I did not scatter? Should you not then have put my money in the bank so that I could have got it back with interest on my return? Now then! Take the talent from him and give it to the one with ten. For to everyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And throw this useless servant into the darkness outside, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.’ *(Matthew 25:14-30)*



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Teaching:

“And so I have given many gifts and graces, both spiritual and temporal, with such diversity that I have not given everything to one single person, so that you may be constrained to practice charity towards one another ...” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church, Second Edition, Part Three: Life in Christ, ¶1937 - St. Catherine of Siena*)

Activity:

Do you understand that the talents and skills you have were given to you by God?

What are your talents and skills?

If you are not sure you know what talents God has given you, how can you find out?

Saint of the Day - what was the gift or talent or skill this saint was given by God?

<http://www.americancatholic.org/features/saints/byname.aspx>

Closing Prayer:

Dear God,

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Lesson 3: Who I am and what I can do are gifts and talents from God.
(Continuation of Lesson 2)

Objective:

To make children aware that their talents and skills are gifts from God.

Scripture: The Parable of the Talents

“It will be as when a man who was going on a journey called in his servants and entrusted his possessions to them. To one he gave five talents; to another, two; to a third, one – to each according to his ability. Then he went away. Immediately the one who received five talents went and traded with them, and made another five. Likewise, the one who received two made another two. But the man who received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and buried his master’s money. After a long time the master of those servants came back and settled accounts with them. The one who had received five talents came forward bringing the additional five. He said, ‘Master, you gave me five talents. See, I have made five more.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master’s joy.’ [Then] the one who had received two talents also came forward and said, ‘Master, you gave me two talents. See, I have made two more.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master’s joy.’ Then the one who had received the one talent came forward and said, ‘Master, I knew you were a demanding person, harvesting where you did not plant and gathering where you did not scatter; so out of fear I went off and buried your talent in the ground. Here it is back.’ His master said to him in reply, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I did not plant and gather where I did not scatter? Should you not then have put my money in the bank so that I could have got it back with interest on my return? Now then! Take the talent from him and give it to the one with ten. For to everyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And throw this useless servant into the darkness outside, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.’ **(Matthew 25:14-30)**



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Teaching:

“And so I have given many gifts and graces, both spiritual and temporal, with such diversity that I have not given everything to one single person, so that you may be constrained to practice charity towards one another ...” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church, Second Edition, Part Three: Life in Christ, ¶1937 - St. Catherine of Siena*)

Activity:

Do you remember that your talents and skills were given to you by God?

Do you remember your talents and skills you identified last time?

Do you understand that not everyone has the same talents and skills?

Closing Prayer:

Dear God,
Thank You for so many great gifts! I will take good care of these gifts and will share them with others in a special way. Thank you for all You do for me. Help me love You and all those I care about more and more every day. **Amen.**



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Lesson 4: How can I share the gifts God has given me? With whom can I share them?

Objective:

To make children aware their gifts from God are to be shared with others.

Scripture: The Parable of the Talents

“It will be as when a man who was going on a journey called in his servants and entrusted his possessions to them. To one he gave five talents; to another, two; to a third, one – to each according to his ability. Then he went away. Immediately the one who received five talents went and traded with them, and made another five. Likewise, the one who received two made another two. But the man who received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and buried his master’s money. After a long time the master of those servants came back and settled accounts with them. The one who had received five talents came forward bringing the additional five. He said, ‘Master, you gave me five talents. See, I have made five more.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master’s joy.’ [Then] the one who had received two talents also came forward and said, ‘Master, you gave me two talents. See, I have made two more.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master’s joy.’ Then the one who had received the one talent came forward and said, ‘Master, I knew you were a demanding person, harvesting where you did not plant and gathering where you did not scatter; so out of fear I went off and buried your talent in the ground. Here it is back.’ His master said to him in reply, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I did not plant and gather where I did not scatter? Should you not then have put my money in the bank so that I could have got it back with interest on my return? Now then! Take the talent from him and give it to the one with ten. For to everyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And throw this useless servant into the darkness outside, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.’ **(Matthew 25:14-30)**



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Teaching:

“I have willed that one should need another and that all should be my ministers in distributing the graces and gifts they have received from me.” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church, Second Edition, Part Three: Life in Christ, ¶1937 - St. Catherine of Siena*)

Activity:

How can you share your talents and skills with others?

How can you help others by using the talents and skills God has given you?

Closing Prayer:

Dear God,
Thank You for so many great gifts! I will take good care of these gifts and will share them with others in a special way. Thank you for all You do for me. Help me love You and all those I care about more and more every day. **Amen.**



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Lesson 5: How can I take care of the gifts God has given me?

Objective:

To remind children the life they possess and the things they call their own are gifts from God and must be taken care of in a good way.

Scripture:

“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been purchased at a price. Therefore glorify God in your body.” *(1 Cor 6:19-20)*

“The seventh commandment forbids unjustly taking or keeping the goods of one’s neighbor and wronging him in any way with respect to his goods. It commands justice and charity in the care of earthly goods ...” *(Catechism of the Catholic Church, Second Edition, Part Three: Life in Christ, ¶2401)*

Teaching:

All of us should respect ourselves and what has been given to us, and we should also respect others and those things that belong to them.

Activity:

How can I take care of and show respect for my body?

(Write down on a piece of paper 2 or 3 ways in which you take care of your body.)

How can I care for all the other gifts God gives me?

(Write down 2 or 3 other gifts God has given you and how you take care of them.)

Name something that belongs to a friend or relative and what you do to show them you respect it because it belongs to them.

Closing Prayer:

Dear God,

Thank You for so many great gifts! I will take good care of these gifts and will share them with others in a special way. Thank you for all You do for me. Help me love You and all those I care about more and more every day. **Amen.**



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Lesson 6: How can I help others learn about the gifts God has given them?

Objective:

To make children aware they, too, can evangelize and bring God into the lives of others.

Scripture: “For we are the temple of the living God; ...” (2 Cor 6:16)

God spoke further to Moses, “Thus shall you say to the Israelites: The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.

“This is my name forever; this is my title for all generations.

“Go and assemble the elders of the Israelites, and tell them: The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, has appeared to me and said: I am concerned about you and about the way you are being treated in Egypt; so I have decided to lead you up out of the misery of Egypt ...” (Exodus 3:15-17, *The New American Bible, St. Joseph Edition, 1987*)

“Thus they will heed your message. ...” (Exodus 3:18, *The New American Bible, St. Joseph Edition, 1987*)

Teaching:

God works through each of us to make His message heard in the lives of others. We are his instruments.

Activity:

How would you share with someone else how God is at work in your life?

How did today’s saint share God with others?

<http://www.americancatholic.org/features/saints/byname.aspx>

Closing Prayer:

Dear God,

Thank You for so many great gifts! I will take good care of these gifts and will share them with others in a special way. Thank you for all You do for me. Help me love You and all those I care about more and more every day. **Amen.**



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Lesson 7: Is there a special gift you would like to receive from God that could be shared with others?

Objective:

To help children learn to pray for those things that will help them live as better disciples of our Lord.

Scripture:

Jesus said to his disciples: "You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned? It is no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father." (*Matthew 5:13-16*)

Teaching:

Fruits of the Holy Spirit: Charity, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Generosity, Gentleness, Faithfulness, Modesty, Self-control and Chastity.

In Confirmation, these gifts come to you from the Holy Spirit as you continue to receive graces from God.

Activity:

"This Little Light of Mine" suggests not hiding our light (gifts) or allowing the devil to blow out the light but instead sharing our light (gifts) with others. (Suggested selection from "Action Bible Songs" – *17 Classic Christian Songs for Kids – 'Cedarmont Kids'*)

Closing Prayer:

Dear God,
Thank You for so many great gifts! I will take good care of these gifts and will share them with others in a special way. Thank you for all You do for me. Help me love You and all those I care about more and more every day. **Amen.**



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Lesson 8: What gifts do you have that you can share at church, maybe during the Mass?

Objective:

To bring children to an awareness of the roles they can take as young lay people of the Church. To help children recognize the man who becomes a priest is using the gifts he, too, has received from God

Scripture:

“The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him: a spirit of wisdom and of understanding, a spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the Lord, and his delight shall be the fear of the Lord.” ***(Isaiah 11:2-3)***

“Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, ...”
(John 14:12)

“So shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; It shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it.” ***(Isaiah 55:11)***

Teaching:

Fruits of the Holy Spirit: Charity, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Generosity, Gentleness, Faithfulness, Modesty, Self-control and Chastity.

Activity:

Exhibit how young people can interact in their young ministries at church by simple role playing of priest and people. A short Mass can be played out by the students who portray the roles of priest, deacon, server, lector, cantor, Eucharistic minister, usher, and greeter, as well as those in the assembly who respond to the various Mass parts. Portraying these various roles, praying of and responding to the Mass parts, will help the children learn more about the Mass and be more prepared to engage themselves in their individual roles when that time arrives.

Closing Prayer:

Dear God,
Thank You for so many great gifts! I will take good care of these gifts and will share them with others in a special way. Thank you for all You do for me. Help me love You and all those I care about more and more every day. **Amen.**



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Lesson 9: How can you show God you appreciate His gifts to you? How can you thank Him for all these gifts?

Objective:

To encourage children to live as stewards of God, understanding the core of stewardship is gratitude through actions.

Scripture:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Teaching:

The *Lord's Prayer* expresses everything:

Thanksgiving – Give us this day our daily bread;

Repentance – forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;

Praise – Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Petition. – lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Our 'Amen' signifies our acceptance and agreement to what has been said.

Activity:

Please write on a piece of paper what it is about you that shows other people you are a thankful person.

Present each child with a small rock, which can be used as a paperweight, identifying with a permanent marker or paint the most outstanding gift you as a teacher perceive he or she has received from God.

Closing Prayer:

Dear God,

Thank You for so many great gifts! I will take good care of these gifts and will share them with others in a special way. Thank you for all You do for me. Help me love You and all those I care about more and more every day. **Amen.**