

LEVEL FOUR: THE BEATITUDES

MESSAGE (Knowledge of the Faith)	WORSHIP (Liturgy)	CHRISTIAN MORALITY	COMMUNITY (Service)
<p>1. Jesus told us that God is our Father who loves us and wants our happiness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Religion is an essential part of a person's life. It connects us with God and others. - Spirituality is the way we live out our relationship with God In the world. <p>2. Our relationship with God.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Covenant is a solemn promise concerning future action. - God loves us with a "covenant love". He promises that he will always guide us, be with us, provide for us, forgive us, love us. - We also respond to God's love by promising our faithfulness to Him, to His Word. <p>3. Ten Commandments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rules to live by which express our duties toward God and others. <p>4. Sin weakens our relationship with God and others.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Original sin: the sin of the first human beings, and the consequences of that action for all humans. - Mortal sin: freely and knowingly choosing to do something seriously against God's rules. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psalm 23: "The Lord is my shepherd..." • Prepare a Penitential Service for the class, and ask a priest to come and hear confessions. • Prayer: Act of Contrition. • Pray for discernment, to discover what jobs, ministries, and vocations God is calling us to: "God, show me the best way to use my gifts, now and always." • Prayer: Reflect on the meaning of the "Our Father". 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human beings are created in God's likeness. God gave us intelligence and free will. For this reason, we can intelligently and freely choose to follow God's rules. • We can choose what is right or what is wrong. All choices have their consequences. The choices we make affect our relationships with God, with ourselves, or with others. • Our spiritual life is nourished through living the virtues. A virtue is the habit of choosing what is right: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cardinal virtues. All other virtues (or Christian habits) "hinge" or depend on these: prudence, justice, temperance, and fortitude. - Theological virtues. Virtues that relate directly to God: faith, hope, and love. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-write the Ten Commandments in your own words. • Interview an adult and ask how religion plays a part in their lives. • Interview a relative and ask how faith has helped them in their lives. • As a class, lead the Penitential Rite at a Sunday Mass.

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<p>5. Jesus is our example and our teacher. He teaches us how to live according to the Commandments in order to lead happy lives.</p> <p>6. Jesus summed up all the commandments into two:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Love God with your whole heart and above all things. - Love your neighbour as you would want to be loved. <p>7. Jesus gave us eight examples which describe for us the paths that lead to the Kingdom of Heaven: the Beatitudes (Mt. 5:3-13).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. • Blessed are the meek: for they shall possess the land. • Blessed are they who mourn: for they shall be comforted. • Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after justice: for they shall have their fill. • Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. • Blessed are the clean of heart: for they shall see God. • Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. • Blessed are they that suffer persecution for justice's sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize a class Mass around the theme of the Beatitudes. • Learn a song on the Beatitudes. • Prepare a slide show on the Beatitudes to show during Mass (either after the homily or as a short meditation after Communion). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss how to live the Beatitudes in our own lives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-write the Beatitudes in your own words as the "Be-attitudes" and post them up in the church. • As a class, write a reflection on one or more of the beatitudes for the Parish bulletin. • Prepare Christmas gifts and cards for prisoners. • Prepare Christmas packages for those who have their meal at the Soup Kitchen. • Collect school supplies for children in the missions. • Watch a documentary on the life of children in a difficult situation. • For the Feast of All Souls, prepare candles with names of for persons who have passed away, and display the candles in church. • Make peace banners to display in church on January 1 (World Day of Prayer for Peace).