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| <p style="text-align: center;">Christ the Light Cathedral Finding the Light Within (Grades 6-8)</p> |
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Topic: Identifying Christ's Light Within the People of God- Grades 6-10

Standards Addressed (Diocese of Oakland Guidelines):

Grade 6-8

- Expectation 1: *The student will demonstrate the ability to read and reflect on Scripture and the meaning for life today.*
- Expectation 3: *The student will demonstrate an understanding that each person is drawn to God who, in creating them, has placed a desire for happiness in their hearts.*
- Expectation 9: *The student will demonstrate a knowledge of and ability to participate in the Catholic tradition of prayer.*
- Expectation 10: *The students will demonstrate an understanding of moral teaching, with an ability to make good moral decisions and to act in a responsible, Christian manner.*

General Goal(s):

Students will reflect on and celebrate the gifts of the Holy Spirit present in themselves and their community by studying the metaphor of the light of Christ.

Specific Objectives:

- To review and apply moral values taught by the Beatitudes
- To understand the Biblical metaphors of salt and light
- To reflect on the innate spiritual gifts in one's self
- To identify diverse spiritual gifts in others
- To incorporate contemporary music and traditional Scripture study into personal prayer

Required Materials:

- Student copies of song "True Colors" (Tom Kelly/Billy Steinberg)
- Recorded copy of song "True Colors" (Tom Kelly/Billy Steinberg), performed by Cyndi Lauper or Phil Collins
- Class set of handheld mirrors
- Class set of Bibles

- Writing instruments
- Personal journals
- Individual pillows/cushions (optional)
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Anticipatory Set (Lead-In): Recommended for a 20-minute period before the main lesson.

Teacher will lead students through review of the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5: 1-12), focusing on the Beatitudes (v. 3-12). The emphasis of this part of the lesson should be on the Beatitudes as Jesus’s guidelines to building the Kingdom of Heaven. This part of the lesson will uncover the “Big Idea” – the lifelong work of all Christians. The class can reflect on the joys and difficulties of these guidelines.

Step-By-Step Procedures:

1. Teacher will introduce the idea of personal “inner light” by leading a discussion on individual spiritual gifts. Teacher will create a brainstorm word wall visible to all students, listing many examples of spiritual gifts.
2. Teacher will write reflection questions for public display: “Who are people in your life who have identified the light of Christ within you?” and “What gifts do you see present in people around you? Who are those people?”. The last question is “What are gifts that others have identified in you?”. Students will copy questions into their personal journals.
3. (optional step) Teacher and students will create a prayer space in the classroom: clear classroom floor and have students sit on individual pillows/cushions. Students should keep journals and writing instruments with them.
4. Distribute copies of song “True Colors” to students.
5. Distribute individual, handheld mirrors to students. Mirrors are for students to study their faces, particularly their eyes. Remind them that eyes are often seen as the windows to the soul – that they reveal the person within.
6. Play “True Colors” while students study their mirrors and reflect in their journals on the questions. Allow for additional quiet time or additional, prayerful music if needed. (10 minutes)
7. Teacher leads discussion, inviting willing students to share reflections on any of the questions. Teacher guides discussion towards individual gifts, noting their diversity and importance. End discussion with linking all of the gifts – spoken and unspoken- as coming from God and modeled by Jesus Christ.

Possible Follow Up Activities:

- “Star of the Week” Posters (variation): Teacher distributes individual class lists to each student. Each student lists a gift for all classmates.

Teacher compiles gifts for all students, presenting a list of total gifts to each student.

- “Palanca” Bags: Students decorate individual brown lunch bags with their names on them. They should incorporate important, positive symbols into the decoration. Allow time in class throughout the week for students to create “love letters” and affirmations to place in other classmates’ bags. Bags can be suspended from desks or lockers or placed on a common table. Teacher reviews strongly the tone for letters and gifts – that they are meant to build up and affirm.

(Format Used With Permission From LessonPlansPage.com)

TRUE COLORS

(Tom Kelly & Billy Steinberg)

You with the sad eyes
Don't be discouraged
Oh, I realize
It's hard to take courage
In a world full of people
You can lose sight of it all
And the darkness inside you
Can make you feel so small

But I see your true colors
Shining through
I see your true colors
And that's why I love you
So don't be afraid to let them show
Your true colors
True colors are beautiful,
Like a Rainbow

Show me a smile then,
Don't be unhappy, can't remember
When I last saw you laughing
If this world makes you crazy
And you've taken all you can bear
You call me up
Because you know I'll be there

And I see your true colors
Shining through
I see your true colors
And that's why I love you
So don't be afraid to let them show
Your true colors
True colors are beautiful,
Like a Rainbow