

CONTENTS

Helps for the Teacher

Welcome!	T4
The Catechetical Ministry in the Catholic School	T4
The Foundations of Catechesis	T5
A Spiral-Thematic Curriculum Based on the Four Pillars of the <i>Catechism</i>	T6
BLEST ARE WE FAITH & WORD Program Overview	T7
BLEST ARE WE FAITH & WORD Scope and Sequence	T10
Learning Styles and Strategies	T14
Profile of the Seventh- and Eighth-Grade Learner	T16
The Learning Environment	T18
Involving the Parish	T20
Involving the Family	T22
Introducing Get Connected with Family and Friends Pages	T23
Teaching Doctrine	T24
Teaching Scripture	T25
Teaching Worship	T27
Teaching Morality	T28
Introducing Faith in Action	T29
Teaching Prayer	T30
Online Resources at blestarewe.com	T31
Learning Activities	T32
Assessment	T34

Scripture

Understanding Scripture T35

*A complete minicourse
on the Bible for the teacher*

Core Chapters 3

*Planning pages and step-by-step suggestions
for teaching all twenty chapters of
BLEST ARE WE FAITH & WORD The Story of Jesus*

Feasts and Seasons 317

*Eleven lesson plans on
the Liturgical Year and major
feast day celebrations*

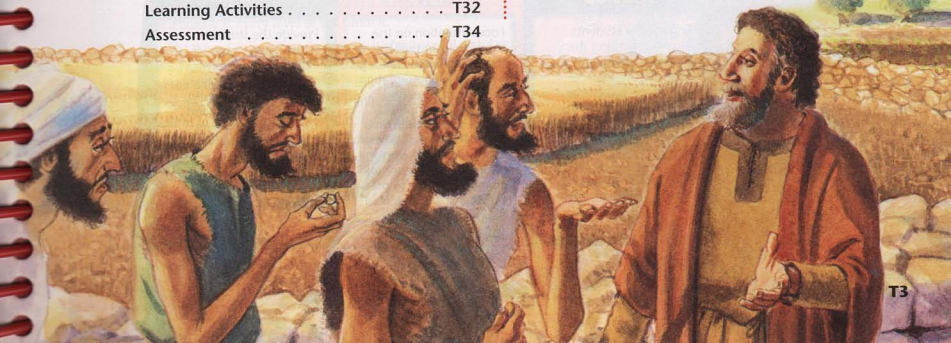
Our Catholic Teachings 395

*A brief survey of Catholic doctrine,
organized according to the four pillars
of the Catechism of the Catholic Church*

Resources 435

Celebrating Catholic Schools Week T49

*Celebrating Catholic
Schools Week Activity Master BL-T50*



The Kingdom of God

Chapter

5

Background for the Teacher

The coming of the Kingdom of God is a central theme of the New Testament. John the Baptist urges people to repent from sin in order to prepare for the coming of the Kingdom, and Jesus teaches that he has come to bring about the beginning of the Kingdom of God. The fullness of God's Kingdom will not come until the Second Coming of Christ, when God will destroy the power of evil and resurrect the faithful to life everlasting.

Preparing for God's Kingdom

The parables of Jesus tell us how to prepare for the coming of God's Kingdom. As members of the Church, we are to be signs of this Kingdom here on earth. We are to turn away from sin and believe in the Gospel. We are to love God and our neighbors in daily life. As a pilgrim Church, we are to join with other Christians in working toward God's Kingdom of justice and peace.

Jesus' parables especially call us to minister to the poor by performing the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. We are to join in the work of Christ and help make the Kingdom of God a reality here on earth.


Faith Focus

The parables of Jesus teach us about the Kingdom of God and how to prepare for its coming.

Time for Reflection

How am I using my talents to do the work of God's Kingdom?

A Teacher's Prayer

 Heavenly Father, empower me to open my heart to your word, so that I may receive it as good soil receives a sower's seeds. Help me respond to the needs of the poor, never tiring in my efforts to bring about justice and peace in today's world. May your Holy Spirit guide me and help me build your Kingdom. I ask this through Christ, your Son. Amen.

5 Get Connected with Family and Friends

Home Connection

Pre-chapter activities for families


Getting ready for Chapter 5

Get CONNECTED

with family and friends

The Kingdom of God

In the Lord's Prayer, we pray, "The kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." God's Kingdom is his Reign of peace, justice, and love. Jesus began the Kingdom here on earth by coming into the world. We prepare for the coming of the Kingdom of God when we treat others with love, compassion, and mercy as Jesus taught us to do.



Activity

An American woman once wrote to Mother Teresa to ask if she could come to Calcutta, India, to join the Missionaries of Charity and serve the poor and suffering. In response, Mother Teresa said that the woman should stay in the United States and serve the poor and suffering there.

By being kind and loving to those around us, we prepare for the coming of God's Kingdom. Look around your home, school, or community. Find your own Calcutta, and go to work.

Do one of the following:

1. Have the members of your family decide on an activity to do together to serve the community in which you live.
2. As a family, pray for the fulfillment of God's Kingdom and for God to show each member of your family how they are being called to serve.

Trivia

- Church History
- Social Studies
- Arts & Culture
- People & Places

St. Ignace of Loyola (1543-1622) was the first Jesuit, an extremely religious person who lived on top of tall, narrow pillars. His preaching from pillars, as high as skyscrapers, led, eventually, many to follow Christ.

Quotable Scripture

"This is the true light which enlightens everyone." "The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel!" —Mark 1:3

87

Getting ready for Chapter 5

Get CONNECTED

with family and friends

Scripture Background

In the Time of Jesus

The Kingdom Parables The parables about the Kingdom of Heaven (Kingdom of God) in Matthew's Gospel teach us that faith is interactive. We must be open to faith; we must respond rather than be passive. We must put faith into action in our daily lives. Although God brings about his Kingdom, he invites our own cooperation to prepare the way for the coming of the Kingdom. Failing to live by the values of God's Kingdom is failing to understand the meaning of Jesus' parables and the nature of the Kingdom.

Read Jesus' parables about the Kingdom of Heaven in Matthew 13.

Weekly Planner

On Sunday

During the Prayer of the Faithful, pray for people throughout the world who are victims of war, poverty, or famine.

On the Web

blestarewe.com
Visit our Web site for the same of the day and the reflection question of the week.

Saint of the Week

Blaise Pascal
Blaise Pascal was born in France. He was a brilliant mathematician and philosopher. He eventually contacted the disease and finally died the day after his death.

Patron Saint of: HIV and AIDS patients
Fest Day: April 15

Prayer of the Week

Lord, help us use our gifts and talents to serve others in a spirit of charity. Through our actions, may we show your love to others and do the work of your Kingdom here on earth. Amen.

88



Sunday Connection

Visit Our Web Site Teachers and parents can visit blestarewe.com for:

- resources related to the Sunday liturgy
- summary of the Sunday Scripture readings
- Reflection Question of the Week
- seasonal activities



More About the Saint of the Week

Blessed Damien of Molokai Skilled in carpentry: built 8 chapels on the Big Island of Hawaii, 300 houses on Molokai, and made over 1600 coffins. In 2005, chosen as The Greatest Belgian in history by the people of Belgium. Engraved on his monument: "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."



Praying

A Prayer for the Week

Remind the students of the "outcasts" of our world—the poor, the sick, the elderly, those on the fringes of our society. At lonely times, each one of us can feel "outcast." Ask the students to keep in their prayers all those who are feeling left out today.

5 The Kingdom of God



"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Matthew 22:39

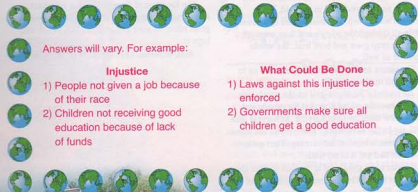
Share

People in many countries face poverty, sickness, and war. In the news, we often hear about people who respond quickly to the needs of others and take a stand against injustice. We hear about organizations that send money, supplies, and volunteers to assist people who are suffering. Through such volunteer efforts, people are making a difference in creating a just and peaceful world.



Activity

In the box below, list some of the injustices that exist in our society. Then select one of the injustices you listed, and write a change that could be made to help create a more just society.



Answers will vary. For example:

Injustice

- 1) People not given a job because of their race
- 2) Children not receiving good education because of lack of funds

What Could Be Done

- 1) Laws against this injustice be enforced
- 2) Governments make sure all children get a good education

What does Jesus teach us about God's Kingdom?

89

Additional Activity

Empathizing with People in Need

- Have the students work in small groups to discuss how they would feel if they were victims of injustice.
- Then invite them to turn to pages 425–426 to read about the Church's teaching on social justice.
- Have the groups answer the question at the end of the social justice lesson. Invite volunteers to share their responses with the entire class.

Day 1 Share Objective

To offer ways to work toward a just and peaceful society

1 Introduction

Praying with Scripture

Light the candle near the Bible in the prayer corner. Pray the Scripture verse at the top of page 89 and allow a moment for reflection. Conclude the prayer by singing the unit song on page 86.

2 Development

Sharing Experiences

- Invite the students to read the Share paragraph on page 89.
- Ask "What motivates people to help others in need?" (*Possible responses: compassion, guilt, Christian love*)

Doing the Activity

- Invite the students to read the activity directions on page 89.
- Have them work individually or in pairs to complete the activity.
- Invite volunteers to share their responses with the class.

3 Conclusion

Close with a prayer asking God's help in loving our neighbors who live in other parts of our country and other parts of our world.

Looking Ahead Have students reflect on the question in the arrow and explain that they will learn the answer in the next day's lesson.



Enriching the Prayer

The Great Commandment

The introductory Scripture verse for this chapter is the second part of the Great Commandment as presented in the Gospel of Matthew. Explain that Jesus summed up all of God's Law in the two parts of the Great Commandment. Read aloud the entire Great Commandment (Matthew 22:37–40).

Day 2

Hear & Believe

Objective

To explore the meaning of Kingdom of God as presented in parables found in Matthew's Gospel

1 Introduction

Sharing Experiences

- Call the students' attention to the fact that Jesus often used parables to explain important truths.
- **Ask** "When have you used examples from your everyday life to explain something to someone?" (*Answers will vary.*)

2 Development

+ Discussing the Scripture

The Illustration

- Call the students' attention to the illustration on pages 90 and 91.
- **Ask** "Why is the man in the illustration excited?" (*He has found a great treasure.*)
"What might the treasure symbolize for us as Catholics?" (*the Kingdom of God*)
- **Say** "The treasure of the Kingdom of God is in the Church, in our families and friends, in creation, and most importantly, within ourselves."

The Parables

- Invite a volunteer to read aloud the writing on the scroll. Next read aloud the introductory paragraph beneath the scroll.
- Then have other volunteers read aloud the Scripture passage.
- **Ask** "What does each parable tell us about the Kingdom of Heaven?" (*Possible interpretations follow. Good seed: The faithful are gathered together, and the unfaithful are sent away. Note: The Kingdom of Heaven welcomes only those who are faithful. Mustard seed: The Kingdom is built on faith, which starts out small and grows. Buried treasure: You can't see the Kingdom with natural eyesight; you must use the eyes of faith to see it. Pearl: The Kingdom has greater value than any other treasure on earth.*)
- If time permits, have the students read the parables (Matthew 13:24–30, 31–32, 36–39, 44, 45–46, and 47–48) in their Bibles.

Hear & Believe

+ Scripture Parables of the Kingdom



A parable is a story that teaches a moral or religious lesson. Jesus often spoke in parables to help people understand his teachings. In order to pass on Jesus' message, I have retold some of Jesus' greatest parables. Some of these parables describe God's wonderful Kingdom. Through these stories, Jesus tells us of the value and greatness of the Kingdom of God and helps us understand that God is a loving Father who desires that all his children live with him forever.

Throughout his ministry, Jesus told parables to help people better understand his teachings. Parables often use everyday events and objects, especially from nature, to explain important truths. In the following parables, found in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus describes the Kingdom of Heaven, or the Kingdom of God.

The Kingdom of Heaven may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everyone was asleep, his enemy came and sowed weeds all through the wheat, and then went off. When the crop grew and bore fruit, the weeds appeared as well.

The slaves asked, "Master, do you want us to go and pull up the weeds?"

He replied, "No, if you pull up the weeds you might uproot the wheat also. Let the weeds and wheat grow together until harvest. At harvest time I will say to the harvesters, 'First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles for burning. Then gather the wheat and put it in my barn.'"

He who sows good seed is the Son of Man, the field is the world, the good seed the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.

The Kingdom of Heaven is also like a net fishermen throw into the sea. Fish of every kind get caught in the net. When fishermen pull it onto the shore, they put the good fish into buckets and throw away the bad fish.

The Kingdom of Heaven is like a tiny mustard seed. It eventually grows into a large bush and the birds make it their home.

The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure buried in a field. When a person finds it, they hide it again. Out of joy they sell everything else they have and buy that field.

The Kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls. When he finds a pearl of great price, he goes and sells all that he has and buys it.

Based on Matthew 13:24–30, 37–39, 47–48, 51–52, 45–46

90



Scripture Background

The Kingdom Parables

The parables about the Kingdom of God in Matthew's Gospel teach us that faith is interactive. We must be open to faith; we must respond rather than be passive. We must put faith into action in our daily lives. Although God brings about his Kingdom, he invites our own cooperation to make the Kingdom a reality. Failing to live by the values of God's Kingdom is failing to understand the meaning of Jesus' parables and the nature of God's Kingdom.

God's Plan for His Kingdom

The Kingdom of God, or Heaven, is God's reign of peace, justice, and love. Jesus announced the Kingdom of God. The Church is the beginning of God's Kingdom. We continue Jesus' work by following his example, and God's Kingdom grows within us like a tiny mustard seed.

Only at the end of time will the Kingdom of God be fully realized. Jesus Christ will judge how well we have served God and others. The angels, spiritual creatures who glorify and serve God, will separate the good from the bad. Those who follow Christ will enjoy everlasting happiness. The parable about the weeds among the wheat illustrates how Jesus will gather his followers into his Kingdom.

The Church, a Sign of God's Kingdom

The Church is a sign of God's Kingdom. Christ, the head of the Church, teaches us to reach out to all people, especially those who are poor or suffering.

He showed us how to prepare for the coming of the Kingdom by treating others with love, compassion, and mercy. He admonishes us to not allow the "anxieties and riches and pleasures of life" (Luke 8:14) to lead us away from God.

As members of the Church, the Body of Christ, we are united to one another. Each member of the Church has differences, yet we join together to work for the Kingdom. We have the responsibility to use our unique talents to bring about God's Kingdom of justice and mercy. All Salvation comes from Christ through the Church. God will bestow and destined all creatures for the good of humanity and God's glory.

Peace... Justice... LOVE... Peace

Activity

Jesus compared the Kingdom of Heaven to things that were meaningful to his audience. If Jesus preached at your school today, what comparisons might he use?

Answers will vary.

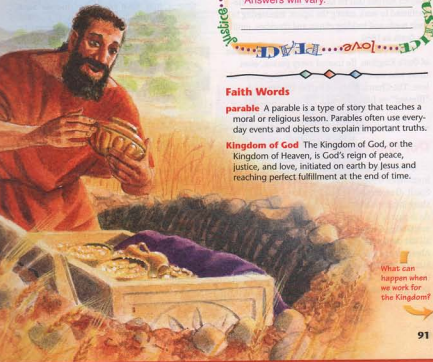
Faith Words

parable A parable is a type of story that teaches a moral or religious lesson. Parables often use everyday events and objects to explain important truths.

Kingdom of God The Kingdom of God, or the Kingdom of Heaven, is God's reign of peace, justice, and love, initiated on earth by Jesus and reaching perfect fulfillment at the end of time.

What can happen when we work for the Kingdom?

91



Additional Activity

Pantomiming the Kingdom Parables

- Invite the students—as individuals, in pairs, or in groups of three or four—to perform in pantomime one of the parables presented in this chapter.
- Explain, if necessary, that to pantomime is to present an action or a story in silence, using only facial expression, body language, and movement.
- Allow a short time for planning before the performances begin, and encourage everyone to participate.

Understanding the Scripture

- Invite the students to read "God's Plan for His Kingdom."
- Ask** "What is the Kingdom of God?" (*The Kingdom of God is God's reign of peace, justice, and love.*)

"When will the Kingdom of God be fully realized?" (*at the end of time*)

"What will happen to those who follow Christ?" (*They will enjoy everlasting happiness.*)

- Have the students read "The Church, a Sign of God's Kingdom."
- Ask** "What is the relationship between the Church and God's Kingdom?" (*The Church is a sign of God's Kingdom. Church members are to help Christ bring about God's Kingdom in its fullness.*)

Doing the Activity

- Allow time for the students to read and respond to the activity text.
- Have students share their responses.

Faith Words

Ask volunteers to use the Faith Words in sentences.

3 Conclusion

Invite volunteers to explain the meanings of each of the parables on page 90 in terms of what has been taught in the lesson. Then pray the Lord's Prayer together.

- Looking Ahead** Have students reflect on the question in the arrow and explain that they will learn the answer in the next day's lesson.



Enriching the Chapter

Another Parable

Read aloud the Parable of the Wedding Feast (Matthew 22:1–14). Explain that the wedding garment symbolizes repentance, which is the condition for entering the Kingdom of God and which must be continued through a life of good deeds. Encourage discussion of the meaning of "Many are invited, but few are chosen" (Matthew 22:14)

Day 3

Hear & Believe

Objective

To describe the role of members of the Church in doing the work of God's Kingdom

1 Introduction

Sharing Experiences

- **Say** "Having compassion for others and working for peace and justice bring the values of God's Kingdom into the world."
- **Ask** "What people do you know who work to bring the values of God's Kingdom into our world?" (*Answers will vary.*)

2 Development

Discussing the Text

The Illustration

- Invite the students to look at the image of Blessed Damien of Molokai on page 92.
- **Ask** "What does this illustration tell you about Father Damien?" (*Answers will vary.*)

The Story

- Have the students read the story about Blessed Damien of Molokai.
- **Ask** "What is every baptized person called by God to do?" (*to carry the values of God's Kingdom into the world*)

"How did Father Damien live out his baptismal call?" (*He treated all people with God's unconditional love.*)

"What values did he live by?" (*peace, justice, and love*)



Scripture Background

A Closer Look

Draw the students' attention to the "A Closer Look" feature. Explain that a mustard seed grows into a plant that resembles a bush more than a tree. Jesus used the mustard seed as a metaphor for smallness, and his story suggests that the message of God's Kingdom—even when spread in tiny ways by seemingly insignificant individuals—carries amazing potential.

Hear & Believe

Blessed Damien of Molokai

God calls and gives each baptized person the grace to build up the Church and to prepare for the coming of the Kingdom of God. Father Damien—Joseph De Veuster, a Belgian priest—lived the values of the Kingdom—peace, justice, and love—by volunteering to serve isolated victims of leprosy in Hawaii.

Leprosy is a bacterial disease that causes open sores and severely disfigures its victims. Highly contagious, it was one of the most feared diseases in the world in the 1870s.

Molokai is one of the Hawaiian Islands. In Father Damien's time, lepers of the Islands were captured and sent away to live isolated in a leper colony on a small peninsula on Molokai. The wretched conditions at the leper colony had driven away other workers, but Father Damien volunteered for the assignment, and was transferred to Molokai in 1873. He ministered to the people of the colony, treating them with compassion and dignity. In 1885, Damien learned that he had contracted leprosy. He continued to work among the lepers, ministering to their needs and building clinics and churches, until his death in 1889.

Father Damien is an example of living the values of God's Kingdom. He treated every person, even those who were outcasts, with God's unconditional love. The Church declared Father Damien "Blessed" on June 4, 1995.



A Closer Look

The Mustard Seed

The mustard seed is a very small seed. In Jesus' time it may have been the smallest seed known. In Palestine, one variety of mustard seed could grow into a tree comparable to the dogwood in size. The idea of the small,



insignificant mustard seed growing into a large tree was a familiar image that Jesus could use to explain the growth of God's Kingdom.

Our Church Teaches

Out of love, God created the universe. He keeps it in existence through his Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. God created all creatures to share in his truth, goodness, and love. As a sign of his love, God made an everlasting Covenant with Noah and all his descendants. Then he called Abraham and made the Covenant with him and his descendants. As a sign of the Covenant, God revealed his Law through Moses. God fulfilled the

promises of his Covenant by sending Jesus Christ, who saved us from sin. Always faithful to the Covenant,

God continues to guide and protect us as we do the work of preparing for the coming of the Kingdom.

We do the work of the Kingdom through the Church, especially when we care for the poor and the suffering. By using our abilities to serve the needs of others, we grow in faith and live the joy of God's Kingdom.

We Believe

Limited in Christ, the members of the Church use their varied talents to serve others, particularly the poor and the suffering.

92



Multiple Intelligences

Interpersonal Activity

Invite the students to form groups of three or four. Have each group reread "A Closer Look." Then have the groups brainstorm examples that Jesus could use today to describe the growth of God's kingdom. Have the groups read their examples to the class. If there is space, add the most creative ideas to the bulletin board.

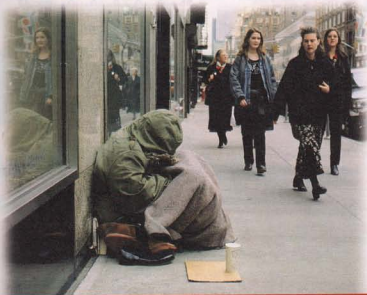
Activities

1. In Father Damien's time, lepers were excluded from society. What kinds of people in our society are cut off from the community? Are there individuals or groups in your school who are treated as outcasts? Write a short paragraph describing how you think Jesus or Father Damien would treat these individuals or groups.

Answers will vary.

2. We carry out the work of preparing for the coming of the Kingdom by living the Kingdom values of peace, love, and justice to all people. List the things you do in your life that reflect the values of God's Kingdom.

Answers will vary.



93

Additional Activity

Suggesting Ways to Work Toward a Better World

- Invite the students to make three columns on a blank sheet of paper.
- In the first column, ask the students to describe the place or situation in which God's love is needed most in the world today.
- In the second column, have the students write about their own personal gifts and abilities.
- In the third column, ask the students to describe how they can use their gifts and abilities to create a better world.
- Explain that God invites us to spread the values of his kingdom on earth.

Understanding the Doctrine

- Have the students read "Our Church Teaches."
- **Say** "God wants us to use our individual talents and skills to help bring peace, justice, and love to today's world."
- Encourage a class discussion in which the students share ways in which they can use their talents to do the work of his Kingdom.

We Believe

- Use the following question to reinforce the We Believe statement.
- **Ask** "Why does Jesus call us to serve others, especially the poor and the suffering?" (*because in doing so we witness to God's Kingdom, where God loves everyone and all people are treated justly*)

Doing the Activities

- Have the students read and complete the activity independently.
- Read aloud the activity directions, and invite the students to complete the activity. You might allow time for each student to share his or her responses with a partner.

3 Conclusion

Conclude with a class prayer that involves reflection on using our gifts and abilities to bring the values of God's Kingdom into the world.

- ➔ **Looking Ahead** Have students reflect on the question in the arrow and explain that they will learn the answer in the next day's lesson.



Curriculum Connection

Health

Throughout history, leprosy has been one of the most feared bacterial diseases in the world. Today, even though medicine has made great advances, bacterial diseases continue to threaten human health. Have the students (alone or in groups) research information on bacterial diseases other than leprosy, such as cholera, diphtheria, and tuberculosis. The students can report their findings to their health class. They should include information on organizations that provide assistance to those suffering from these diseases.

Day 4

Respond

Objective

To give examples of actions that can reflect the values of God's Kingdom

1 Introduction

Sharing Experiences

Ask "What new skill have you had to learn in the last five years? How did you learn it? Who helped you?" (*Answers will vary.*)

2 Development

Discussing the Text

The Art

- Invite the students to look at the stained-glass art on page 94.
- **Ask** "Who is portrayed in this stained glass art?" (*Saint Elizabeth of Hungary*)

The Story

- Invite the students to read "Saint Elizabeth of Hungary" on page 94.
- **Ask** "What would you do with your wealth, your gold and silver, if you were a king or a queen?" (*Answers will vary.*)
- Point out that our society and we ourselves can be very selfish. We like to have the best and the newest of everything. We often forget that others would be grateful to have even a small part of what we have.
- **Ask** "If you were a king or a queen, how would you help the poor?" (*Answers will vary.*)
- Point out that we do not have to be a king or queen to help the poor. Continue with a discussion of ways young people their age can help the poor today. Make a plan to put one of these ideas into action.

Doing the Activities

- Read aloud the question, and invite the students to write a response.
- Invite the students to read the instruction. Have the students write their answers in their books.

Respond

Saint Elizabeth of Hungary

Throughout the Church's history, many people have heeded Jesus' call to "Go, sell what you have, . . . then come, follow me" (Mark 10:21) and have given up their wealth and served the poor. One such person is Saint Elizabeth of Hungary.

Saint Elizabeth, the daughter of the king of Hungary, was born in 1207. Growing up in the castle court, she was known for her kindness, goodness, modesty, and generosity to the poor. Once, when the land was ravished by a severe famine, she took all her money and also emptied the castle's grain reserves and gave it to those people who were suffering most severely in the famine. Although the people in the court criticized her severely for this generosity to the poor, her husband defended her, saying, "Her charities will bring upon us the divine blessings. We shall not wait so long as we let her relieve the poor as she does."

Elizabeth devoted her life to relieving the poverty of the people of Hungary. She was always guided by the spirit and example of Saint Francis of Assisi. After her husband died while fighting in the Crusades, she left the court, gave up all of her possessions, arranged for the care of her children, and joined the Third Order of Saint Francis. In 1228 she built a hospital at Marburg, in modern-day Germany, and devoted herself to the care of the sick, poor, and outcasts of society until her death in 1231.



Activities

1. How does Elizabeth of Hungary's example describe ways that people treat one another in the Kingdom of God?

Answers will vary.

2. Describe ways that people you know or have heard about have reflected God's Kingdom.

Answers will vary.

94



Social Justice

Christian Leaders

Today's lesson presents us with a portrait of a Christian leader. Saint Elizabeth of Hungary shows us that a true Christian must always be a follower of Christ, no matter what the circumstances of life. Saint Elizabeth never used her wealth selfishly; instead, she used it to advance the justice of the Kingdom of God. For in God's eyes, all people—including the poor, the sick, the physically or mentally disabled, the imprisoned, and the homeless—are worthy of our care and concern. They all have dignity. Every person is capable of developing the qualities needed for entrance into the Kingdom of God. Such qualities include love, compassion for others, generosity, hard work, and the willingness to make sacrifices.

3. Explain how the Kingdom of God is like a treasure buried in a field.

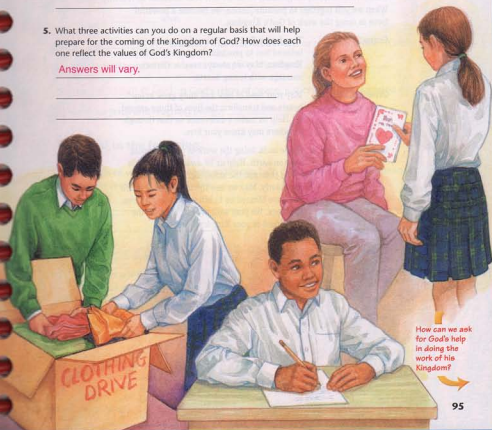
Answers will vary.

4. Jesus announced and inaugurated God's Kingdom of peace, justice, and love on earth. Name two or three situations in today's world that show people working toward the coming of the Kingdom.

Answers will vary.

5. What three activities can you do on a regular basis that will help prepare for the coming of the Kingdom of God? How does each one reflect the values of God's Kingdom?

Answers will vary.



How can we ask for God's help in doing the work of His Kingdom?

95

Doing the Activities (continued)

- Have the students read and complete the activity. Remind them to review the text on pages 90 and 91 if they need help with this activity.
- Read aloud the directions, and invite the students to complete the activity.
- Have the students read and answer the question. You might arrange the students into small groups to complete this activity.

3 Conclusion

Invite volunteers to share with the class what their small groups suggested as three kingdom-building activities in response to question 5 on page 95. After each volunteer's shared suggestion, invite the entire class to pray aloud, "Lord, may we carry out these acts of the kingdom in your name."

- ➔ **Looking Ahead** Have students reflect on the question in the arrow and explain that they will learn the answer in the next day's lesson.

Additional Activity

Campaigning for Saint Elizabeth of Hungary

- Remind the students that kings and queens are not elected but receive their offices through inheritance. However, if the people had been allowed to vote, they certainly would have voted for Elizabeth. What would her election campaign have looked like?
- Gather the students into small groups. Give each group a piece of poster paper. Distribute crayons or markers as needed.
- Ask each group to make a campaign poster in favor of Elizabeth for queen. Remind the students to list the reasons people should vote for Elizabeth, and to express these reasons in short slogans or "sound bites."



Cultural Awareness

Tolerance Toward All

In Jesus' day, people who were shunned or neglected by society included women (especially widows), orphaned children (Samaritans, Gentiles, sinners, the sick (especially lepers), and those referred to in Scripture as "the blind, deaf, dumb, and lame." Jesus accepted such people as his friends and taught us to practice tolerance toward those who are different from ourselves.

Day 5

Prayer

Objective

To pray for the fulfillment of God's Kingdom and for guidance in spreading justice and love



Prayer Celebration

Preparing for Prayer

Focus the students' attention on the enthroned Bible and the candle. Invite them to recall that they are in the presence of God as his faithful people, preparing to raise their minds and hearts in prayer.

A Prayer for the Kingdom

- Arrange the students into three groups before beginning the prayer celebration on page 96.
- Read aloud the introductory sentence. Then ask the students to reflect on how they can work for justice with others in their families, at school, and in the parish. After allowing time for reflection, you may wish to encourage the sharing of ideas.
- Invite those in Group 1 to form a circle, join hands, and begin the prayer service. Have Group 2 join Group 1 and continue the service together. Have Group 3 join the others so that all finish the prayer in unison.
- Close the celebration by singing the song suggested on page 86D or another song you have chosen for today's celebration.



Enriching the Prayer

Doing the Work of God's Kingdom

Prepare a chart or handout showing the Spiritual Works of Mercy. Remind the students that we do the work of God's kingdom when we perform the Spiritual Works of Mercy. Explain that the Spiritual Works of Mercy are helping others do what is right, teaching the ignorant, giving advice to the doubtful, comforting those who suffer, being patient with others, forgiving injuries, and praying for the living and the dead. Give an example of an action that illustrates each Work of Mercy.



Prayer Celebration

A Prayer for the Kingdom

When we join together to promote justice, we become a powerful force in doing the work of God's Kingdom.

- Group 1:** Thank you, God our Father, for sending your beloved Son to proclaim the good news of your Kingdom. May we always receive Christ's message with loving hearts.
- Groups 1 and 2:** May your seed of love and unity grow in our hearts and transform the lives of those around us. Help us make a difference so that through us others may know your love.
- Groups 1, 2, and 3:** Guide us in doing the work of your Kingdom here on earth. Help us be aware of the needs of the poor and the suffering, the young and the elderly. May we use the talents with which you have blessed us to bring your joy and love to others. We pray with joy and hope for the fulfillment of your Kingdom. Amen.

96



Looking Ahead to Chapter 6



Get Connected

Tear out the Get Connected pages for the next chapter. Remind the students to work on these at home with their families.

5

Chapter Review

A Complete the sentences with words from the box.

Exercise A fulfills Objectives 1, 2, 3, and 4.

- Standing against injustice and assisting the suffering are some ways that we can create a _____ just _____ and peaceful world.
- Saint Elizabeth of Hungary helped prepare for the coming of the Kingdom of God by her _____ charity _____ to the sick, poor, and outcasts.
- Father Damien of Molokai saw the value in treating all people with God's _____ unconditional _____ love.
- A _____ parable _____ is a story that teaches a moral or religious lesson. It often uses everyday events or objects to explain important _____ truths _____.
- The _____ Kingdom of God _____ is God's reign of peace, justice, and love, initiated on earth by Jesus and reaching perfect _____ fulfillment _____ at the end of time.

fulfillment
truths
unconditional
parable
charity
Kingdom of God
just

B Respond to the following.

Exercise B fulfills Objectives 1 and 5.

- Name three ways young people today can help create a more just and peaceful world in their own communities.

Answers will vary.

- When you pray to "do the work of the Kingdom," what are some of the things you are asking for?

Answers will vary.

Day 5

Chapter Review

Reviewing the Chapter

- The Chapter Review will help the students recall the important content of the chapter as well as prepare for the Chapter 5 test.
- Be sure to review the concept that the Kingdom of God is God's reign of peace, justice, and love. The Church is a sign of the Kingdom of God, and the members of the Church work together for the Kingdom of God.

Completing the Exercises

- Invite the students to complete the Chapter Review. Allow them to look back at the pages of the chapter to find answers they cannot recall.
- The Answer Locator gives the page number where each answer may be found.
- Be sure to discuss the answers with your class and go over concepts that were generally misunderstood or forgotten. Then have the students correct any mistakes they made.

Special Note for Exercise B

Respond: Have the students read the directions, and then point out that the exercise has two parts. Tell them to write their answers in complete sentences on the lines provided. You may want to give the students some time to brainstorm in small groups before they begin to write their responses.

Answer Locator

A			
1	p. 89	4	p. 91
2	p. 94	5	p. 91
3	p. 92		
B			
1	p. 89	2	p. 91

Day 5

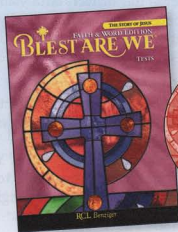
Chapter Review

Special Note for Exercise D

Essay Writing: Read the directions, and then tell the students to write their answers in complete sentences on the lines provided. You may wish to brainstorm with the students briefly before they begin to write. If you think there are too few written lines, suggest that the students write their responses on a separate sheet of paper.

Optional Testing

After the students have completed the Chapter Review, you may wish to administer the Chapter 5 Test using the reproducible pages in the test book or on the CD-ROM for *The Story of Jesus*. If you use the CD-ROM version of the testing program, you may customize the test to meet the needs of your class.



Self-Evaluation

This session was

- one of the best.
 pretty good.
 in need of improvement.

What worked out best was

For next time I would change

I will be sure to prepare for

5

Chapter Review

C Circle the letter of the best answer.

Exercise C fulfills Objectives 2 and 3.

- In the Parable of the Weeds and the Wheat, the good seed represents _____.
 - the Bible
 - the children of the Kingdom
 - Jesus' Resurrection
 - forgiveness
- Jesus used the image of the _____ to explain the growth of God's Kingdom.
 - loaves and fishes
 - unforgiving servant
 - lost sheep
 - mustard seed
- In his parables, Jesus uses a buried treasure and a priceless pearl to represent _____.
 - the faith of his followers
 - the wisdom of the Bible
 - the Kingdom of Heaven
 - the glory of the angels
- Father Damien of Molokai ministered to people who were _____.
 - homeless because of a tidal wave
 - victims of leprosy
 - orphans because of war
 - in prison for stealing food
- We do the work of the Kingdom through the Church especially when we _____.
 - attend Mass every Sunday
 - care for the poor and suffering
 - go to school
 - read the Bible

D Explain how the Church does the work of the Kingdom and how you participate in that work.

Exercise D fulfills Objectives 3 and 4.

Answers may vary but should include the following: The Church does the work of the Kingdom when individual members join together to care for the poor and suffering, as well as when individuals use their unique talents to bring justice and mercy to others.

98

Chapter Review

Answer Locator

C			
1	p. 90	4	p. 92
2	p. 91	5	p. 92
3	p. 90		
D			
p. 92			

Faith in Action

The Cursillo Movement

Invite the students to turn to *Faith in Action* on page 135. Discuss the ministry and then have the students complete the related activities.