

1- THEME: The work – purposes – types

2- OBJECTIVE: The child will learn to identify work is one of God's laws, necessary to the improvement of both incarnated and disincarnated Spirit.

3- BIOGRAPHY:

Mt, 16:27; Mc, 6:3; Jo, 5;17, At, 18"3; 1

Ts, 2:9 and 4:11

LE, items 674 to 685

Our Home (Andre Luiz/F.C. Xavier), caps. 11,22,26,27 and 28. The Consoler (Emmanuel/F.C. Xavier).

Items 235 to 241; the Messengers (Andre Luiz/F. C. Xavier0, cap 41.

4- CLASS:

a) Initial Incentive: dialogue

Ask the children if they think about work as a natural activity of the spirit, or if they think it is something which has been imposed by God as a punishment to both incarnated and disincarnated spirits. After gathering opinions, proceed with the development of the subject.

b) Development: Elucidation

Taking into consideration the responses from the children, develop the items according to their needs.

There are religions which teach that work has been imposed by God with the objective to punish humanity. Perhaps for this reason, these religions preach rest, the sleep after death, until the day of the final judgment arrives, after which, the good will stay in eternal contemplation of the celestial splendors, a complete idleness. Hence, we often see the inscription "Rest in peace" at the cemeteries, or "Here ...name of the person....rests".

When Jesus came to Earth, he worked like an ordinary man. Look what they said about Jesus, after one of his speeches at the Synagogue: "From where these things you say come from? And how this wisdom was given to you? And how do you make such wonders with your hands> Aren't you the carpenter, son of Mary, and the brother of Tiago, Judas, Joseph, and Simon?"(Mc, 6:2 and 3). The Apostle Paul, gave up being a doctor of the law –a religion professional – as he became a Christian, and he began, earning his own bread, working as a textile worker, labor which he had learned when he was a child.

The Apostle used to fabricate textile for tents and carpets. He said " Let's remember, brothers, our work and fatigue; for it is working night and day **so that we are not** a burden to any of you, **and** we preach the Gospel of God". (1 Ts, 2:9). Paulo never felt **as if work were** a punishment. Neither Jesus,nor any of the Apostles, earn their livelihood from preaching their religion. Each of them had had their own occupation which earned their daily bread. Peter and other Apostles were fishermen, and Matthew was in charge of collecting taxes.

The Spiritist Doctrine teaches we must always get ourselves busy with a useful, constructive activity, as long as we have strength. There are various types of work, and suitable for different ages, children, teens, adults as well as the elderly.

We must not view just manual labor as work. Any useful activity also constitutes work. Answering the door, watering the plant, giving someone a glass of water is also work. Time spent at school, and doing homework is also work. Paying attention to class is as much a noble work as any other.

There is no one who is unable to do an useful activity, as long as he has fairly good health. There will always be a task to be carried out, and regardless how simple or small, a good will person will always be happy to carry out his/her tasks.

Providing useful information, a good advice, listening with care and patience to a person in need, all these constitute work. Some creatures, even though they are unable to get up from bed due to health reasons, they provide noble services by consoling others in distress with comforting words; by giving them the incentive and enlightenment they need to carry on their lives.

We notice an increase in the consciousness of the necessity of working. People who used to be discriminated for having physical disabilities, today they find support. During this century, specially in the second half, there has been a substantial increase in the number of laws concerning work opportunities for the physically disabled. This is a sign of human evolution, demonstrated by spirits who have incarnated with physical disabilities but do not want to simply take a passive role in life. Day after day, they are winning the respect of the world, through dignified work.

On the other hand, there are people who think they need to work no more after they retire. Of course, [taking into consideration](#) that they are retired, they won't need to work at the same place where they executed their professional activities before. However, there are other types of work he can be useful in life. Not to mention, there is no retirement after we disincarnate, at least if we wish to continue our progress. It is important to observe what the Spirits answered Kardec about work limits when he asked: "Which is the limit of work?", they answered: "Strenght. In summary, as far as work, God gives total freedom to man"(LE, 683), meaning, that we have the free will to work or not, but that the natural is to always work, as long as we have strength.

Work is God's law. For this reason there is work throughout the entire universe, not just in the material life, and not only in Earth. There way more work in the spiritual world than there is in Earth. Andre Luiz, in the book "Our home", provides much information pertaining to the work at the spiritual city he was living, such as this explanation from Lisias, when he told Andre Luiz as he was showing him the city, which he named the book: "Here, we have many of " Our Home" factories. The preparation of

juices, of textile and arts and crafts in general, provides work for more than one hundred creatures, who are in the process themselves of getting better and of enlightenment at the same time.”(cap 26). Afterwards, he cheerfully tells his own experience as a worker: “Service would continue throughout the day, with my own blessed sweat, and no one could have any idea of the sublime joy of the doctor who was restarting the education of his own self, in basic nursing.”(cap 27).

Andre Luiz, following other Spirits, proceed to help a disincarnated at the hospital and there he noticed the presence of many spiritual workers: “ Soon we come across a large door of movement in the hospital, defended by large groups of spiritual workers. There was much activity over there from both incarnated and disincarnated.”(Workers of Eternal Life, cap 11).

While observing the work that was being accomplished by the spirits, in the preparation of an assembly in a Spiritist Center, Andre Luiz conducts a conversation with two of the assistants in charge of guiding spirits to the treatment, to whom he asked if they were the only ones who dedicated themselves to that task, and he received the following answer: “ No, Hidegardo and I are assistants to only some of the blocks of the urban center. There are many collaborators in this field of aid, .” The work is performed in an atmosphere of obedience and responsible manner. These same collaborators, right afterwards, received a word of warning from the leader of the group, for not having acted according to the instructions they had received. (the Messengers, cap. 39)

Andre Luiz says that Guardian spirits, in charge of assisting tasks, are working not only in the cities but also in the fields. He tells a story that took place when he was in the field, which was very sad. He saw a country man who was hurt by one of the animals with whom he was working with. As Andre Luiz got closer, he saw Spirits trying to help the man. Later, the leader of the group asked: “Glicerio, how was that you allowed this to happen? You know that you are in charge of this section of the road.” The Spirit who was trying to help the man then said he had done everything he could to help him, but the country man was a very angry person, who only knew to beat and curse the animal, consequently the animal got fed up with it, got angry, and ended up hurting the man.

As the Spirit evolves, work becomes more pleasant. But, not because the tasks become more pleasant themselves, but because the spirit learns that the more work he does, the closer he gets to God, the more he has the opportunity to take an active role in God's creation. Superior Spirits no longer regard work as a hard task, an obligation, but as a noble activity, natural part of his own life, hence they enjoy working, and they perform their work consciously they are contributing to the divine plan of creation, to the Kingdom of God. All types of work are important and necessary. The work of the garbage man is as important and crucial as the work of the doctor. The accomplishments of the great scientists depend on the work of so many others who have contributed with their efforts so that they have food, clothing, a home etc. It is in this way, the scientist depends on the farmer, the carpenter, the garbage man and so on. A task is viewed more or less noble according to the good will and consciousness of the person who performs it.

In summary: Work is a natural activity, innate of all human creatures. Progress is not possible without work. Work is indispensable by the law of evolution. The more the Spirit evolves, the more he works. Whenever we work we are following the foot steps of Jesus, who in addition of the many teachings that he left us, he also reminded us: "My father works until present, and so I work as well."(Jo, 5:17)

Evaluation: Correlation of the sentences (02, 01, 03, 04, 07 06, 09, 08, 05, 10)

Select the number from section A and correlate to the sentences on section B.

SECTION A

- 01- What must we understand from work?
- 02- What did the spirits say to kardec with regards to work?
- 03- does work exist only in the material world?
- 04- Quote some tasks which can be done by children.
- 05- Are there types of work which are more important than others?

06- Does someone retired, after disincarnating, keep on not working?

07-Quote some types of work which can be accomplished at Spiritists Centers.

08- What must spiritists do, besides watching lectures?

09- Quote some of the tasks Spirits do together with the incarnated?

10- The opportunity to work given to the physically disabled is an advancement of our society, or should the government support them since it is more difficult for them to work?

() Superior Spirits stated to Kardec that work is a natural law

() Every useful activity is considered work

() There is work in Earth and also in the Spiritual world.

() To study, to cooperate in keep your home in harmony, to take notes and give messages, to read a good book

() Gospel studies for children and adults, "passé", helping the less fortunate, helping people with problems of obsession etc

() In the spiritual world that is based on good will, there is no retirement

()Spirits help us in the field of health, give us guidance, safe keep places, roads, vehicles etc

() we must help the Center: in the studies, gospel teaching, passé, social assistance etc

() The task of the garbage man is as important as of the doctor

() The opportunity to live a dignified life through work is one of the advancements of modern society.