

The Gospel at Home

This Week's Gospel: John 14:1-12

Jesus directs us to not let our hearts be troubled. Our faith in Jesus can keep us filled with God's peace. In this week's Gospel, Jesus promises that he is preparing a place for each of us in heaven. We will get there through following Jesus, who is the way, the truth, and the life. As Jesus tells his Apostles, whoever has seen him has seen the Father.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): Your child concluded this week that Jesus is not just someone we follow, but also a friend. Talk with your child about how we follow Jesus. Then discuss how Jesus is our friend. Consider placing the drawing your child did in class in a prominent place. Each time you see it, repeat the message from Jesus.

Promise (Grades K-1): Your child created a church from cutouts in the lesson. Take a look at it together, then talk about how your own church is set up. How are the pews lined up? What does the art look like? Is there stained glass? Describe the altar and other special areas of the church.

Good News (Grades 2-3): Your child learned about Jesus' Way. He healed people. He made friends, and he taught people how to live a holy life. Ask your child what happens when we receive the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation. Explain how you understand the Holy Spirit's action in your life. How does your family share Jesus' Good News in the world?

Venture (Grades 4-6): Ask your child how Chief Seattle's quote describes our relationship with God and each other. In this week's Gospel, Jesus tells the disciples that whoever believes in him will do his work on Earth. Discuss ways that you already do this and talk about how you might do even greater things. A discussion about things that your child worries about may be timely this week as Jesus tells his friends to have faith to calm their troubled hearts. Talk about how the Second Vatican Council opened the Church to the modern world. Is there anyone in your family who remembers the time before the Council?

Visions (Grades 7-8): Your youngster discussed the work that Christians do. Discuss how your son or daughter does that work today. Jesus says in the Gospel this week that he is going to prepare a place for each of us in heaven. Make sure your young person understands how to get there through Jesus. Ask your youngster why we are all "living stones". What ministries are members of your family involved with, and what are some that you might consider exploring? Adopt the Living Stones Prayer Service for home this week.

Pray Together

Pray that each member of the family will use his or her feet, hands, voice, head, and heart to help us build the living temple of God's house. During family prayer, make the Sign of the Cross on each other's heads and hands. Bless each other to do God's work this week and on into the rest of your lives. Pray to the Holy Spirit for guidance and courage.