

The Gospel at Home

This Sunday's Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus uses the parable of the bridegroom and 10 girls to tell his disciples to remain vigilant. The parable describes some of the girls as foolish and some as wise. Those who were ready for the bridegroom went into the wedding feast. The bridegroom, however, didn't even acknowledge those who didn't prepare. Jesus teaches us to always be prepared and to do good things. We never know when he will return. This is an opportune time to recognize that when we make good choices, we are preparing for Jesus' coming.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): Ask your child to explain "Anaya's Bad Day" and, especially, how the story ends. Make a list with your child about the things that Anaya missed out on because she wasn't ready. Discuss ways that you get prepared for something, especially what footwear might be necessary for various activities.

Promise (Grades K-1): Your child may not realize how many choices he or she makes each day. Discuss choices that have been made already today. Have your child describe what happens in "Peyton and the Surprise Kitten." Ask whether Peyton is ready to take care of her new pet. If you have pets, discuss what has to be done to take care of them. Your child can act out the story of "The Little Red Hen."

Good News (Grades 2-3): Have your child tell the story of "The Wise and Foolish Girls." Discuss how prayer helps keep our minds and hearts on Jesus, who promised to return to us. Gather the family for a day of prayer. Pray the "Morning Prayer" when everyone wakes up or at breakfast. Then during the day, have a family member lead everyone in praying "The World

Is God's Dwelling Place" and "I Am God's Dwelling Place." Finally, remember to pray together the "Bedtime Prayer" before going to sleep.

Venture (Grades 4-6): This week's class focused on being prepared for certain situations, but also for the return of Jesus. Have your child describe what happened to Juan during "The Happy Dance" story. Ask how your child thinks Sonia reacted to Juan's apology. Discuss how Jesus' Parable of the Ten Girls connects with Juan's story, especially the consequences of not being prepared. Discuss how your family can be prepared for Jesus' return. Discuss the importance of the Responsorial Psalm, and together recite Psalm 63:1-7. Have your child host a family game of "Wise and Foolish Choices." Ask your child to tell you about Saint Francis Xavier Cabrini.

Visions (Grades 7-8): Your child's class discussed the difference between being wise and being foolish. Have your child identify who was wise and who was foolish in the opening story by Matt Schoenbauer, and then again in "The Right Side." Discuss why Josh was able to forgive Louis. Talk about how Jesus' parable is a good lesson for us to prepare. Make a list of preparations your family will need to make for next week. Have each member of the family write a definition of wisdom, then discuss the meaning and combine them into one definition. Play a rousing round of "The Wisdom Game" with your family.

Pray Together

When you complete your conversation about this Sunday's Gospel lesson, pray to have the strength to remain prepared for Jesus' return. Practice being prepared for upcoming events and situations. Then finish the prayer by reciting one at a time, "Jesus, give me the wisdom to always be prepared."