

# Make-Up Packet for Day 6 of our 2020 Elementary Summer Religion Program

Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic Church ✠ Erath, Louisiana

Our 2020 Elementary Summer Religion Program was cancelled due to the Covid Pandemic. Elementary families are encouraged to read through these make-up packets with their children.

**This year's theme:** Digging into Scripture

**This year's theme song:** "God with Us"

(You Tube link to theme song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0DkoPQTHBic>)

## Bible Stories for Day 6:

- **Parable of the Sower** (Matthew 13:1-9)

For the benefit of those who may not have quick access to a Bible, the following Scripture passage is quoted and/or paraphrased from Matthew 13:1-9 in the New American Bible (Revised Edition) released in 2011:

**Background information first:**

- **Parable:** a simple story used to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson, as told by Jesus in the Gospels
- Most of the people in Jesus' time weren't educated. To help the people understand what He was trying to teach them, Jesus often told parables (*stories*) that made sense to those who were listening. For example, He often used stories about raising/protecting sheep when he was in the presence of shepherds. He often used stories about gardening when He was in the presence of farmers. When He was in the presence of fishermen, He used stories related to fishing.
- In a way, plants are like people. They need the right kind of food (nutrients), water, and a place to live (in a container pot, in a garden, in full sunlight in a field or meadow, in a shady spot in the forest, etc.). Plants also need light. In many cases, a plant will grow towards the light. Soil helps control the plant's temperature. Obviously, if the soil is good, the plant will be healthy. If the soil isn't good, the plant may not grow well—or at all.

One day, Jesus walked out of the house and sat down by the sea. As usual, a large crowd of people gathered to hear Him speak and teach. The crowd was so large that He got into a boat while the people stood along the shoreline to listen to Him teach. He told them this parable:

- A farmer went out to plant his garden. As he was throwing the seeds on the ground, some of the seeds fell on the well-worn walking path. Birds that were flying nearby swooped down and ate the seeds right off of the path!
- Some of the seeds fell near rocks that were piled up together. Because there was very little dirt around the rocks, the seeds began to sprout the very next day without growing deep roots to help them stay fed with water and nutrients from the ground. When the sun got hot in the afternoon, those sprouts began to wither away (dry up) and die.
- Some of the seeds fell among weeds and thorn bushes that he hadn't pulled out yet. The roots of the weeds and thorn bushes soaked up all of the nutrients and water at that spot in the ground, so those new sprouts couldn't get enough sunlight and nutrients. As the weeds kept growing, the new sprouts shriveled up and died.
- Some of the seeds fell on a spot of good soil that was already prepared to receive seeds. (The farmer had already worked the soil and dug holes for the seeds.) Those seeds grew into healthy plants and produced plenty of vegetables.
- Jesus' disciples asked Him what the story meant. The following explanation may help you understand what the story means:

- We often hear our pastor, our religious education teachers and volunteers, and/or our parents speak about God and how we should prepare our souls now so they will be ready to go to Heaven someday. In those conversations, they are planting a “seed” in our minds. The “seed” is a story about Jesus and, as we learn more about Him, the “seed” grows. Eventually, we’ll know more about God and will be able to tell others about Him.
- Sometimes we understand when people talk/teach about Jesus, but we don’t always understand everything they are saying. That’s when we need to ask questions! If we don’t ask questions, we’ll forget what we learned and it will be like the seeds that fell on the path (and eaten by the birds). The “seed” will disappear from our minds and we’ll forget what we were trying to learn. The “seed” won’t grow at all.
- Sometimes we learn something about God and get really excited about it, but because we live such busy lives, we don’t have time to review or learn anything else about Him. Our “seed” will be like the seeds that fell in the rocks. It grew for a short time and then it died because it didn’t have strong roots.
- Sometimes we hear a lesson about God and then we begin to worry about all kinds of things. We worry about our parents, our friends, or whether or not we have all the cool things that we would like to have. All of that worry can “choke out” the “seed” in our minds. We should pray to (and trust in) God instead of worrying!
- Of course, the last seeds were the best, falling on good soil. If we do our best to learn and remember what we hear at Mass, in our religion classes, and here, during the summer religion program, the “seed” that was planted in our minds will take root and grow! We will be able to tell others about how great God really is and God will become a good friend and Father for us. Instead of growing a garden of beautiful flowers from our “seeds,” we will help others know God and make Heaven “grow” (because more holy souls will be there for eternity)!

- **Parable of the Good Samaritan** (Luke 10:29-37)

**Background information first:**

- In Jesus’ time, there were no cars, buses, trains, or planes. Everyone walked to their destinations, or, if they were fortunate enough to own an animal, may have had a donkey to ride.
- Samaritans didn’t believe in God, our Father. They weren’t familiar with God’s **Ten Commandments** and were used to living without many rules. As a result, they were often unpleasant, self-centered, and sometimes, mean and cruel.
- Because of an unpleasant history between the Samaritans and the Jews, the Jews did their best to avoid traveling through Samaria, often adding days to their journey as they traveled (walked) around Samaria, the large area of land located between Nazareth and Jerusalem.

*For the benefit of those who may not have quick access to a Bible, the following Scripture passage is quoted and/or paraphrased from Luke 10:29-37 in the New American Bible (Revised Edition) released in 2011:*

One day, Jesus told another parable: A man was walking from Jerusalem to Jericho when he was beaten and robbed by two men. They stole everything they could steal: his money, his clothes, and his donkey. He was hurt and couldn’t help himself. A holy man (*Jewish priest*) walked by, but didn’t stop and help him. A Levite (*a man who worked with Jewish priests in the Jewish temple*) walked by, but, he, too, didn’t stop and help him. A Samaritan came down the path and saw the injured man. (**REMINDER: Samaritans were unfriendly and often hostile, especially towards Jews.**) The Samaritan stopped, cleaned up the wounds of the man who was beaten, gave him some clothes to wear, put the wounded man on his (*the Samaritan’s*) donkey, and brought him to an inn (*a small hotel*). He took care of the injured man that evening and throughout the night. In the morning, the Samaritan needed to continue his journey, so he paid the inn keeper to let the injured man stay in the room a little longer and said, “Please take care of him. When I return, I’ll pay you for the room as well as your time and effort in taking care of him.”

Then Jesus asked, “Which of these men was a good neighbor?” The lawyer answered, “The Samaritan.” Jesus replied, “Go and do the same.”

- **JUST TO BE CLEAR:** What does “Go and do the same” mean? Should we ignore those who are helpless around us? *(No!)* Should we help those who need help? *(Yes!)*
- **FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** Jesus was telling a story to teach an important lesson. He could have said that the priest was the good guy in the story. He could have said that the Levite was the good guy in the story. He could have said that a king, or a soldier, or someone from a different country was the good guy in the story. Instead, he said that the Samaritan man was the good guy. Why? *(Remember: Samaritans and Jews didn’t get along well in Jesus’ time. Perhaps he wanted to tell the Jewish people who gathered in those large crowds to hear Him teach (and us) that every group of people—regardless of race or creed (belief system)—has some good, honest people who want to be kind, friendly, and helpful to others. We should never think that someone will be “bad” or “evil” just because of their skin color or their creed. We should always strive to become one of the good, honest, and kind people in our group.)*

**Today’s Catechism Lessons:** Students in Grades 2-5 should have already received these textbooks. If necessary, they may borrow a textbook from our office. If a Grade 1 student doesn’t have access to a blue/white textbook yet (possibly from an older sibling or friend), he/she may borrow one from our office. *(Students typically receive/use their blue/white First Communion textbooks in Sacramental Prep classes in Grade 2 and bring them home just before receiving the Sacrament of Eucharist (Holy Communion). The red/white textbook is usually distributed to students in Grade 3 Sunday Sessions.)*

Grade	Textbook	Please read and discuss these lessons:
1	Blue/white F.C. textbook	Lesson 6 (The Son of God Becomes Man)
2	Blue/white F.C. textbook	Lesson 7 (Jesus Opens Heaven for Us)
3	Red/white B.C. textbook	Lesson 9 (The Holy Spirit and Grace)
4	Red/white B.C. textbook	Lesson 18 (The Second and Third Commandments of God)
5	Red/white B.C. textbook	Lesson 31 (Confession) and Lesson 32 (How to Make a Good Confession)

## Dear Parent/Guardian:

Thank you for taking time to work through this packet with your child!

Please **sign** the **next** page of this packet  
as proof that Day 6’s work has been made up  
and **mail or deliver** it to Mrs. Frances at our church office.

She will make the necessary notes on your child’s attendance record  
and will file the signature sheet in your family’s registration folder.

Please complete this page and return it to our Church Parish Office as soon as possible so Mrs. Frances can update our records to indicate that you have helped your child read/discuss the Bible stories and Catechism lessons that would have been introduced and discussed on **Day 6** of our 2020 Summer Religion Program.

My child, \_\_\_\_\_, in **2019-20** grade level \_\_\_\_\_, and I have read and discussed the enclosed Bible stories and catechism lesson(s) for **Day 6** of our 2020 Elementary Summer Religion Program.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian's Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Optional family activity:**

Because this summer's theme was going to focus on the life of Jesus in the New Testament, when your schedule permits, please make an effort to visit **FORMED.org** to view, at least, the **first** of three animated episodes of *The Witness Trilogy*:

- *God with Us* (1:28:34)
- *The Messengers: The Birth of the Early Church* (1:10:45)
- *To Every Nation* (1:09:45)

All three episodes are recommended for ages 7+. Obviously, each episode is more than one hour long. You'll be able to start/stop the videos at any point and return to them when your schedule permits. Pop some popcorn, sit as a family, and enjoy an animated movie depicting the life of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

- **Disclosure:** Three scenes, in particular, may be a bit confusing and/or distressing for some children: a few seconds depicting Judas hanging from a tree at 1:08:34, a few seconds of Jesus being scourged at the pillar at 1:10:10, and approximately 40 seconds depicting the crucifixion of Jesus beginning at 1:15:17. A few years ago, when we previewed a very similar animated movie (*Jesus: He Lived Among Us* by the same production company), our pastor (at the time) reminded us that this is the truth of what happened during Christ's Passion and gave us permission to use the video "with a fair warning to the children." As we did in 2015, we suggest that, if/when children feel uncomfortable with any images, they should simply close their eyes and listen for a while rather than watch.

**NOTES to help parents find these videos on FORMED.org:**

- As long as our church parish continues to pay for the parish subscription to **FORMED.org**, access to most of its Catholic resources will be **free** to our parishioners. (Some associated titles are for rent/purchase.) Parents and/or children may find other videos, talks, eBooks, documentaries, and/or movies about the saints that will interest them! Visit [www.formed.org](http://www.formed.org) and use our **zip code** to find the name and address of our church parish. After entering your name and email address to create a simple profile, you will probably have to check your email for a link to finish the "sign in" process for the first couple of viewings, but at some point, clicking on the "sign in" button should immediately display a "Start Watching" button.
- Once you have access to FORMED's home page, scroll down to find the "Kids" stripe, then use the right arrow at the right edge of the screen to find *The Witness Trilogy* (or scroll through the other stripes to find something that may interest you and/or your child)!