

1- THEME: Christianity and Spiritism

2- OBJECTIVE: The child become conscious that Spiritism is not simply a Christian religion. It is more than that: it is Christianity itself which returns, through the Spirit of Truth, in its purity, simplicity and original vitality.

3- BIOGRAPHY:

Mt. 6:6 and 7; 10:8; Mc, 5:23; 16:18; Lc, 2:39 to 52; 4:21; Jo, 4:21 to 24; 14:2, 16 and 26; 16:12, 13 and 27, At, 28:8, 1 Co, 14:1
LE, Introduction, **prolegomenos** and conclusion
In the Path of Light (Emmanuel/F.C Xavier), caps 23, 24 and 25.

4- CLASS:

a) Initial Incentive: eliciting

Ask the children why there are so many Christian Religions when the teaching of Jesus are found in only on ebook, the New testament. Carefully take notes of their answers, putting them in the explanation.

b) Development: Exposition

01. The Hebrew Prophets announced the coming of the Messiah for many centuries. Finally, Jesus was born, son of Joseph and Maria, In Bethlehem of Judah. He spent his young years in Nazareth, where his parents resided. Even though he demonstrated since very young extraordinary wisdom, proven fact on the dialogue with the doctors of the temple (Lc, 2:39 to 52), Jesus lived a simple life as the son of a carpenter, and worked as a carpenter himself.

02. As Jewish, Jesus attended the Synagogue where he used to read and interpreter the teachings of the prophets. In those occasions, he used the word with the natural right that all Jewish citizens had to read and to comment on the written texts of the wisdom in the temples. However, there is no record of him taking part of any ritual, or having made any type of offering. He simply would take the opportunity that there were people gathered together and willing to listen to religious ideas in the temple. In one of these occasions, when reading the words of Isaiah, where the coming of the Messiah was described, he declared to be himself, the Messiah by saying: "Today the written scripture was fulfilled in your ears."(Lc, 4:21)

03. At 30 years old, he started his mission of Spiritual Liberation of Humanity, starting with teaching that God is not that Sovereign who is angry or seeks revenge, like an army leader, capable of destruction and

annihilation against his enemies. Jesus came to ensure that God was not that terrible character who the Jewish feared, but, quite the opposite, God is a kind and loving Father, who protects his children. He taught we must not fear God for He provides assistance and love. "For the same Father loves you; as you have loved me. (Jo, 16:27)

04. the Jewish people considered their temples as sacred houses, House of God, for **praying**, rituals and offerings. In the dialogue with the Samaritan woman, by the margin of the well of Jacob, she asked Jesus if they were supposed to worship in Jerusalem, to which the Master answered: "Woman, believe me that the time comes that neither at the hill nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. God is Spirit, and it matters that you worship him in the Spirit of Truth". (Jo, 4:21 and 24). This way, the Master **liberated the** creatures from the necessity to attend the temple in order to find God. Furthermore, Jesus demonstrated that the house of **God** is the entire universe, not just a temple made by man when he said: "There are many mansions in my father's house."

05. Jesus totally modified the idea they had at that time concerning praying. He taught that the communication and communion between the creature and God is something very intimate, from the creature to God, by prayer and without the need of offerings, or rituals or liturgies. No need to pay priests to pray for you, no need of intermediaries, and so demonstrating that everyone is a legitimate child of God and can go directly to him: "And when you pray, go inside your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is hidden, and your Father, who sees intimately, will reward you."(Mt, 6:6). Jesus also taught that the prayer can be simple, and exemplified in "Our father". He demonstrated that the prayer must be done consciously and not in a sequence of memorized words or read. He further warned we would not be heard by our repetitions and complaints. " And when praying, do not use vain repetitions, like the gentile, who think by talking much they will be heard."(Mt, 6:7)

The Master brought to the world a new religious conception, by teaching us of a dynamic religion, one that can be found present in every moment of our lives. He brought religion for our lives, not for the temple. He himself exemplified this by praying, curing, teaching, and helping others in all the places he would go. If we observed Jesus, we would notice he had no separation between profane life/religious life. Life is only one, and God is everywhere.

06. Never did the Master demanded from anyone the blind acceptance of his teachings, as it did not **exert** force **on** anyone's consciousness. He would take his messages to people and always trying to make them think and comprehend, so they could consciously come to believe.

07. However, as time went on, the liberating messages of Jesus were modified, and were adapted to the interest of those who wanted power **over** the creatures, causing the situation to reverse similarly to what he found at the time he was here. The Master knew that this would happen. For this reason he promised he would send the Consoler: "But the Consoler that the Father will send in my name, this will teach you all things, and will remind you of everything that I have said."(Jo, 14:26)

08. Accomplishing the promise of Jesus, last century, a group of Superior Spirits came to Earth in order to bring back the teachings of Jesus and clarify that which he did not teach at that time, as Jesus himself said. This way, the Spiritist Doctrine came to fruition, not by the hands of man, but from an initiative from **the** above. Prof. Hippolyte Leon denizad Rivail was called upon to carry out this enormous work, not as the author, but as the codificator, for Spiritism is the result of the dialogues between him and the Spiritual World. As he established this dialogue with the spirits, he took many questions to the spirits in regards to the difference between the simple teachings of Jesus and that what Christianity was preaching through various different religions.

09. Thus, Spiritism brings back the simplicity of religious practice, shows the deviations as well as the subtractions and **additions** that Jesus messages have suffered through the centuries, as well as brings back Jesus' teachings of a dynamic religion, geared towards the moral transformation of man kind and service to the benefit of others. It teaches according to Jesus, that God is everywhere not just in the temples, and there is no need for deluxe house of God. Spiritism does not **use** temples for worshipping **nor it practices any** rituals. Spiritists Centers are houses for work and inspired by prayer. Spiritist Centers are for learning, and so Centers are always conducting many Study Activities for those who seek a better comprehension of the Gospel and to improve themselves, hence becoming more inclined and capable of serving God by following Jesus' examples.

Spiritism brings back the simple ways of practicing prayers, in which the creature searches to find help in resolving difficult situations. It is a very different vision from that one which believes in "magic", and which leads the creatures to the practice of repetitive prayers, promises, offerings, self punishment with the objective to please God.

10. Reminding ourselves of the examples of Jesus and his suggestions: "Give grace to which by grace you have received" "Give freely to which freely you have received." (Mt, 10:8) and so Spiritism brings back the

practice of religion for free. There is not one single service rendered in the name of Spiritism that is paid for.

11. Also, there is neither social hierarchy nor religious professions in Spiritism. No one is a professional Spiritist. No one makes a living by preaching Spiritism, as Jesus and his Apostles didn't either. The Master was a carpenter, Peter, Andre and others were fishermen. Within this particular subject, there is the example of Paul, who was a religious professional in the Jerusalem Temple, but as he embraced Christianity he started to again to work as a textile weaver, work he had learned when he was a child in order to support himself. And he would say to the ones who advised him to devote all his time to professional preaching: "For you well may remember, brothers, from our work and **sweat**, and so working night and day so we are not a burden to none of you, we, this way preach the Gospel."(1 Ts, 2:9).

12. All practices effected by the Spirist Doctrine are practices from apostolic times. There are those who think that the exercise of mediumship first appeared with Spiritism, but they are completely mistaken. If we consul the New Testament, we can see there was an intense exchange with the spiritual world **which was** also very natural in those times, and even Paul talked about the various types of mediumship (gifts) and recommended the mediumship development: "Follow the practice of charity, search for the spiritual gifts with devotion, but mainly the gift of prophesy."(1 Co, 14:10). Paul gave so much information and suggestions that we can say that the first "book of Mediums" is in the First Letter from Paul to the Corinthians.

13. Another activity Spiritism brought back was the work done with the hands, in our days called *passé*. Jesus used to **place** his hands on the ill with the purpose of healing them, according to what has been recorded innumerous times on the New Testament such as that one that Jairo pleaded him: "My daughter is about to die, I plead that you come and **place** your hands on her so she heals and live." (Mc, 5:23). The Master not only **used his hands for healing**, but also gave others the recommendation to do the same. "...and they will **use** their hands on the ill"(Mc 16:18), this recommendation was followed by his disciples, even Paul, who himself did not live with Jesus, but learned and put is in practice too: "And it happened that Pulio's father was ill with fever and dysentery, and Paul went to see him, and after praying, put his hands on him and healed him."(At, 28:8)

14. Spiritism brought back a dynamic living religion, geared to the study and effort for self inner renovation, in favor of help others, as it was practiced in the House of the Path, described in Acts of the Apostles in the book "Paul and Estefan". There, there was no offerings, rituals, **liturgy** or

repetitions, neither they had to use special clothing, drinks, candles or any other objects for worshipping.

15. Spiritism is not only a Christian Religion, but the closest to the teachings and examples of Jesus. And it couldn't be otherwise, for it came to deliver the promised made by Jesus: "But that Consoler the Father will send in my name, this will teach all things, and will remind you of all I have said."(jo, 14:26). Spiritism explains many things that Jesus could not explain at that time (for people were ignorant and not prepared yet, and so they would not have understood), and remind us of the purity and simplicity of the Master.

Evaluation: Work in group or eliciting

01. Who announced the coming of the Messiah?
02. What Jesus used to do at the Synagogue on Saturdays?
03. What the difference between God as presented by Jesus and God as the Jewish people believed to be?
04. Did Jesus consider the temple as the house of God?
05. How Jesus taught us to pray?
06. Why does Spiritism teach faith by reason?
07. What did the Consoler promised?
08. Who came to fulfill Jesus' promise?
09. Is a Spiritist Center considered a house for prayer and the house of God?
10. Why are all Spiritists activities free?
11. Are there religion professionals in Spiritism?
12. Was mediumship practiced by Jesus?
13. Is the passé a Spiritist invention?
14. Why candles are not used at the Spiritists Centers?
15. Are you sure Spiritist is a Christian religion?