



Loving God and Loving Others ***Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta***

Schedule of the Evening:

1. Activity
2. Lesson
3. Small Group discussion
4. Closing Sub-Unit 1

Outline of the Lesson:

Scripture: Mark 12: 28-31, 1 John 4: 7-8

1. The Greatest Commandment is to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.
(cf. Mark 12: 28-31)
 - a. Note: Jesus gave 2 answers to the question. Why?
 - i. Remember our first lesson on Genesis: we are created to love God and worship Him.
 - ii. God loves all people (Deuteronomy 26:17)
 - iii. Therefore, we must love all people!
 - b. We cannot love God without loving all people! Likewise, we cannot truly love all people without loving God.
 - c. Love unaccompanied by action is empty.

- i. When we love our parents, we normally give them a small gift or give them a hug, or something like that. We don't just go, "Love you." And that's it.
- 2. Love is expressed in many ways. They can be expressed in 5 general ways:
 - a. Acts of Service
 - i. Example: service projects.
 - b. Time
 - i. Example: one-on-one discipleship
 - c. Gifts
 - i. Example: birthday gifts from friends and family!
 - d. Physically
 - i. Examples: hugs, handshakes, hi-fives
 - e. Words of affirmation
 - i. Example: "Nice job!", "Sweet!", "That's pretty cool!"
- 3. The Witness of Mother Teresa
 - a. Born as Agnes Bojaxhiu in Skopje, Macedonia, she started her ministry in India by teaching at a school run by nuns at Darjeeling. However, she felt increasingly disturbed by the death and poverty surrounding her every time she went to school to teach.
 - b. In 1946, she felt called to witness to the poor. She wore her white nun's outfit and simply went to the slums. She had no money, and for the first year of her ministry, she had to beg for food to survive.
 - c. In 1950, she received permission to found the *Missionaries of Charity*, dedicated to helping the poor, the dying, lepers, and anyone who is disadvantaged and voiceless in any way. It began with 13 members.
 - d. In 1952, she converted an abandoned Hindu temple into the Khaligat Home for the Dying (Khaligat means Home of the Sacred Heart) where people who are dying are given medical care, and if death is inevitable, a place where they may die with somebody at their side. Soon after, she opened a home for those suffering from leprosy.
 - e. In the meantime, her ministry has been taking in orphans. With space running out fast, in 1955, she opened an orphanage.
 - f. Today, the *Missionaries of Charity* has 4,000 members working in major cities all across the world.
- 4. Important lesson:
 - a. **Loving God is impossible without loving the people He created.**
- 5. Questions for discussion:
 - a. We might not be able to do what Mother Teresa did (because we're still in school), but what are ways we can show love to others now?
 - b. In her Nobel speech, she discussed poverty:

"Around the world, not only in the poor countries, but I found the poverty of the West so much more difficult to remove. When I pick up a person from the street, hungry, I give him a plate of rice, a piece of bread, I have satisfied. I have removed that hunger. But a person that is shut out,

that feels unwanted, unloved, terrified, the person that has been thrown out from society - that poverty is so hurtful and so much, and I find that very difficult."

- i) What is the "poverty of the West"?
- ii) In the United States, why might so many people feel "shut out, unwanted, unloved, terrified... etc."? Why might Mother Teresa find that to be more difficult to alleviate than, say, the poverty she found in Calcutta?
- iii) How can Christians help?

Note: We have finished our sub-unit on the Basics of the Faith. The next BDG, we will begin with our new sub-unit about how the Holy Spirit can do impossible things if only we believe.