

## Family Sunday School

### Lesson 5 - Reign of Christ Sunday

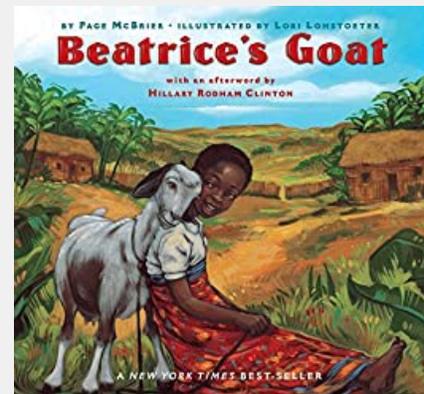
**Introduction:** The last Sunday of the Christian Calendar is reserved for celebrating Jesus as our ruler. We remember that Jesus is God, and therefore has supreme and absolute dominion over all things created. We also remember we are no longer our own property, for Christ has purchased us "with a great price"; our very bodies are the "members of Christ." A third proof of sovereignty is that God gave Christ the nations of the world as a special possession and dominion. "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me." (Matthew 28:18) As agitated as we might be over the election of our country's president, it is comforting to remember Jesus is our true ruler.

#### **Start the Fun!**

Story time!

Listen to the story, Beatrice's Goat,  
by Page McBrier

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dYQMdv-QFPI>



*Extra information about this true story:* Beatrice excelled at school and won a scholarship to a New England prep school. The goat, from the Heifer Project, was probably purchased by a church or Sunday School class. Ponder the power of the gift these Christians gave.

If you would like to give \$10 or more toward the gift of a goat, sheep or something else that would really help someone in need, here is the link for the Heifer Project: <https://www.heifer.org/gift-catalog/index.html>  
Other gifting options are detailed at the end of this lesson.

## **Read together**

### **Matthew 25:31-46**

*Cast: Narrator, King, Right side (one or more actors),  
Left side (one or more actors)*

**Narrator:** When the Son of Man comes as King and all the angels with him, he will sit on his royal throne, and the people of all the nations will be gathered before him. Then he will divide them into two groups, just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the righteous people on his right and the others on his left. Then the King will say to the people on his right,

**King:** Come, you that are blessed by my Father! Come and possess the kingdom which has been prepared for you ever since the creation of the world. I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me a drink; I was a stranger and you received me in your homes, naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you took care of me, in prison and you visited me.

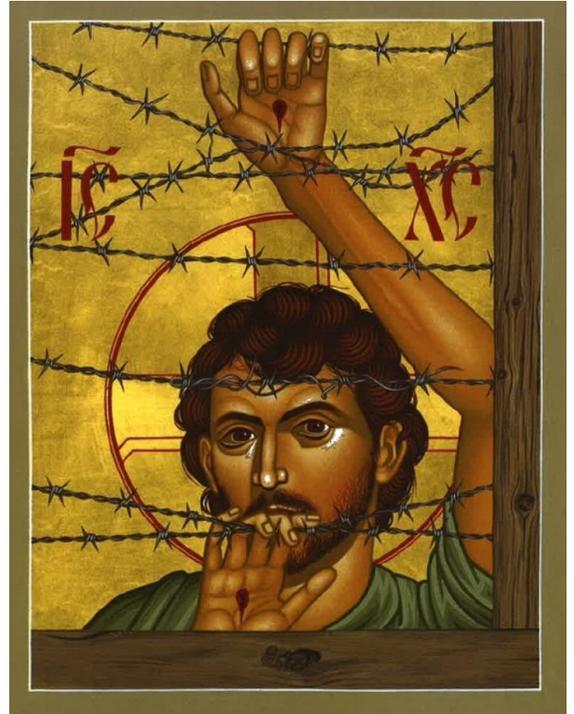
**Narrator:** The righteous will then answer him,

**Right Side:** When, Lord, did we ever see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a drink? When did we ever see you a stranger and welcome you in our homes, or naked and clothe you? When did we ever see you sick or in prison, and visit you?

**King:** I tell you, whenever you did this for one of the least important of these members of my family, you did it for me!

**Narrator:** Then he will say to those on his left,

**King:** Away from me, you that are under God's curse! Away to the eternal fire which has been prepared for the Devil and his angels! I was hungry but you would not feed me, thirsty but you would not give me a drink; I was a stranger but you would not welcome me in your homes, naked but you would not clothe me; I was sick and in prison but you would not take care of me.



*Christ of Maryknoll by Br. Robert Lentz, OFM*

**Narrator:** Then they will answer him,

**Left Side:** When, Lord, did we ever see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and would not help you?

**King:** I tell you, whenever you refused to help one of these least important ones, you refused to help me.

**Narrator:** These, then, will be sent off to eternal punishment, but the righteous will go to eternal life.

**Discuss:**

*Ask:* This story is about Jesus returning to Earth as a king. He tells some of the people that they fed him, gave him a drink and took him in their homes. When they ask him, “When did we do that?” he says, “I tell you, whenever you did this for one of the least important of these members of my family, you did it for me!” What does that mean?

*Discuss:* Jesus wants us to be kind so much that when we help other people it is like helping him. This reminds me of being a parent. When someone is kind to my children it is just like they are being kind to me.

*Ask:* Most kings are rich. They get their money by taxing the people, which means taking a portion of what they earn. Good kings don’t take too much and take care of their people. Bad kings, or tyrants, take advantage of their people. What kind of ruler is Jesus?

*Discuss:* Jesus has all the power in the universe, always has had it and always will. But Jesus chose not to use that power to get all the good stuff for himself. Instead he used it to take care of and love people. He calls himself a shepherd king. And, he calls us to use our power in the same caring, loving way.

**Pray**

Thank Jesus for being a shepherd king who takes care of you like a shepherd does his sheep. Ask him to keep showing you ways you can follow his lead and be a helper, too.

## **Participate**

Time to Bake!

Make a crown-shaped cake for a royal dinner feast to celebrate Reign of Christ Sunday. Any cake made in a bundt pan will make a crown shape. You can decorate it with candies for jewels. Or try this recipe.

### **Kahlua Cake**

Ingredients

1 package Devil's Food Cake mix (Duncan Hines my preference)

1 cup Kahlua (or substitute 8 teaspoons instant coffee in 1 cup of water for 1 cup of Kahlua.)

3/4 cup vegetable oil

4 eggs

1 cup sour cream

6 ounces semisweet chocolate chips (mini-morsels work best)

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Grease and flour (or use unsweetened cocoa) a Bundt or tube pan. For a crown shape you could use a cathedral Bundt pan if you have one.

Mix all ingredients except chips together and beat 2-3 minutes. Add chocolate chips and beat 1 minute.

Pour into a greased and floured Bundt or tube pan and bake for 50-55 minutes. It's okay to undercook -- better moist. If toothpick inserted has a few crumbs but not liquid, cake is ready.

Before serving (after cooled) sprinkle with confectioner's sugar.

(<https://catholiccuisine.blogspot.com/2008/11/food-fit-for-king.html>)



## **Wrap Up**

God loves you. If you are not able to help someone else by donating money at this time, God doesn't expect you to do that. Show kindness instead by being sweet and patient with others or helping someone do a chore.

## **Take a Moment to Breathe**

### **Mountain Breathing**

Inhale through your nose and raise your arms high above your head.

Bring your palms together above the top of your head. Imagine you are as tall as a mountain.

Ground your feet into the floor. Imagine your feet like roots, you are strong, sturdy and tall.

Exhale through your mouth and bring your palms together in front of your chest. Repeat this sequence 5 times.



### **Giving opportunities**

Besides the Heifer Project, other organizations that provide loans or donations to people in need:

**KIVA:** Epiphany maintains an account with KIVA. This organization provides loans to people to help them start small businesses. When we receive payments on the loans, we reinvest them in other KIVA loans. In this way, our money gets recycled. A \$25 donation can turn into hundreds of dollars as it gets repaid and loaned out over and over again. You can see the kinds of things we invest in at <https://www.kiva.org/>. If you donate through the "give" button on Epiphany's website, you can add a note to tell us that the donation is for KIVA. Then your donation will be added to everyone else's at our church. If you create your own account on KIVA, you can choose exactly what your loan will be used for and you can reinvest it yourself when it gets paid back.

**ELCA Good Gifts:** Christmas is coming. If you want to donate in someone's name as a Christmas gift, this organization provides cute cards and emails that tell the recipient what you have given. The goats are cheaper here (\$50) than through the Heifer Project. The link for ELCA Good Gifts is <https://goodgifts.elca.org/>