

September 2021
Ordinary Time
Proper 20



The Diocesan Sunday School Teacher



Welcome

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Greetings My Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Today we focus on God's value-system.

In the world today, being number one, or the strongest, fastest or richest makes us the greatest. Its focus is on the individual.

But in God's kingdom, different things are valued and the focus shifts from the 'I', to the upliftment of the wider community.

Christians are called to operate within a God-centered value system that does not seek the promotion of self, but rather the promotion of God's values that seek to lift up the poor, give voice to the weak, and welcome to the nobodies.

When we act within God's value system we seek after God's goals of justice, peace, and reconciliation with all persons.

As we direct our children toward choosing God's value system, may we also demonstrate it in our own lives.

Blessings,

The Sunday School Team



Memory Verse:

St. Mark 9:35

Jesus sat down,
called the twelve,
and said to them,
"Whoever wants to
be first must be
last of all and
servant of all."

Collect & Readings

The Collect

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Jeremiah 11:18-20

Psalms 54

James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

Mark 9:30-37

The First Lesson (Jeremiah 11:18-20)

Jeremiah speaks about persons who were plotting against his life, to kill him.
He prays to God for justice and protection

It was the LORD who made it known to me, and I knew; then you showed me their evil deeds. But I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter. And I did not know it was against me that they devised schemes, saying,

"Let us destroy the tree with its fruit, let us cut him off from the land of the living, so that his name will no longer be remembered!"

But you, O LORD of hosts, who judge righteously, who try the heart and the mind, let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause.

BIBLE STUDY: Jeremiah 11:18-20

QUESTIONS:

How would you feel if others were preparing to hurt you for doing God's work?

Jeremiah placed his trust in God to resolve the matter, would you do the same?

Jeremiah prayed for justice not revenge, could you do the same?

Jeremiah had agreed to be God's messenger.

God was not pleased with God's people because they were worshipping other gods and were offering sacrifices to them.

They had broken the covenant they had with the living God. They plotted against God. They also plotted against God's messenger Jeremiah because he spoke up about their actions and relayed God's displeasure and judgment against them.

Jeremiah did not take things into his own hands, he prayed to God for justice and protection from those who plotted against him.

ACTIVITY:

Jeremiah wrote this song of lament when he felt bad that others were trying to hurt him.

Write a song telling how you feel when others treat you unfairly. Remember to add a line about forgiving them and praying for them.



Psalm 54

This is a short prayer by David in which he shows confidence that the Lord will come to his assistance

- 1 Save me, O God, by your Name; * in your might, defend my cause.
- 2 Hear my prayer, O God; * give ear to the words of my mouth.
- 3 For the arrogant have risen up against me, and the ruthless have sought my life, * those who have no regard for God.
- 4 Behold, God is my helper; * it is the Lord who sustains my life.
- 5 Render evil to those who spy on me; * in your faithfulness, destroy them.
- 6 I will offer you a freewill sacrifice * and praise your Name, O Lord, for it is good.
- 7 For you have rescued me from every trouble, * and my eye has seen the ruin of my foes.

The Second Lesson (James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a)



Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures.

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

James talks about envy and selfish ambition leading to conflict in the Church.

While peaceful actions will lead to a harvest of righteousness

ACTIVITY:

Have the students think of a scenario where envy and strife are causing a disturbance in the Church?

How would they use Form B in The Greeting of Peace on page 125 of the Book of Common Prayer to deal with this situation?

BIBLE STUDY:

James teaches that our faith in God and our actions of love towards our neighbor are inseparable.

When we are guided by heavenly wisdom, our actions become pure, peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy.

When we are guided by worldly wisdom, it leads to envy and selfish ambition in us, and our actions lead to disorder and wickedness in the community.

We should choose God and reject the devil. It will show in our peaceful actions.

QUESTIONS:

Have you ever had a conflict or quarrel in your family, school, church or community?

How did you deal with it?

How can you become a peacemaker to resolve conflicts?

St. Mark 9:30-37



Jesus and his disciples passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

St. Mark 9:30-37



BIBLE STUDY: ST. MARK 9:30-37

QUESTIONS

In Mark's gospel Jesus makes it known to His disciples that if they want to be the greatest in God's kingdom they will have to be as humble, loving, caring and willing to learn as a child.

What is true greatness?

The disciples were arguing with each other about which of them was the greatest.

Jesus told them that greatness in God's kingdom was about placing others before ourselves, and giving humble service to others.

The truly great are those who are willing to serve and care for others, and welcome the weak and unknowns such as children.

What they do for these persons, they do for Christ and God who sent him.

Many athletes and performers are now considered the greatest of their sport or art. Can you name any of them?

But what does it mean to be great in the Kingdom of God?

How can we show that we are placing the needs of others before our own?

Activity: Word Search

Mark 9:30-37

E	B	T	S	C	H	I	L	D	Z	R	F	A	W
Z	A	E	E	H	L	I	B	U	S	U	S	E	J
P	G	A	L	I	L	E	E	K	U	P	E	V	T
A	O	C	P	P	O	S	T	G	G	E	M	X	K
C	Z	H	I	M	T	K	R	N	R	R	O	Y	M
T	T	I	C	V	W	A	A	S	E	J	C	N	U
E	N	N	S	X	E	M	Y	S	A	F	L	T	A
B	A	G	I	S	F	E	E	P	T	Q	E	L	N
Y	V	K	D	O	G	D	D	O	E	B	W	D	R
F	R	Z	N	O	A	N	A	T	S	A	L	I	E
I	E	O	R	N	L	U	N	H	T	Y	A	A	P
R	S	I	L	E	N	T	G	N	I	U	G	R	A
S	D	N	A	T	S	R	E	D	N	U	Q	F	C
T	C	L	E	W	E	V	L	E	W	T	R	A	C

AFRAID
BETRAYED
CAPERNAUM
CHILD
GALILEE
ARGUING
GREATEST
SERVANT
SILENT
TEACHING
SON OF MAN
LAST
WELCOMES
TWELVE
DISCIPLES
JESUS
UNDERSTAND

We hope you found this newsletter informative and useful. Please feel free to share it with others.

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Please send comments to:
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