



LESSON ONE

Objective:

- The students will be able understand *Sacred Story* is inspired from St. Ignatius of Loyola's conversion process.
- The students will draw a picture of the meditation theme for *Sacred Story*, MERCY, by giving examples from their own lives with 100% participation.

Invitation to Prayer: Gather class together in prayer corner

Open with prayer: Sign of the Cross

Fill us at daybreak with your mercy,
That all our days we may sing for joy.
Make us glad as many days as you humbled us,
For as many years as we have seen trouble,
Show your deeds to your servants,
your glory to their children.
(Ps 90:14-16)

End with the: "Our Father"

Introduction: Today we are going to learn about St. Ignatius and how mercy is important in our lives. This story is Ignatius' *Sacred Story* listening to God. He didn't know how to listen to the voice of God and he learned to listen to the voice of God in our hearts. He taught others to listen to God's voice.

Guided Practice: Ask students to share with a partner what they learned about St. Ignatius and prayer.

Have students share their thoughts with the class.

As St. Ignatius was finding his way to God he spent three days writing his life sins. He remembered many things he had done wrong which kept him from having a close relationship with God.

There are five meditation themes in our meditation called "*Sacred Story*". Our meditation theme is "MERCY". Mercy can be as simple as giving another the benefit of the doubt, providing an accommodation - not lowering the expectations, understanding where another is "coming from" - rather than judging.

Show "Mercy" Relationship poster:

FATHER I believe that
You showed us in Jesus, that
Mercy and Forgiveness
Is the greatest expression of Your LOVE.

Pair students and have them **Think, Pair, Share**

Think individually for a minute of examples of forgiveness

Pair with a students and share ideas. Select three

Share ideas with classmates under teacher direction.

Option 1: Distribute flash paper to students (or small pieces of paper if flash paper is not being used). Explain to the students they are to write to write the following sentence and complete the idea.

"I forgive _____ for _____."

Give students a few minutes to write on the flash paper and then collect the flash paper and put the paper into a see through bowl provided by the teacher.

The teacher (warning...only an adult should do this part) lights the flash paper. Nothing will remain. If you don't use flash paper dispose of the slips of paper (throw them away, burn them, bury them, etc.).

Option 2: Discuss: My neighbor's heart is linked to my heart and to the heart of God. We are all connected. We need to take care of each other's hearts through our actions and through forgiveness.

Share the following story: There is a story of St. Claude de la Colombiere, the spiritual director to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque. At this time of this story, he was not yet her spiritual director. St. Margaret Mary is the one to whom Jesus appeared in the apparitions of the Sacred Heart, and her superior, thinking she was just stupid, asked Father Claude de la Colombiere, S.J., to be her spiritual director. She comes in and says that Jesus

appeared to her and told her the Church was supposed to start a new devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Fr. Claude did not know if she was inspired, crazy or had a demon. So he devised a test for Sister Margaret Mary. "If Jesus appears to you again, ask Him what my last mortal sin was. When "Jesus" gives you a response, I will tell you if you are inspired, have a demon or are just crazy! So she went off, and sure enough Our Lord appeared to her. You can only imagine the conversation, but she got her answer and she went back to Father de la Colombiere. Fr Claude asked: "Did Jesus appear to you?" Sister replied: "Yes, He did." Fr. Claude said: "Did you ask Him what my last mortal sin was?" Sister said: "Yes, I did." So Father Claude asked: "What was His answer?" Sister said: "When I asked Jesus what your last mortal sin was, Jesus looked at me and said: Tell 'Tell Fr. Claude that 'I don't remember.'"

And so Father Claude knew that only Jesus would have said: "I don't remember" because when God forgives us, he does not hold our sins in his memory. This is how Fr. Claude knew Sister Margaret was inspired. Eventually, both Sister Margaret and Fr. Claude both became saints. And the Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus became one of the most important devotions in the Church.

He had confessed his sin and it was gone, so when Jesus looked at his soul, it was not there and He could say, "I don't remember."

(<http://www.freerepublic.com/focus/f-religion/1625268/posts>))

Independent Practice:

Have students complete the "My Neighbor's Heart – My Heart and the Heart of God" worksheet.

Closure:

God wants us to ask forgiveness but he does not hold onto what we have done wrong. God loves us even when we do wrong. He always will. We need to move closer to God by forgiving others and asking for God's forgiveness.

When we do our daily meditation we will pray:

***Father** I believe that You showed us in Jesus, that **mercy and forgiveness** is the greatest expression of **Your Love**.*

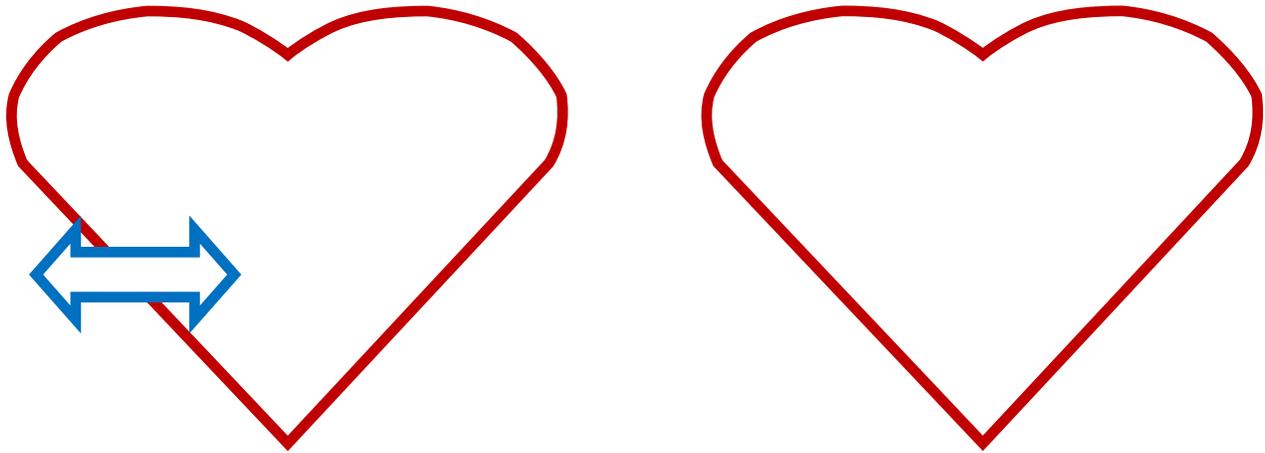
MERCY



FATHER I believe that
You showed us in Jesus, that
Mercy and Forgiveness
Is the greatest expression of
Your LOVE.

Name: _____

My Neighbor's Heart – My Heart and the Heart of God



Color the hearts and write a prayer of forgiveness

Dear God,

Please forgive me for _____

I forgive _____ for _____

Dear Parent: Today we talked about forgiveness. In our prayer this year we will be reflecting on the joy of forgiving or helping build community or family. You are welcome to listen to the meditations for third grade. These can be found at <http://sacredstory.net/> under *Sacred Story Youth*. You are invited to look at the adult materials for *Sacred Story*.