



Opening Prayer: Dear Jesus, open our eyes and hearts to see all the good and beautiful things you have made. May we always be excited and grateful for the love you share with us. Amen.

Theme: Seeing the beauty around us

Gospel Listening: John 9:1-41 One family member reads the Gospel while everyone else listens quietly.

Making Connections

Reader: Today's Gospel is about Jesus helping a man who was born blind. He could not enjoy the beauty around him; he could not even see his mother's face. This man could not work; all he could do was beg.

Jesus gave sight to the man. This made him so happy. He could finally see people, flowers, trees, and the singing birds around him. He wanted to share his excitement with his neighbors, so he ran to them as fast as he could and said, "Look what Jesus did for me!"

The blind man's neighbors still thought of him as just a beggar, unable to do anything else. Some people did not accept the fact that Jesus had the power to heal the man's eyes and his heart, but this did not stop the man from believing in Jesus.

Family Sharing Time

Use the questions below to guide your family discussion.

Preschool children: The healed man was so happy that he ran to his neighbors shouting, "Look what Jesus did for me!" What makes you happy? What are the beautiful things you can see?

Primary-grade children: The man's blindness made it difficult for him to do many things. Jesus' healing helped him to do what he couldn't do before. What has Jesus done for you? Talk about this.

Preteens: After Jesus had healed the blind man, the neighbors still thought of him as only a beggar. Sometimes people may treat us as they think we are, without seeing what's inside our heart and mind. Share something about yourself that others might not see or realize.

Activity

Scavenger Hunt

Family members will be sent on a scavenger hunt (5 minutes or so) to find three beautiful objects (from outside or inside the house). Members will bring their objects and explain to other members why they selected those particular objects and why they think they are beautiful. The family can discuss the importance of God's gift of sight, which enables us to physically see the beauty around. Share good things about others that cannot be seen with our physical eyes. Write a family prayer thanking God for all the beautiful things in our world.

Suggestion of the Week: Pray your "family prayer" at meals, bedtime, or when the family is together.

Praying Together

Gather around a prayer table with a Bible, crucifix, and candle.

All: Thank you, God,
for allowing me to be me,
for my excitement and happiness when
something good happens,
for challenges that allow me to do good

for others,
for the opportunities to share my faith
in Jesus.

Each person will thank God for at least one thing that makes him/her happy.

Conclude by singing "If You Are Happy and You Know It, Clap Your Hands!"