

### Sunday Readings

Joshua 5:9a-10-12  
Psalm 34:2-7  
2 Corinthians 5:17-21  
Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

# Disciples on the Journey FAMILY

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent 2010  
Cycle C

### Materials Needed

Paper, marker

**Listening** *Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 One family member reads the Gospel while everyone else listens quietly.*

## Making Connections

**Reader:** In the Gospel, Jesus tells about a man who had two sons. The younger son took his share of his father's money, left home, and spent all the money. He needed a job to make money and asked his father if he could come home and work for him. His father was so happy because his lost son had come home.

The older son stayed with his father, worked for him, and obeyed him. When he found out his lost brother had returned home, he was jealous because his father was giving him a party and celebrating. He did not understand why his father was celebrating with his brother who had disobeyed him. He did not realize there was no limit to his father's love for both his sons.

Just like the father in the gospel, God is so happy when a person asks for forgiveness and returns to him. He loves all his children so much.

## Family Sharing Time

*Use the questions below to guide your family discussion.*

**Preschool children:** Most of us have done something we were not supposed to and then felt really bad. Have you? Did someone forgive you, and did that make you feel better? God always loves and forgives us if we are sorry for what we have done wrong.

**Primary-grade children:** Would you have been jealous if you were the son who stayed home with his father? Why or why not? We have all made bad choices in the past. How do you feel when others judge you? Do you remember that God always loves *you*, even when you make a mistake? Discuss.

**Preteens:** Have you ever felt like the Prodigal Son? When you celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation and are forgiven, do you feel better? Have you ever judged someone else who did something wrong? How do you think they felt? Have you forgiven someone who may have hurt you? Share.

## Family Activity

**Preparation:** Gather paper and a marker to make a sign and prepare refreshments for a "feast."

The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent, sometimes called Laetare Sunday or Refreshment Sunday, marks the half-way point of Lent and is a day to rejoice. Celebrate this day with a small feast in honor of God's love and forgiveness for each of us. Discuss times that we have forgiven others or have been forgiven, like the Prodigal Son. Stress the truth that God will always forgive us if we ask him. Make a sign that says "To forgive is to love," and place it where it will be seen all week.

## Praying Together

Dear God, our Father, thank you so much for your love and mercy. Help us to forgive others and to remember that you always love and forgive us. We are your children, and we thank you for our earthly family and the feast we have enjoyed today. Be with us as we continue our Lenten journey. Amen.

**Memory Verse** *“Taste and see; taste and see the goodness of the Lord.”* (Psalm 34:8)

## Saint of the Week

### **Blessed Juan Nepomuceno Zegri y Moreno**

(Feast Day: March 17)

Today’s Scriptures speak of moving away from oppression and sin and toward freedom. Our Saint of the Week experienced both oppression and freedom. Blessed Juan Nepomuceno Zegri y Moreno served as a parish priest in Spain. He had a deep love for the Eucharist and for the Blessed Virgin Mary. He founded the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mercy to help the spiritually and materially poor. Unfortunately, he was falsely accused of improper behavior, which caused years of great anguish for the holy priest. He suffered in silence until the truth became evident, his innocence was confirmed, and he was exonerated. Then, in freedom, he continued serving God’s people until his death in 1905. Let us ask Juan to pray for us when we are experiencing trials or when we may be falsely accused.