

SUNDAY GOSPEL WITH CHILDREN

24TH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B

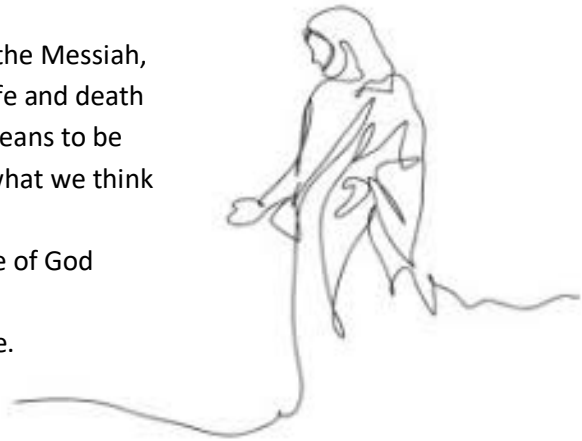
MARK 8:27-35

BACKGROUND FOR PARENTS

Peter thought he knew what it meant to call Jesus the Messiah, the Christ. Jesus was indeed the Messiah, but his life and death would show a different understanding of what it means to be the Messiah. We, too, have our own ideas about what we think God ought to be doing in our world.

Like Peter, however, we may risk limiting our image of God by thinking only in human ways.

God's plan is always more than we can ever imagine.



PREPARATION

In setting up a prayerful space together, you may like to put out a green cloth for Ordinary Time, have a bible open at the Gospel reading, light a candle, a beautiful crucifix.

You may like to come together for the Gospel reflection at a later time, after the 11am live-stream Mass (link here: <https://www.facebook.com/stpatricksnz>)

Have a variety of sticks and string, and scissors in a basket ready, to make personal crosses together. Worksheets are also available at the end of this document.

SETTING THE SCENE

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Remind each other of the Gospel last week, of Jesus healing the deaf man, but then told the crowd to not talk about it. How did we go with listening to the world around us, to each other. Did we hear God in the silence of our hearts? Did we practise just following commands. How did that go?

KYRIE

To prepare our hearts to listen to God's word, let us pray:

Lord have mercy, All: Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy, All: Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy. All: Lord have mercy on me a sinner.

OPENING PRAYER

May we listen carefully to your Word, God. What is he asking us to do this week? We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

GOSPEL INTRODUCTION

This week Jesus ask the disciples a question. Listen to Peter's reply, inspired by God one moment, and then getting it completely wrong the next.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Younger children: (To the tune of "*London Bridge is Falling Down*")
Listen to the Word of God, Word of God, Word of God,
Listen to the Word of God, Alleluia!

Older children: (The usual Gospel Acclamation that is sung at Mass)
E.g.: "Alleluia, Alleluia, give praise to the risen Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia, give praise to His Name!"

GOSPEL

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Sign of the Cross on the forehead (God be in my mind)

sign of the Cross on the lips (God be in my words),

Sign of the Cross on the heart (God be in my heart)

Gospel Mark 8:27-35

(You may like to read from the family bible)

<https://youtu.be/vfxqOS-zJyA> (for older children, all three readings and reflection.)



At the end of the Gospel: The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

REFLECTING ON THE READING

Invite the children to say what they heard in the story. You may like to use these questions to help.

- What did Jesus ask the people?
- Who did the people think Jesus was? (one of the prophets or teachers)
- What answer did Peter give?
- Why do you think Peter protested about Jesus talk of having to suffer and die?
- Why do you think Jesus had to?

In the second reading from the book of James, it discusses faith and works. Some people think that faith alone can save us, but James writes that faith is dead if one does not also do works of love. These works cannot buy us a place in heaven, God chooses to give us a spot as a gift. These works of love can make our faith better and stronger, because they make us more like Jesus himself. We get to know Jesus better by imitating him and living as he does.

In the Gospel the disciples are getting to know Jesus better. Jesus asks them who people think he is. Some say he is John the Baptist, Elijah or one of the prophets, but Jesus is something greater. Peter gets it right. He says that Jesus is the one, the Christ. This sounds great, but then Jesus starts talking about his suffering, death and resurrection. He is talking about the Paschall Mystery, the way we are saved by Christ's suffering love.

Suffering doesn't sound very good, we want things to be easy and fun, we want to do what we want. But we have to let go of what we want. Instead of thinking about ourselves, we can love others as Jesus does. So when Peter gets angry about Jesus' talk about suffering and death, Jesus tells Peter he is not thinking as God does, he is thinking as human beings do – tending to be selfish, greedy. We are called to think differently, and act differently and spend our time differently. We are called to be like Jesus, who gives himself away.

RESPONSE

Sit in silence for a couple of minutes and listen to the sounds around you. There may be birds outside, or a car passing. Rest in that quiet, where sometimes Jesus speaks to us in the quiet of our hearts.

Make a little cross with a couple of sticks while reflecting on how can we be more like Jesus. What things do we find hard to do but are necessary – study, helping our siblings, doing what our parents ask of us. There is joy to be found in doing small things for others, even if it requires effort and self-sacrifice. When ready, decide on one thing to concentrate on, joining the effort required with Christ's loving sacrifice. Each person prayerfully put the cross they have made with the cross on the family altar.



WE BELIEVE

In our creed, we say what we believe. Invite your children to think about what they are saying when they say the creed. Ask this series of questions and invite the children to reply, "I do":

- Do you believe that God is our Father, who lovingly created us to do his work?
- Do you believe that Jesus is His Son, who came from Heaven to remind us that faith and good works go hand in hand?
- Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the love of God who loves and encourages us in the quiet of our hearts?

WE PRAY

We cannot come to Mass this Sunday, to receive Jesus in the Body and Blood of Christ, but we can be patient, help where we can and pray for each other. Again, try to relate the Prayers of the Faithful to the reading. Here is Pope Francis' five-finger prayer.

Start by saying, "We know that Jesus is always with us, listening to our prayers and filling our hearts with His love so we can listen to and care for those around us."

Respond to each prayer with: We Pray to the Lord.
All. Lord, Hear our Prayer

5 Finger Prayer

4) The ring finger is the weakest. Pray for the sick, poor, and those most in need.

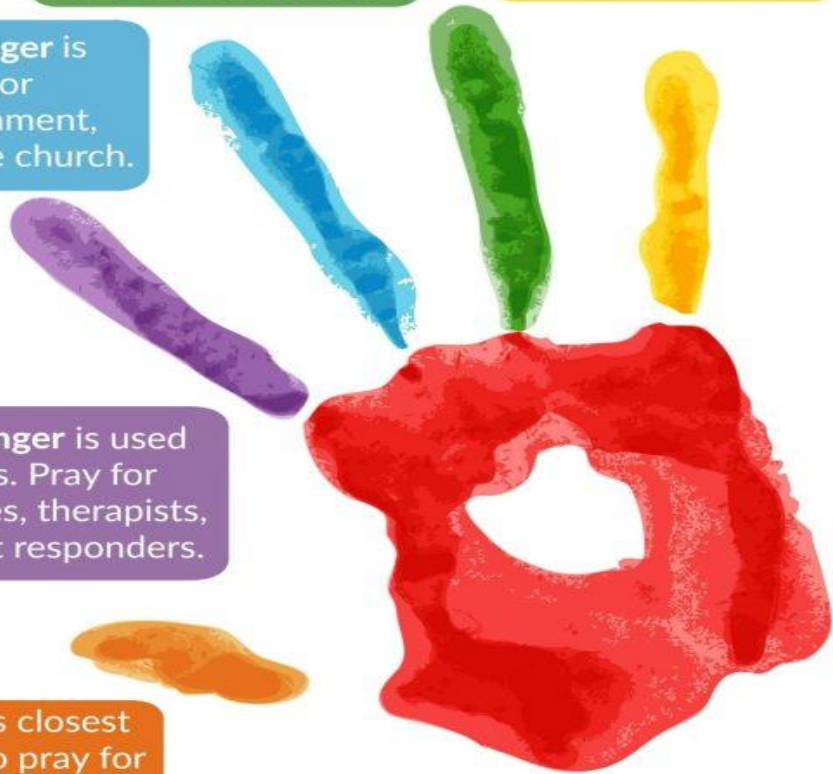
5) The pinkie finger is the smallest. Pray for **yourself** and your own needs.

3) The middle finger is the tallest. Pray for **leaders** in government, business, and the church.

2) The **pointer** finger is used to give directions. Pray for **teachers**, coaches, therapists, doctors, and first responders.

1) Your **thumb** is closest to your heart, so pray for those closest to you - your **family and friends**.

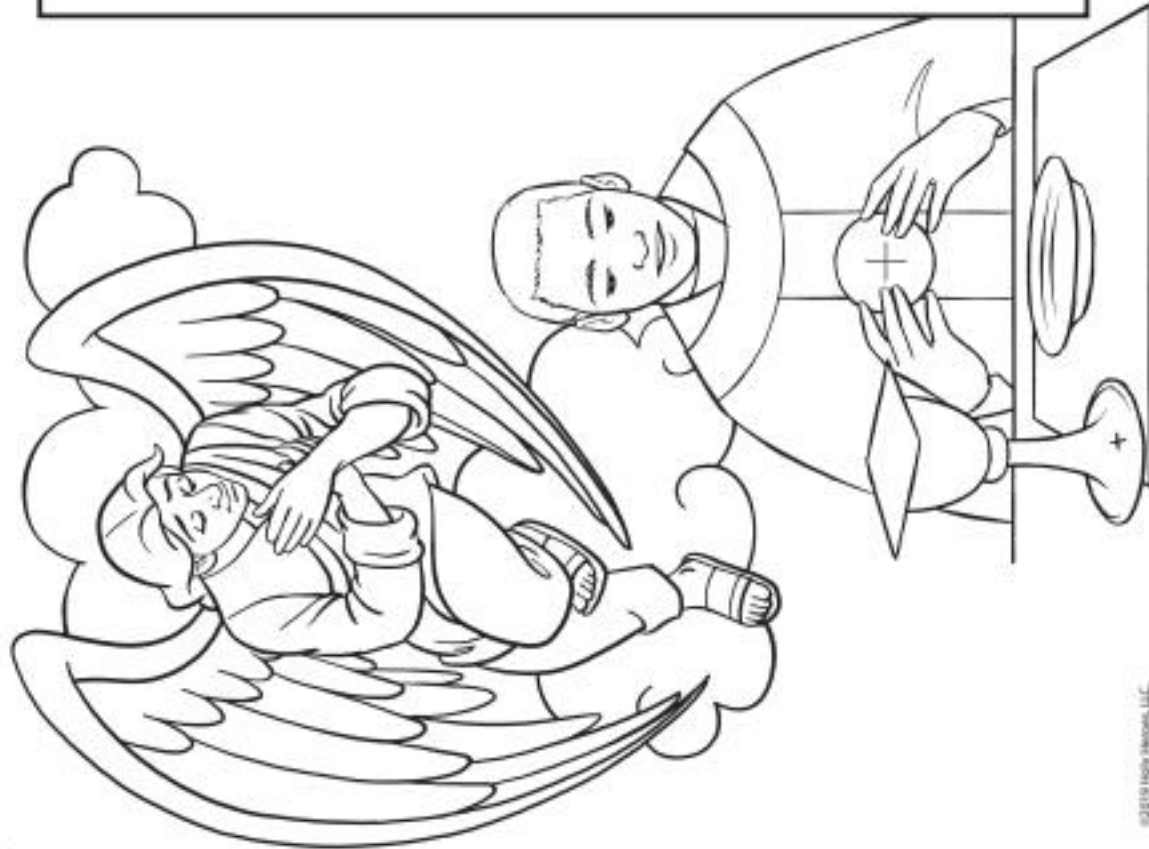
www.KathrynShirey.com



Rockhunting

Here Rockhunting is a wonderful walk activity that your family may like to prepare for and instigate in your community.

What joy could we give to another that they could find as they go on their walk?



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Send Your Angel to HOLY MASS

O Holy Angel, at my side,
Go to the church for me,
Kneel in my place, at Holy Mass
Where I desire to be.

At Offertory, in my stead,
Take all I am and own,
And place it as a sacrifice
Upon the Altar Throne.

At Holy Consecration's bell,
Adore with the Seraph's love,
My Jesus, hidden in the Host,
Come down from Heaven above.

And when the priest Communion takes,
Oh, bring my Lord to me,
That His sweet Heart may rest on mine,
And I His temple be.

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