

The Gospel at Home

This Week's Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

Sunday's Gospel shows both Jesus' future and our own future. The Gospel sets our sight on Easter, just as Peter, James, and John glimpse the risen Jesus for a passing moment. Lent invites us to join Jesus on his journey to Jerusalem where he will be crucified, but also where he will rise victorious from the dead.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): This week's lesson helps children reflect on how they grow and change, and how nature around them is continually changing. Ask your child to recount how a caterpillar turns into a butterfly. Make it a practice to compliment your child every day for a way he or she is growing, especially in learning loving ways to act toward others.

Promise (Grades K-1): Lent is a time for growth in loving, sharing, and forgiving. Your child is learning how to change from unloving ways to loving ways. Talk to your child about what an adventure it is to grow as a loving person. Praise your child when he or she shows love, sharing, or forgiveness.

Good News (Grades 2-3): Your child learned to recognize that Jesus is God's Son and learned how prayer is a way to change one's life. Ask your child to share with the family ways of praying—blessing, asking, thanksgiving, and praise. Talk about various ways your family prays together, and make a plan to try at least one new kind of prayer this week.

Venture (Grades 4-6): Your child learned more about Jesus, God's Son and our Savior. Talk about the promise that is shown in the Gospel story for this Sunday. Ask your child to tell the family in his or her own words about Queen Esther and Abraham and Sarah. Tell your child about their baptism. Share why you decided to baptize your child, and about the promises you made at the Baptism.

Visions (Grades 7-8): Your child learned that, painful as it may be, change and transformation is possible. Ask your son or daughter to share the story "A.J.'s Secret" with the family. Talk about what A.J. learned from the experience and how he received understanding and help by sharing his troubles. Talk about Jesus' Transfiguration on the mountain. What did this event show Peter, James, and John? What is the promise this event has for all of us? Share together what changes you would like to see in your family.

Pray Together

As a special devotion, try to have a brief family prayer each of the remaining days of Lent. Use a favorite family prayer, pray in your own words, or say one decade of the Rosary. Be sure to set a definite time for your daily prayer. Try to join in a morning prayer or an evening prayer together each day for a week. Begin and end your prayer with the Sign of the Cross.