

Family Page

Reread the parable of the farmer and his two sons in this week's gospel. Think about times when you have acted like the first son, promising God certain favors or prayers and then forgetting them as soon as your request has been granted; being Christian in word but not in deed. It's good to check yourselves out in this matter every so often.



explaining GOD'S WORD

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) † Matthew 21:28-32 † September 27, 2026

Checklist for Christian Living

1 During Mass, are you courteous to those around you, making room for latecomers trying to get into your pew and extending a sincere sign of peace?

☐ YES ☐ NO

2 When you leave Mass, do you greet your brothers and sisters in Christ with a smile and a pleasant greeting? Does your love for Jesus extend to the parking lot?

☐ YES ☐ NO

3 Do you consider the gospel message during the day, thinking of ways to live Christ's words?

☐ YES ☐ NO

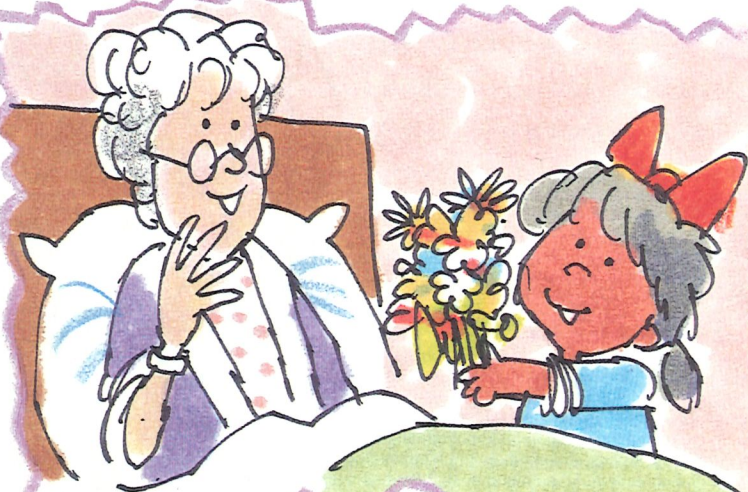
4 Does grace at mealtime set a tone of mutual love — or are the words tossed off quickly and then lost in the chaos of bickering and complaining?

☐ YES ☐ NO

5 When you have promised to pray for someone, do you always remember to do so?

☐ YES ☐ NO

Don't
just say it...



Show it!

The Story of Two Sons

Jesus tells a story about a farmer with two sons. He asks both sons the same thing: "Go out and work in the vineyard today." The first says, "I am on my way, sir," just as politely as you please. But the second son replies, "I will not." Two sons, two different answers! What's the father to think?

Now see what happens next. The first son never went out to work in the vineyard at all. The second son, who told his father no, was sorry right away, and he went to work in the vineyard just as his father had asked.

"Which of the two did what the father wanted?" Jesus asked his listeners. "The second," they all answered — and, of course, they were right.

Many people say, "I believe in Jesus," or "I love God with all my heart." But they don't live as Jesus taught them; they don't love their neighbor or feed the hungry or visit the lonely or comfort the sick.



Others don't say much about God, but they know what Jesus wants. They help their neighbor all they can and share their things and visit the lonely and comfort the sick.

Which people would YOU say are doing what the Father asks?

Don't just say it, do it!

Jesus makes it very clear that what really matters is not what you say you are going to do but what you do. Here are some examples of children and their promises. Put a check mark in the box by those who are doing what God would want them to do.

Jimmy's mother asks Jimmy to clean his room. He says, "Yes, Mother," and gives her a big hug and goes right into his room.



John asks God for a favor. He promises to be good all week.



Linda and Joe are best friends. They promised to always be good friends.

