

INTERCEDING FOR THE DEPARTED

Mark 2:1–12



Contents

Message	Our prayers for the souls in the beyond can help lead them to Jesus Christ.
Learning Objectives	The children will learn: <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ The soul and spirit of a human being lives on after physical death.■ Human beings who are faithful to Jesus Christ are close to God in the beyond.■ God wants to help all people both the living and dead.
Bible Text	Mark 2:1-12

Interceding for the Departed



Each person is both a physical being and a spiritual being.

The human body is mortal and can die. Our bodies, which were taken from the earth, are returned to the earth when we die (cf. Genesis 3:19).

However, our soul and spirit are immortal and live on after we die. What a person experienced, felt, believed, and thought continues to exist after their death. When someone dies their soul and spirit enter the realm of the dead (or the beyond).

The condition of the souls in the beyond depends on how close they were to God on earth. A person's soul does not change because they died.

The departed can become very aware of the condition of their soul. Souls in the beyond who never heard of the gospel, who never had their sins forgiven, and who never received any of the sacraments, or who have turned away from God, for example, are distant from Him.

This condition can only be overcome through belief in Jesus Christ and His sacrifice and by receiving the sacraments. We can help them through our prayers that intercede on their behalf.

When we remember and pray for loved ones or friends who have died, our prayers can help lead them to Jesus Christ.

Interceding for the Departed

Suggestions for the Teacher

Lead-In

Show the picture to the children. Discuss with them what they see. Ask what she/he may feel....

Let three children play the dispensing of Holy Communion for the departed in a role-play.

Instruct them before.

Provide disguise of ministers, Holy Communion chalices, wafers.

Lesson Instructions

Begin telling the story...

Discuss with the children...

- What happens to someone's soul when they die? (Our soul and spirit live on after we die.)
- How does the souls live? (It depends on how close they were to God while they lived on earth.)
- How can they come closer to God? (If they believe in Jesus Christ and receive the sacraments.)
- How can we help them? (Through our prayers that intercede on their behalf.)
- Review the lesson from the Syllabus – The Paralysed Man.
Explain how his friends helped him to come to Jesus.
- What happens in a divine service for the departed?
(The chief/district Apostle dispenses the 3 sacraments for the departed souls.
Two ministers receive them on behalf of the departed.)

Have the children repeat...

- Our soul and spirit live on after physical death.
- If we are faithful to Jesus Christ, we are close to God in the beyond.
- God wants to help all people both the living and dead.

Real-Life Application (explain the following)

- Ask the children if they know of anyone who has died.
- Do they know any historical figures or people who were recently in the news etc.?
- Do they know people who may not have believed in God before they died?
- God's love is for everyone. He wants to save all people.
- We can pray for all. We exclude no one.

<p style="text-align: center;">Repeat the Message Our prayers for the souls in the beyond can help lead them to Jesus Christ.</p>
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