

The Gospel at Home

This Week's Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

When people told Jesus about a group of Galileans killed by Pilate, he told the people that unless they repent, they will all likewise perish. To help them understand, he tells them a parable about giving a fig tree more time to grow fruit. If not, the tree would be cut down. Jesus teaches that God gives us every opportunity to grow closer to him.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): The class this week learned that Jesus wants us to grow. Your child explored how plants and animals grow. Talk about how your child has grown already. Share a story from when you were young that will show how you grew up. How does your family help plants and pets grow around your home? Reflect on how we can grow closer to God.

Promise (Grades K–1): Ask your child to answer the question: What helps us grow? This week, the class also answered the question: Who gets a second chance? Your child can share the story about a first-grade teacher who brought her baby to meet her students. Take a walk around your neighborhood and make a note of all the things that are growing. Say a prayer of thanks for all the living things that grow around us.

Good News (Grades 2–3): Who gets a second chance? That was the question explored in the Good News class this week. Ask your child to share the story about brother and sister, Martin and Maria. Why did the animals ask for a second chance? Ask your child how God is like a gardener. If they need help look at the Gospel reading again. Be sure to talk about reconciliation and why it is so important. Talk as a family about how the Sacrament of Reconciliation works. Thank the Lord for giving us the sacrament and for granting us second chances.

Venture (Grades 4–6): Where is the land where Moses walked? Your child's class talked about how God spoke to Moses in the desert. In the Gospel reading this week, Jesus explains in a parable that there is time to change. Discuss the parable with your youngster. Ask, too, why Sam was sorry and whether Brigida forgave Sam in this week's story. The class also studied the Lord's Prayer. Consider adding it to daily prayer times.

Visions (Grades 7–8): The class considered six situations where someone may deserve a second chance. Ask how your youngster decided each of them. Talk about times when you've had a second chance, and how much that meant. Find out the name of the Superhero from a story in class. How does the Superhero save the day? Jesus wants us to turn our hearts to him. Discuss how we need to keep trying because he never gives up on us. What is the name of this kind of change of heart? Your youngster should know. Finally, ask what is the name of God that is shared with Moses. How does that make sense?

Pray Together

Lent is a great time to incorporate the Rosary into prayer time if you don't already do that. Start at the crucifix by making the Sign of the Cross. Pray the Apostle's Creed, then the Lord's Prayer first, then three Hail Marys on the next three beads. The fifth bead is the Glory Be to the Father. Then there are sets of ten beads with one in between each set. You recite one Lord's Prayer, ten Hail Marys, and one Glory Be. At the same time, recall one of the four sets of five mysteries from Jesus life. There are the Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful, and Glorious mysteries.