

Christian Life a fight against evil

Objectives

1. Students should understand the fact that leading a Christian life involves ACTIVELY fighting evils forces in personal life and societal life.
2. To develop an attitude in the students to stand against social evils and injustice

Starter: Elaborate the story of David and Goliath. Explain how important David's attitude was. David was able to defeat a seasoned warrior with just a sling and a stone because of His complete faith in God and the confidence that came as a consequence of that faith. Do the students think Christian Life involves active warfare? Or do they think it is about living at peace with everyone? Take a poll and ask the students why they think so.

Presentation:

Every Christian is called to live at peace with others. Explain the difference between striving to live at peace with everyone and not budging to evils. Ask the students if Jesus had differences with anyone. Take examples from the bible. Eg. Jesus was against

1. The false practice of Sabbath (Mark 2:23-3:6),
2. Business at the temple of Jerusalem (John 2:13-17)
3. Hypocrisy (Luke 11:37-44)

In the above passages, discuss what was Jesus fighting for? What was He standing against?

Drive in the fact that Jesus never hated the sinner, He hated sin.

Go on to explain about the ultimate defeat that Satan suffered through the suffering and resurrection of Christ. Jesus fought Satan and emerged victorious.

Bring in the picture of a spiritual warfare that every Christian is bound to fight. A fight not against fellow humans, but against Evil (both personal and societal). The good news is, we are on the Winners side. But we have our part to do. (Refer Ephesians 6:10-12)

Explain the two phases of the fight 1. Against the internal powers of evil in the form of temptation and habitual vices and 2. Against external forces of evil like bribery, social injustice, violence, bullying etc.

Ask the Children, if each of us (you and me) too are like David and Jesus? If we see wrong, do we have the ability to fight?

A specific personal experience of standing up for the right cause can be shared. Examples of how your church community or a known person stood for a right cause can also be told as an example.

The best example is the life of sister Rani Maria. Share her inspiring life with the students.

Reaffirm the fact that every child of God is already equipped with God given abilities to fight off evils. Every Baptized person is a soldier for Christ. But we do not, many a times, exercise those God-given powers.

How can we emerge victorious in this warfare? Explain the 5 points mentioned in the text:

1. Be disciplined and keep alert
2. Strengthening through sacraments

3. Live the Word
4. Prayer
5. Live in communion

Group Activity: *Teacher can do any 2 or 3 activities*

Read Matthew 16:18

- a) Students to answer the following questions
 1. What does Jesus say Simon son of Jonah is?
 2. What will be built on “this rock”? Who is the builder?
 3. Are you a part of this Church Jesus built?
 4. What is the assurance Jesus gives to the Church?
 5. What do you think Jesus expects from His Church for the gate of Hades to not prevail against it?

(The Church that Jesus built goes after every settlement of evil. Every Christian, being a part of the Church should actively fight every form of evil. We are not expected to stay in the safety of our churches (read comfort zone, denial, indifference, insensitive) but to go out to the hades (read addictions, vices, social injustice, partiality, bullying, abuse, communal intolerance, hatred,) and destroy them)

- b) Ask the children to list out a few examples of evils they encounter.
Discuss how to respond to such evils sensibly.

OR

- c) Your best buddy at college enjoys bullying the newly joined student from a different city. You clearly see the suffering of the new student given that he/she is new to the place and has no friends.

What would be your response? Write down.

OR

- d) **Facing your Giants personal reflection.** List down a few evils that you today think is difficult to overcome. They are your giants. Reflect and write down the “stones” needed to kill these giants.

OR

- e) Get a picture of a soldier in his full uniform (armor). Ask the students to read Ephesians 6:14-17 and label the different parts.

Part of armor	Its function	Spiritual analog
Eg. Belt	Holds the sword and keeps the breastplate intact. Thus giving him freedom of movement.	Truth

Bible verse: 1Samuel 17:47

Habit Formation: Students should develop an attitude to actively fight evils both personal and social and thus grow up to be men and women of confidence and integrity by being

1. Disciplined and alert
2. Strengthening through sacraments