

The Gospel at Home

This Week's Gospel: John 8:1-11

In this Sunday's Gospel, teachers of the Law try to trap Jesus into defending a woman caught in adultery thereby breaking the Law. The crowd was prepared to stone the woman. Jesus foils the attempt by suggesting that anyone without sin can cast the first stone. He then refuses to condemn the woman and encourages her to change and grow by not sinning.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): Your child can understand the blame the woman in the Gospel takes. No child likes to be blamed. This week's lesson showed your child that Jesus is not interested in who is to blame, but in who is growing. Talk about ways your family can stop the blame game and give problem situations a positive spin. Remember that young children respond to encouragement more quickly than to blame.

Promise (Grades K-1): This week your child learned the need to take responsibility for their actions. Ask your child to share the story of the "Glue Mess" with the family. He or she can share the pictures, too. Then talk together about the story "Jesus Doesn't Blame". Talk about ways your family can show forgiveness to one another.

Good News (Grades 2-3): Your child learned a variety of ways people need to forgive and to ask forgiveness, and they discovered Jesus' merciful love. Talk about ways the members of your family show mercy to one another. Talk, too, about why it is better to show mercy and forgiveness than it is to try to blame people. Discuss which virtues each member of your family possesses.

Venture (Grades 4-6): In this week's class, your child learned that Jesus forgives rather than condemns. Talk together about ways your family can show mercy and forgiveness to one another. Talk about what it feels like to need forgiveness and to offer forgiveness to others. The class also examined the ABCs of Lent. Choose a letter and have your youngster share the corresponding paragraph. Make sure everyone in your family recognizes that during Mass there are times when we admit our sinfulness and seek forgiveness. If there is time, play a round or two of the Blame Game from this week's lesson.

Visions (Grades 7-8): Your young person discussed the destruction that blame can bring. They also read the play, "Can You Hear ME Now?" It features Jesus. Ask what your youngster learned from the cast of characters. Jesus refuses to condemn the woman from the Gospel story. Talk about how he forgives us today and always supports us. Discuss how God shows his mercy to your family. What kind of music did your youngster list among the three favorite songs? Be sure to ask who are The Priests from the lesson. Call up a video from online to hear what The Priests sound like.

Pray Together

Prayer gives us the kind of divine intervention that can achieve great things, including the power of forgiveness and mercy. During prayer this week, be sure to look inward and become aware of ways we can forgive ourselves and others as God has done for us. Is there a person who needs forgiveness? Pray for that person and follow the prompting of the Holy Spirit to dispense necessary mercy.