

The Gospel at Home

This Week's Gospel: Luke 4:21-30

The Gospel for this Sunday is a summary of Luke's whole Gospel. Jesus tells the Good News of God's favor and kindness toward all people. But Jesus' message is rejected because he is just the son of a carpenter. Everyone faces rejection at one time or another. Children can be deeply hurt by rejection. The lesson of today's Gospel is to avoid rejecting others or prejudging them.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): Your child learned that when Jesus told Good News about himself, not everyone listened. Your child learned that to listen is a way to show love and respect. Someday this week during a meal you share together, take turns listening to what each member of the family has to say. Be especially attentive to what your young child has to offer.

Promise (Grades K-1): In class, your child learned that when we have problems, we can help each other make it better. Talk together as a family about how it feels to have a problem. Talk, too, about how to settle arguments and disagreements—ways to make difficult situations better.

Good News (Grades 2-3): The class learned to appreciate the people who believe in them. They recognized why some people didn't believe in Jesus. The class also talked about ways to show that they believe in Jesus. Ask your child to share the "I Believe in Jesus" booklet with the family. Then talk about ways your family shows that you believe in Jesus and his Good News.

Venture (Grades 4-6): Your child's class learned how the people of his hometown rejected Jesus. Have a family examination of conscience to see what evidence there is in your household of prejudice or the rejection of others. Your child also learned about the role of prophets. Ask your child to share what he or she learned about Saint Maximilian Kolbe. Also, your child can explain how to play the Accept and Reject Game. Talk about other times when your family members felt rejected and accepted.

Visions (Grades 7-8): This week's Gospel showed the class that Jesus' own friends and neighbors rejected his teaching. They also learned about the true meaning of love from 1 Corinthians 13:4-13. Read that passage and talk about it together. The class also talked about how to confront one's own prejudices. Talk about any prejudices your family might have. Ask your youngster to tell the family about World Day of the Sick. Talk about ways you can care for those who are sick.

Pray Together

When you complete your conversation about the week's Gospel lesson, gather in a comfortable spot in your home. Let each person in the family ask in his or her own words for God's help in accepting people and not rejecting them. Pray for people who feel rejected, alone, or afraid.