

Sunday Readings

Isaiah 43:16-21
Psalms 126:1-6
Philippians 3:8-14
John 8:1-11

Disciples on the Journey

FAMILY

5th Sunday of Lent 2010
Cycle C

Materials Needed

Scissors, tape or glue,
construction paper

Listening *John 8:1-11 One family member reads the Gospel while everyone else listens quietly.*

Making Connections

Reader: In today's Gospel, we are reminded that we are all sinners and need to repent. In Jesus' time, if a person was caught committing a big sin, the law said that person was to be put to death.

The Pharisees brought a woman who had sinned to Jesus and asked him what they should do with her. They wanted to trap Jesus; however, Jesus said that those who had no sin could stone her. Of course, everyone there had sinned, so they left, one by one.

Later the woman told Jesus that no one had condemned her. Jesus replied, "Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on, sin no more."

Jesus gave the woman and the Pharisees the chance to change their way of thinking and living. Today, Jesus also gives each of us the opportunity to change our sinful ways and to stop judging other people.

This story teaches us that Jesus loves everyone. He is always ready to forgive us and to help us change our ways.

Family Sharing Time *Use the questions below to guide your family discussion.*

Preschool children: Jesus cares about everything you do. How do you feel when you do good things? What are some things that you should not do? When you are told to stop misbehaving, do you listen and obey? Why? Remember, Jesus is always with you and will help you to be good.

Primary-grade children: Jesus forgave the woman who had sinned. Is it easy to forgive people who have hurt you? Why or why not? Have you ever thought of asking Jesus to help you when you find it hard to forgive someone? Discuss.

Preteens: Jesus forgave the sinful woman. Have you ever been like Jesus, forgiving and merciful toward someone who did wrong, even though others were condemning? Discuss. How do you feel when someone forgives you or refuses to forgive you? Share.

Family Activity

Preparation: Cut several pieces of construction paper into 1 x 8-inch strips.

Leader: Jesus loves us and cares about everything we do.

With that in mind, ask one family member to talk about how he/she has shown love and/or forgiveness. Have that person make the first link of the chain by fastening the ends of the paper strip with glue or tape to make a loop. As each person shares, he/she adds a loop to the chain.

Throughout the week, encourage family members to add a link to the chain each time they are loving or forgiving. Invite them to share their experiences with the family (perhaps at the dinner table) if they so desire. Hang the chain in a visible area and watch it grow!

Praying Together

All: Dear Jesus, help us to be like you and not judge and condemn others. Your example shows us that we, too, must always be ready to love and forgive. Amen.

Memory Verse

“The Lord has done great things for us; Oh, how happy we were!” (Psalm 126:3)

Saint of the Week

Saint Turibius of Lima (Feast Day: March 23)

Turibius was a professor of law at the University of Salamanca in 1571 when King Philip II appointed him the chief judge of the ecclesiastical court of the Inquisition at Granada. Then in 1580, when the Church authorities needed someone to convert the Peruvians of Lima in South America, they selected Turibius. He resisted, saying that he was a layman, but he was overruled, ordained a priest, consecrated a bishop, and sent to Peru.

He traveled – mostly on foot – three times through his enormous diocese of 18,000 square miles and saw all the mistreatment of the native population by the authorities. He defended the rights of the natives and learned to speak their dialects. Turibius evangelized the baptized since they knew very little about their faith, and he converted nearly a million more natives. He worked to eliminate many of the injustices and abuses; he established churches, hospitals, religious houses, and a seminary. Let us pray to Saint Turibius to intercede for us as we tell other people about the wonderful things God has done for us.