



### STUDENT LESSON PLANS

#### LESSON FIVE: We are Called to be Followers of Christ

From the Aims of the *Catholic Preschool and Primary Religious Education Curriculum for Ireland*

Lessons for fifth/sixth classes with adaptable suggestions for use in special schools and classes.

##### Level 4

##### Strand: Christian Faith

- Develop their understanding of the Church as a community of faith.
- Grow in awareness and understanding of their Christian spirituality.

##### Strand: Liturgy and Prayer

- Make connections between liturgical practices of the Church community and the beliefs and teachings proclaimed.
- Develop their understanding of personal and communal prayer.

##### Strand: Christian Morality

- Explore how to live the new covenant in Jesus (the Law of Love), the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes with faith, hope, and love (CCC, 1812).
- Develop their understanding of factors that call for, influence and promote moral behaviour.

#### Teacher Notes

This lesson focuses on being called to follow Christ's example in our own lives. Jesus demonstrated through his words and actions the need for us to care for one each other. The Kingdom of God is a kingdom where love, solidarity and friendship abide and where everyone is welcome. Jesus prayed to God and we too are called to pray. Prayer is simply talking to God; and Jesus teaches us that God will never leave us or stop loving us. He is always there to hear us.

#### Let's Look

Begin the lesson by discussing with the children what it means to be a follower of someone. Some people are role models or people we look up; for instance, Lionel Messi, Brother Kevin Crowley, Katie Taylor. Talk about those role models: how do they make us feel? Then discuss Brother Kevin and Katie Taylor. They are role models to many people today and many follow them but one of the things that they both do is pray. Loads of sports stars bless themselves, such as Mo Salah of Liverpool. As a Muslim, he prays before each game.

Watch this short video about the famous Liverpool footballer Mo Salah (4 min. 26 sec.)

[youtube.com/watch?v=B7xXqKMiR7Q](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B7xXqKMiR7Q)

There are lots of instances of Mo Salah praying. Ask the children why they think he prays. What difference does it make to him?

# SECTION ONE

## SCHOOL RESOURCES



### Let's Learn

To develop the lesson, explore with pupils how prayer was so important to Jesus. We have different kinds of prayers. Some we learn like the Our Father and Hail Mary. With some prayers we thank God for things. Others are prayers such as Prayers of the Faithful which are asking God to help us in some way. Ask the pupils why they think Jesus prayed. Explain that his own prayers didn't immediately get answered. On the cross he prayed but he died. But this was followed by the Resurrection. Did it make any difference to Jesus? Who did he pray to? Why would we pray to Jesus today and why do people pray to Jesus? Do you think Jesus listens to your prayers?

Explain to the pupils that today we are going to think of something we would like to pray for. It could be for someone you know who is going through a difficult time, or something you're worried or anxious about. Distribute the activity page or blank pieces of A4 paper and give the pupils a few minutes in silence to reflect on what it is they want to pray for. Ask the pupils to write their prayers and fold their pieces of paper. They do not have to tell anyone what their prayer is as it is between them and God. Collect the prayers and place them into a box at your sacred space.

### Let's Live

To conclude the lesson, discuss why we had to think in silence about what we wanted to pray for. Was it easier to think about these things when the room was still and quiet? Is it important for us to sometimes have quiet time to ourselves to think about things like this? Ask the pupils if there are places where it is easier to pray. Can we chat with God anywhere (in the school, on the yard, pitch, classroom)?



# SECTION ONE

## SCHOOL RESOURCES

### LESSON FIVE: WE ARE CALLED TO BE FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST

#### **ACTIVITY PAGE**

A large rectangular frame with a decorative border of black scrollwork and floral motifs. Inside the frame, the text "I pray for.." is written in a black cursive font at the top left. The rest of the frame is empty, intended for writing.

*I pray for..*

# SECTION ONE

## SCHOOL RESOURCES

### SUGGESTIONS FOR LESSON ADAPTION

#### Special Education Guidelines

#### Strand: Christian Faith

- Develop their understanding of the Church as a community of faith.
- Grow in awareness and understanding of their Christian spirituality.

<b>Attending</b>	<b>Responding</b>	<b>Initiating</b>
The child should be enabled to:	The child should be enabled to:	The child should be enabled to:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• participate in turn taking activities/games</li><li>• become aware of rules in the school and community that may concern him/her</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• participate in activities that require everyone to give and share something</li><li>• observe appropriate school and community rules</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• care for and cooperate with each other</li><li>• independently observe community and school rules</li></ul>

#### Pupils Attending

Talk about people that are important in our lives and that we care about. This can include parents, friends or teachers/SNAs. Explain that God cares about us too and that we can talk to God whenever we want.

#### Pupils Responding

Pupils can draw a picture of themselves with the person or people they care about praying and, if appropriate, include Jesus in the picture because Jesus cares about us too.

#### Pupils Initiating

Question the pupils on what they drew. Explain that we can say prayers to God if we are worried or anxious because no matter what, God will always love us and listen to us.

# SECTION ONE

## SCHOOL RESOURCES

### PRAYER



### JUSTICE



### FAITH



### MERCY



### TABLE FELLOWSHIP



### CHARITY



### SACRED SPACE



### PETITION BOX

