

Grade 7 CCD

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Start of Class Exercise

- **Case Study – What is prayer? What is your experience of Prayer?**

Opening Prayer

- Please see the hand out

Jesus as an example of prayer

- Temptation in the Desert
 - After fasting for 40 days/nights Devil tempts him in 3 ways. Jesus response is toward God.
- Going off to a quiet place to pray
 - Luke 5:16, 6:12, 9:28, Matthew 14:23, Mark 6:46.
- When disciples ask Jesus how to pray, he give them the Our Father.
 - (Luke 11:1, Matthew 6:9)
- Garden of Gethsemane
 - Prayer for cup to pass, but “Your will, not my will be done”

Meditation

- From the root word “media” - something that appeals to the senses.
 - Reading
 - Listening to someone speak
 - Using images
- We also need to quiet ourselves down and listen to God.
- We try to do something with our prayer, for example doing something kind for someone.

Contemplation

- Prayer without images, words or thoughts.
- It is a resting in God's loving presence.
- Quiet Time alone with God.
- A self-emptying love of God – Forgetting our wants and needs, and being present to God.
- If something distracts you in prayer you should “Note and Let Go.”

Key Words/Phrases

1) Kingdom of God

2) Parable

3) Disciple

The Kingdom of God is at hand

- The Kingdom of God is at hand
 - We are called through our baptism to make the Kingdom of God present in our world.
- Luke 17:20-21
 - Asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, he said in reply, "The coming of the kingdom of God cannot be observed, and no one will announce, 'Look, here it is,' or, 'There it is.' For behold, the kingdom of God is among you."

Parables

- A parable is a story that teaches us a lesson on how to live our life.
- Parables often use everyday things to tell a story.
- Jesus often spoke in parables using simple language we can relate to in our experience.
 - He spoke in this way to describe something that is not always easy to explain.

Kingdom of God

- Something we say when we say the “Our Father.” It is the reign of God here on Earth and include peace and justice for all.
- Matthew 13:31
 - The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that a person took and sowed in a field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, yet when full-grown it is the largest of plants. It becomes a large bush, and the 'birds of the sky come and dwell in its branches.'"

A Mustard Seed



A Mustard Tree



Kingdom of God

- Matthew 13:44
 - The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.
- Matthew 13:47
 - The kingdom of heaven is like a net thrown into the sea, which collects fish of every kind. When it is full they haul it ashore and sit down to put what is good into buckets. What is bad they throw away.

Church is the Seed and Sign of the Kingdom

- Jesus establishes his Church to be the seed of the Kingdom.
 - The Church is growing into the Kingdom
 - Think of a baby, he/she is genetically human and will grow into an adult human.
 - It will not grow into being a cat :)
 - There is still a process of growing.
- Sign – Something that points to a deeper reality.
- Matthew 19:14 – We need to be child-like, we all need to grow.
 - Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.