

Day 1: Talk About Sunday's Gospel Reading

Prayer Before Holy Scripture: “O Lord my God, enlighten my mind with the light of understanding Thy holy Scriptures, and teach me to do Thy will.”

Parent Explains: “This Sunday's gospel comes from the Gospel of St. Matthew 25:31-46. He was one of the 12 Apostles. It is found in the New Testament of our bible.

Parent or older child may read aloud from Matthew 25:31-46. Find it in your bible or on the OCA.org website.

Discussion: Use the following script to help you discuss the Gospel lesson with your child. Stop and ask your child the questions in red.

Let's take a closer look at what this Gospel lesson tells us. Jesus was talking to a big crowd one day about going to Heaven. He said when it came time, we would all be separated into two groups.

[**What were the two groups mentioned in the Gospel?**] Yes, it was the sheep and the goats. One group would get to go to heaven, and the other group wouldn't. [**Which group went to Heaven?**] That's right, it was the sheep.

Jesus said to the sheep, “Come join me in Heaven.” [**What did Jesus say the sheep did for Him?**]

Possible responses: Fed me when I was hungry. Gave me something to drink when I was thirsty. Invited me in when I was alone. Gave me clothes when I had nothing to wear. Took care of me when I was sick. Visited me when I was in prison.

The sheep were super excited, they were going to Heaven! But they were also really confused. They didn't remember doing any of those things. You would think you would remember if you happened to meet God one day.

But that wasn't what Jesus was talking about. He said, "Whatever you did for the least of your brothers and sisters you did for me, so come and join me in Heaven.

Now God doesn't need us to feed Him dinner or give Him clothes to wear, but there are people who do. And when we help them, it's like a gift to God. He loves us when we love each other.

But don't forget that there were two groups. [What was the second group?] Yes, it was the goats. God said to the goats, "Go away from me." [Why did Jesus say this to the goats?] Possible responses: When I was hungry, you wouldn't feed me. When I was thirsty you never gave me a drink. When I was in need of clothes you wouldn't give me any to wear. When I was alone, or sick, or in prison you never visited me.

The goats were super upset. And they were also really confused! They would have never ignored Jesus like that. They would have loved to cook dinner for him or buy him a new pair of shoes. But they never had a chance. When did they ever see Jesus, so how could they do any of that!?!

But that wasn't what Jesus was talking about. He told the goats, what ever you didn't do for the least of your brothers and sisters, you didn't do for me.

God is all-powerful, He doesn't need us to do any of those things for Him, but there are plenty of people that do. Each and every one of us needs help sometimes, and each and every one of us can be that help for someone else. Jesus tells us that we should love our neighbor just like we love ourselves, which includes making sure that others have food and clothes and love. When we do those things for others, it is just like doing them for God.

Day 2: Gospel Reading Summary Activity

Draw a picture or write about the Parable of the sheep and the goats.

Secret Message: Write each word on its matching line.

1= a 2= acts 3= good 4= kind 5= make 6= sheep 7= small 8= you

7

4

2

5

8

1

3

6