

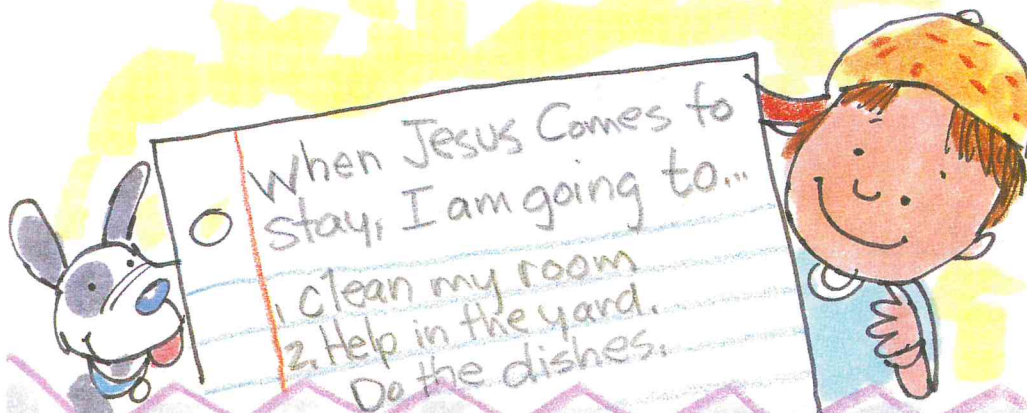
# Family Page

If Jesus were your houseguest for a week, how would your life as a family change? To help you become more aware of Christ's presence in your everyday lives, try this little project.



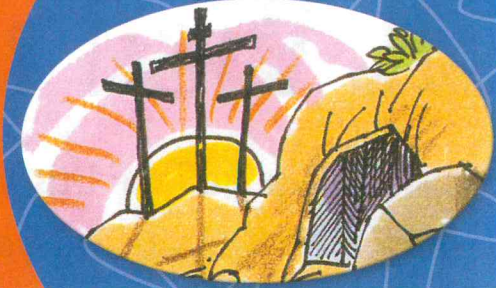
- 1 Each member of the family write across the top of a piece of paper: "When Jesus comes to stay, I am going to..."
- 2 List all the things you would do to prepare for Jesus' coming and during his stay. Below are a few starter ideas:  
 "I will clean my room and make my bed every day."  
 "I will not be grouchy or stubborn when asked to do something."  
 "I will be better behaved at the dinner table."  
 "I will pay attention during family prayer time."

When all have finished their lists, hang them where they can be read and followed every day as a reminder that Jesus has already come and stays with us constantly.

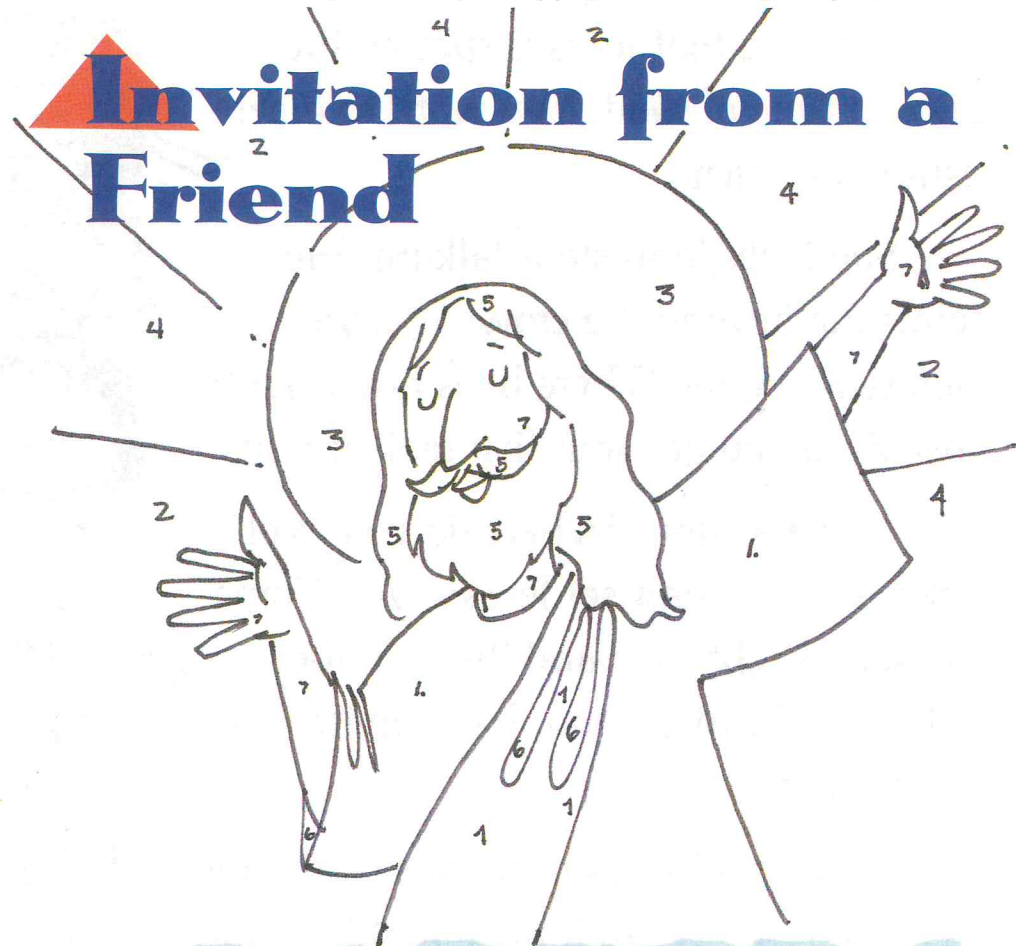


## EXPLAINING GOD'S WORD

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time



Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (B) • John 1:35-42 • January 14, 2024



Jesus invites you to visit him every day. Using the key below, color this picture of Jesus.

Color key: 1 = red; 2 = blue; 3 = yellow; 4 = green; 5 = brown; 6 = black; 7 = pink.



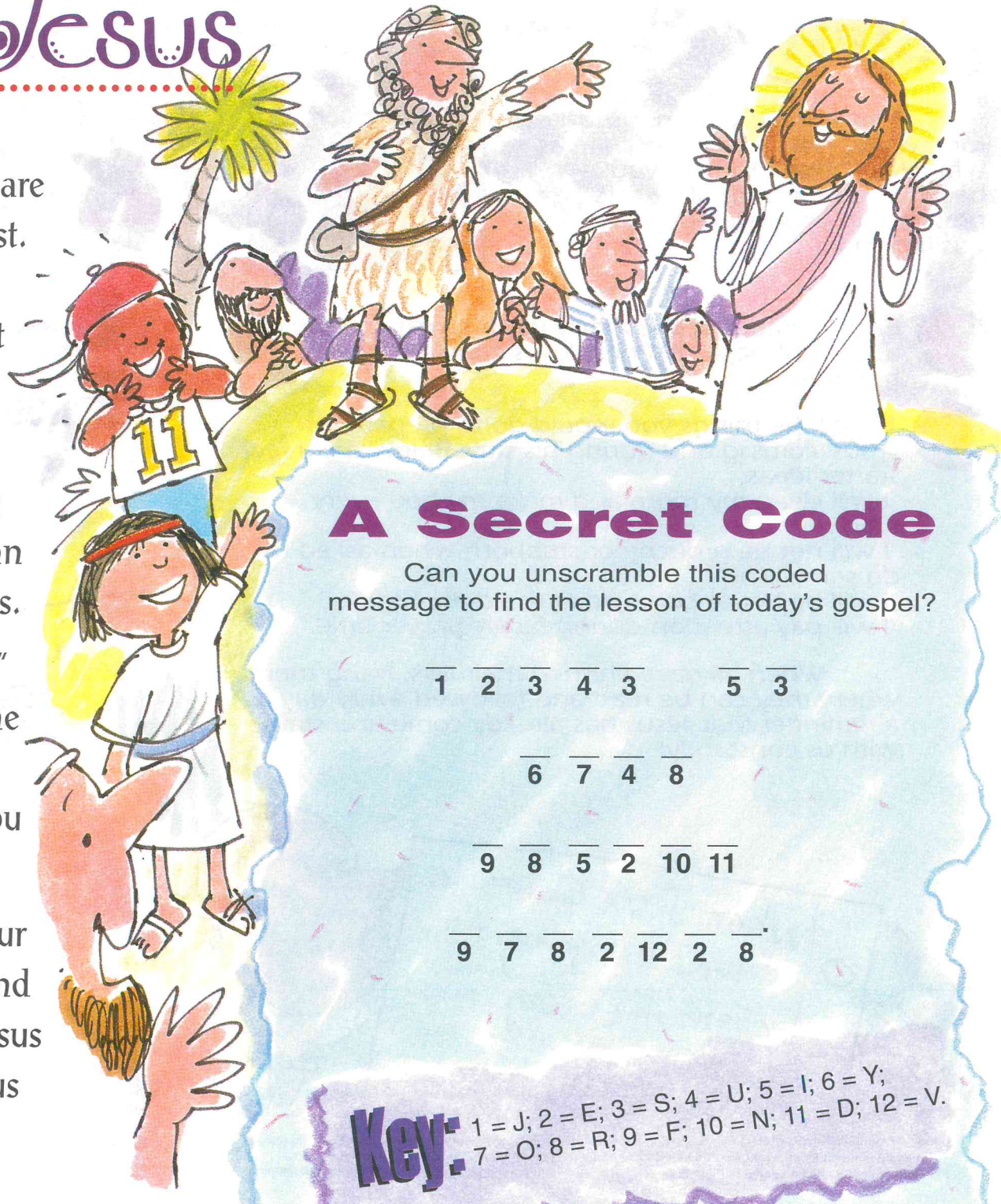
# A Visit with Jesus

Make believe this week's gospel story is about you and your friend. You are in the crowd listening to John the Baptist. John tells you that Jesus is special, the Chosen One of God. You want to meet Jesus very much.

Suddenly John stops talking. He points out beyond the crowd at a young man walking by. "There he is now," John says. And you get your first look at Jesus.

You ask him, "Where do you live?" Then, what a surprise! Jesus says, "Come and see." Right then and there, at four o'clock in the afternoon, Jesus invites you to visit him!

You can visit Jesus every day of your life. You just have to think about him and he is right there listening. Being with Jesus is as easy as being with your friend. Jesus is your friend forever.



## A Secret Code

Can you unscramble this coded message to find the lesson of today's gospel?

1 2 3 4 3 5 3

6 7 4 8

9 8 5 2 10 11

9 7 8 2 12 2 8

**Key:** 1 = J; 2 = E; 3 = S; 4 = U; 5 = I; 6 = Y;  
7 = O; 8 = R; 9 = F; 10 = N; 11 = D; 12 = V.



# Family Page

The gospel today reminds us that we are all to be apostles in our own time and our own place — to keep on becoming more and more like Jesus.

We need to understand exactly what it means to say yes to Jesus. We can learn this when we pray together, when we read the gospel stories together, when we talk about ways to love and care for others, and when we apologize to those we have hurt. We can learn from one another.

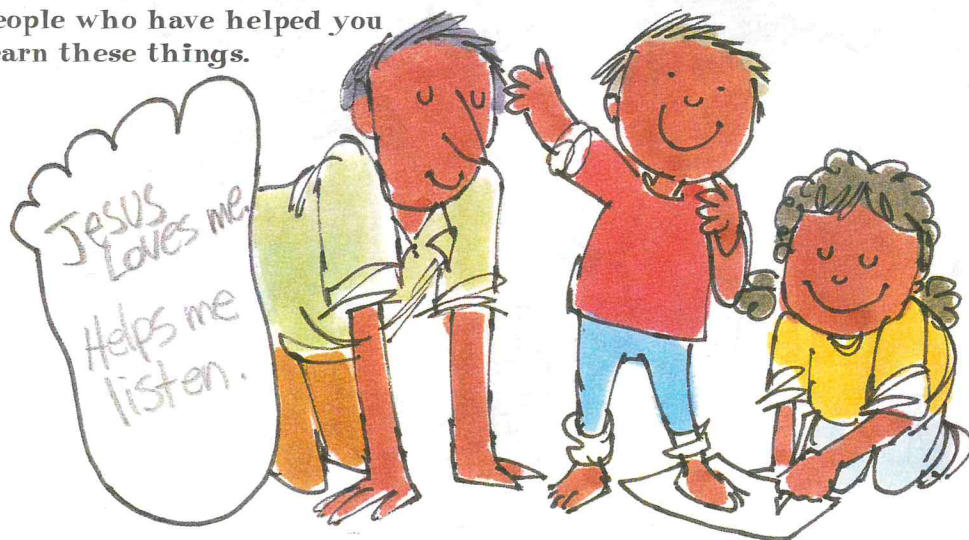
Here is a fun project to help your family remember this week's gospel message.



**1** Have each member of the family stand on a large sheet of paper while someone else traces around his or her feet.

**2** On one foot, write some of the things you already know about Jesus. On the other foot, write the names of people who have helped you learn these things.

**3** Now cut out the paper feet and save them to remind you that you are followers of Jesus. Every time you learn something new about Jesus, you can add it to the list on your footprints.



## EXPLAINING GOD'S WORD

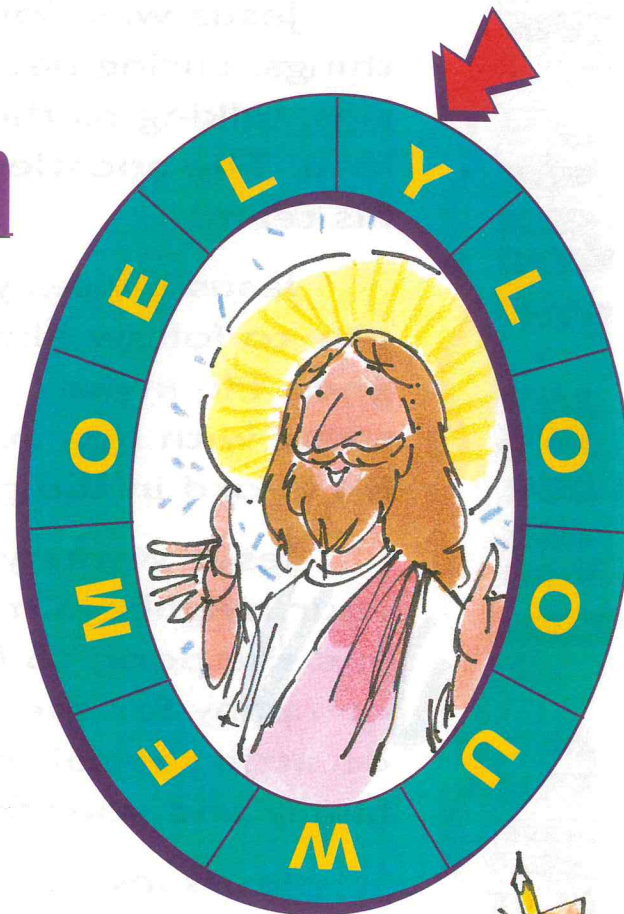
Third Sunday in Ordinary Time



Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (B) • Mark 1:14–20 • January 21, 2024

## Invitation from Jesus

Starting at the arrow, read every other letter circling the picture to find out what Jesus told the apostles.



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 \_\_\_\_\_  
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# Come Join the Team!

In today's gospel story Jesus invites the apostles to follow him.

Jesus had stories to share with them, stories about God and love and how to live a good life; stories they really wanted to hear.

Jesus was doing so many great things: curing people and forgiving sins, talking to them about God's love. The apostles wanted to be on his team!

Jesus invites you in the same way to follow him wherever he goes. He invites you to pray often, to be with him at Mass, to listen to his Word in the gospels.

Jesus wants you to love your neighbors, to help the sick and the poor, to be good company for the lonely, and to do little special things for your family and your friends.

Jesus invites you today! Can you say YES to him?





# Family Page

Belief in guardian angels has its roots in Scripture (see Matthew 18:10). We all need the comfort of knowing we are being cared for every moment of our lives.

Your children know, of course, that you are here to take care of their needs and their safety. But they need to feel God's love and the presence of divine protection when they are alone.

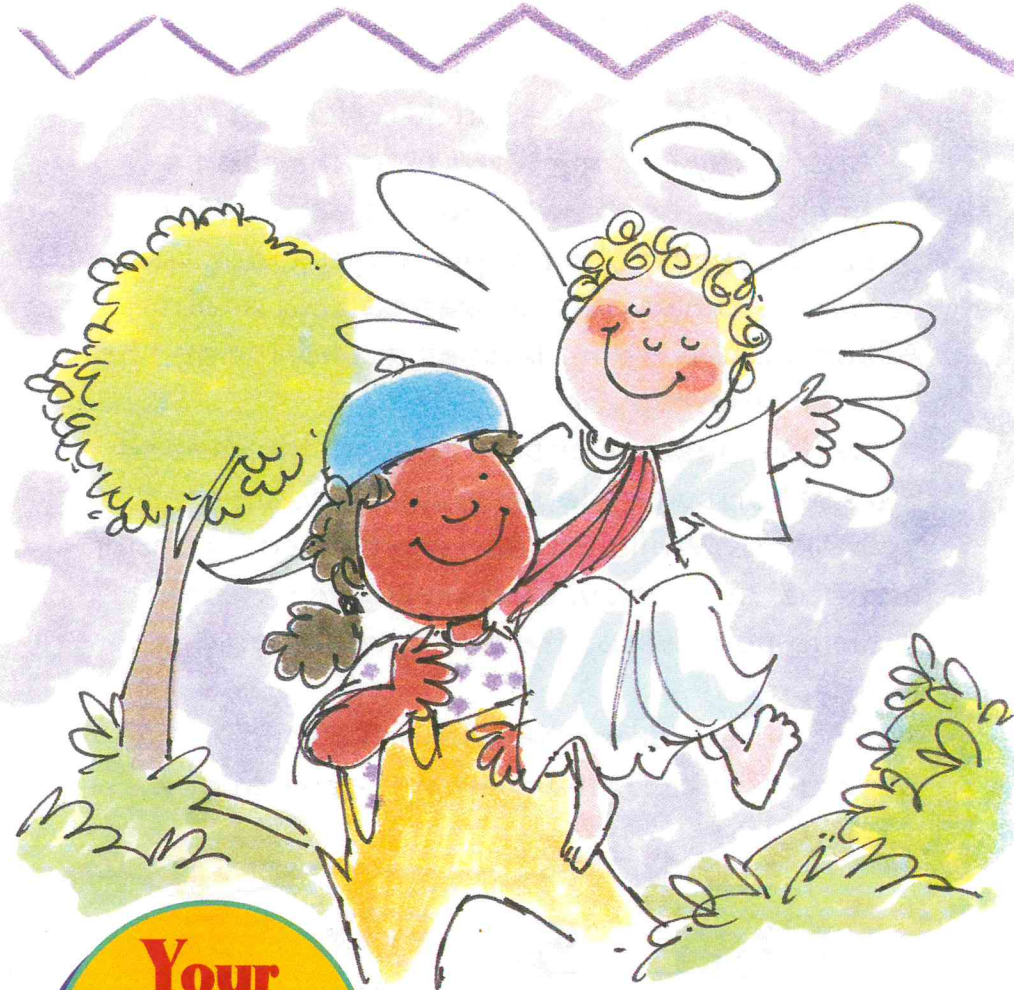
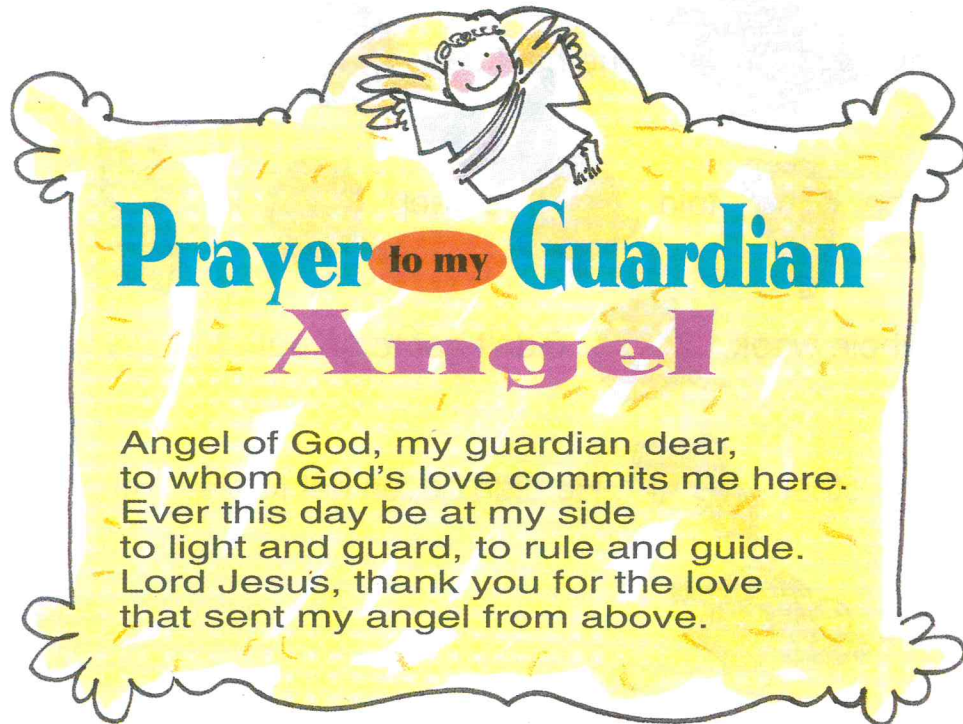
Introduce them to their own personal guardian angels. Explain that God has assigned a special angel to each and every one of us. Let them know that *their* angel cares about them because *God* cares about them.

Cut out the Guardian Angel Prayer. Hang it on the refrigerator.



## explaining GOD'S WORD

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B) • Mark 1:21–28 • January 28, 2024



**Your  
Very Own  
Angel**

Jesus gives you a very special friend, one who has the **AUTHORITY** to protect you and watch over you all through your life.



# a BIG word

In this week's gospel story, the people who listen to Jesus' words are surprised to hear him speak with such AUTHORITY.

Authority is a big word that means to be in charge, to know all about something. Jesus spoke to the people about God, and he certainly knew what he was talking about. After all, there's no better authority on the Father than the Son.

Before Jesus went to heaven, he passed his authority to his apostles, who passed it to bishops. While priests work directly under bishops' authority, God also gives charge over us to others, like our parents and teachers.

Of course, some people don't follow authority, like Sammy in the rebus story.

## Sammy Stubborn



Sammy hated authority. Last week his mother told him to put on his coat. But Sammy went out without one.

The next day Sammy had a bad cold. His doctor told him to stay in bed for a whole day. As soon as the doctor was out of sight, Sammy got up and began playing with

his toys. The next day Sammy was sicker.

The doctor told his mother to keep Sammy in bed for a whole week. Sammy didn't get to go out and play with

the other kids. He didn't even get to play with

his toys.

**Have You Ever Been A Sammy Stubborn?**



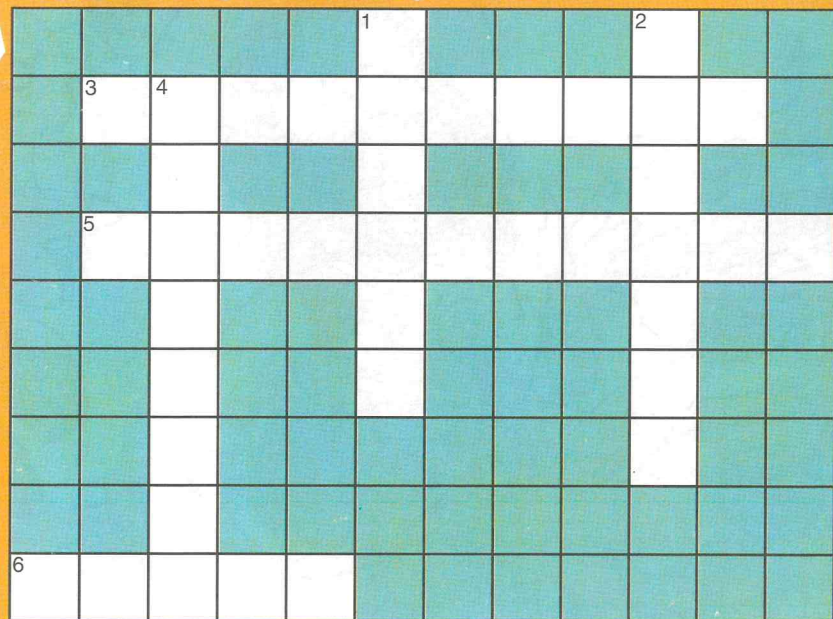
# Family Page

## Gospel Crossword

Here is a crossword puzzle all about this week's gospel. If you don't know some of the answers, you will find them hidden in the story inside. After you have finished the puzzle, pass paper out to everyone in your family. Each person think of something really nice that somebody in your family has done for you this week. Write them a special thank you note and give it to them.

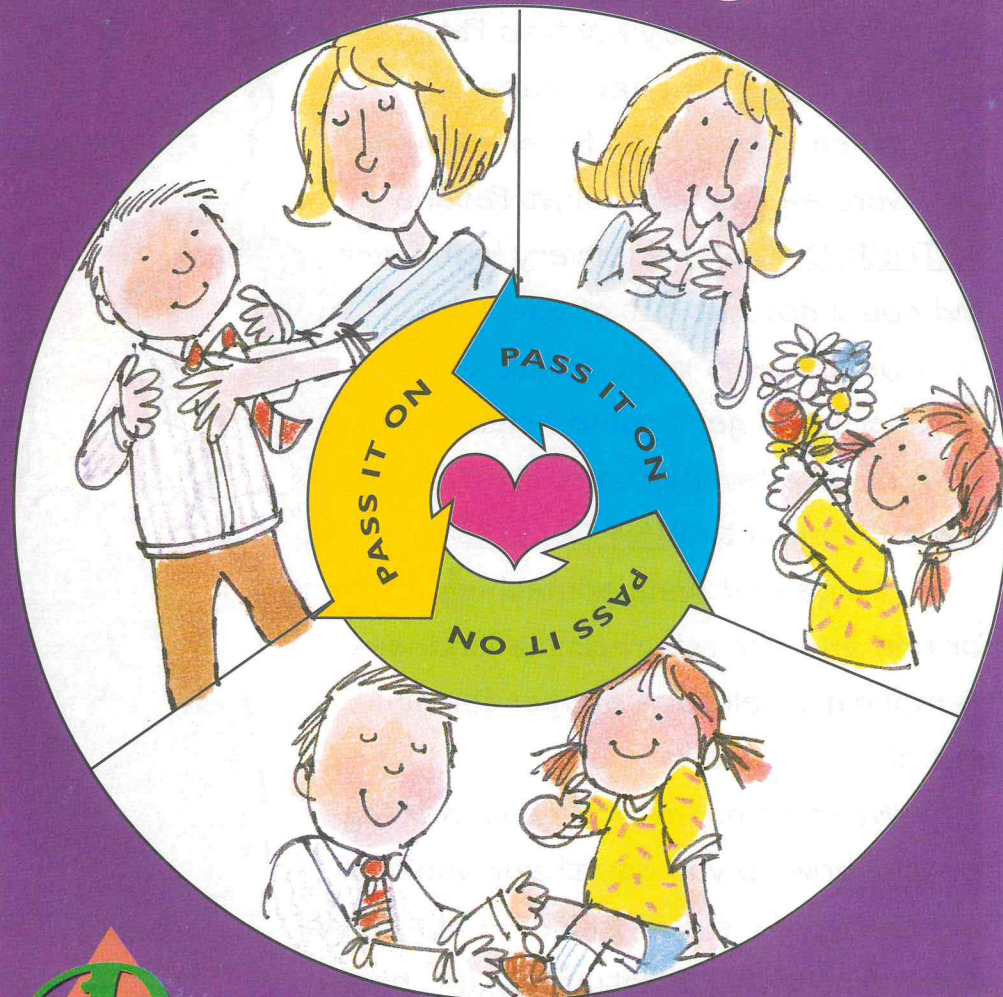


- Who was teaching in the temple (6 across)?
- Who was with him (4 down)?
- Besides teaching, what else was Jesus doing (2 down)?
- Why did they all go to Peter's house (1 down, 2 words)?
- Who was sick at Peter's house (5 across)?
- What did she do as soon as she was well (3 across, 3 words)?



# explaining GOD'S WORD

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B) • Mark 1:29–39 • February 4, 2024



Do you know the best way to make love grow?  
When someone does something nice for you — just pass it on.



# Passing it on

One day JESUS was with his APOSTLES. He was teaching in the temple and HEALING those who were sick. Afterward, they went to Peter's house TO REST and have supper.

When they got to Peter's house, they were sad to learn that Peter's MOTHER-IN-LAW had a very high fever and could not get out of bed.

Jesus went right to her side. He took her hand gently and helped her to her feet. The fever left her right away and she began to WAIT ON THEM.

Jesus had done something loving for her, and she returned his kindness by making a delicious supper for him and all his apostles.

When someone does a kind thing for you, how do you say thank you? To say the words is really nice — but to do something loving in return is the “pass-it-on” way of this gospel. That's the very best way to keep love alive!

The next time anyone does something nice for you, do something nice for someone else.





# Family Page



On a slip of paper, each of you write your name. Then place all the names in a bowl and mix them up. Take turns drawing names. (If you draw your own, put it back and try for another.) The name you draw becomes your "secret friend" for the next week. Don't let anyone know who your secret friend is.

Look for ways to be nice to your secret friend.

Here are some things you could do for your secret friend.

**1** Do a chore your secret friend is supposed to do.

**2** Write a note to your secret friend telling him or her about the qualities or talents he or she has that you really like. Don't sign the note!

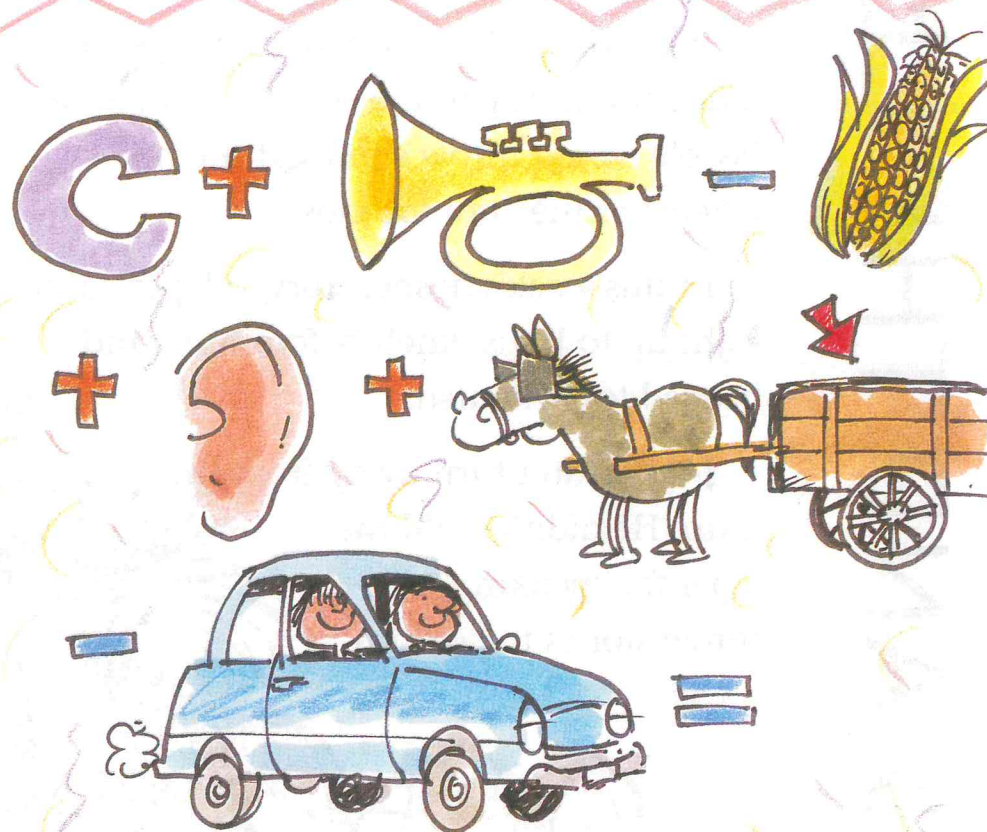
**3** Leave small gifts on your friend's pillow in the morning (prayer cards, medals, something you made yourself...). Don't get caught!

**4** Pray every night for your secret friend.



# explaining GOD'S WORD

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B) • Mark 1:40–45 • February 11, 2024



**JESUS CAN SEE THE BEAUTY IN EVERYONE'S**

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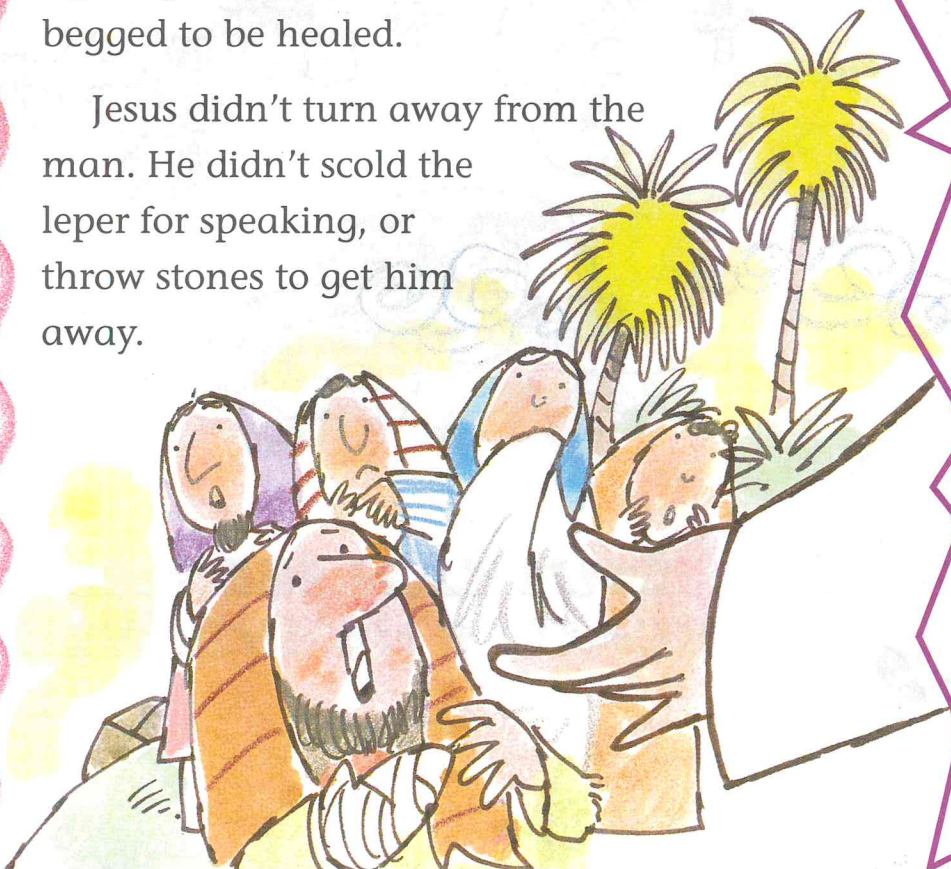
# JESUS AND THE LEPER

**T**he saddest people in Jesus' day were the lepers. Leprosy was a terrible sickness. Lepers had sores all over them, on their faces and hands and legs. People were afraid of the lepers.

Instead of taking care of them, people made them stay in the country, all alone. People would throw stones at them whenever they got too close.

In this week's gospel story, a leper came right up to Jesus, knelt before him, and begged to be healed.

Jesus didn't turn away from the man. He didn't scold the leper for speaking, or throw stones to get him away.



He could see the kindness and beauty hidden deep in the leper's heart.

Jesus ignored the sores and the sickness. He touched the man lovingly, and healed him.

## Magic Square

Hidden in this magic square are some of the things sometimes hidden in people's hearts. How many can you find?

O	M	P	R	A	I	S	E	B	F
V	S	R	K	Q	M	T	L	G	A
E	F	A	I	T	H	U	W	E	X
K	N	Y	N	F	E	I	O	N	J
B	J	E	D	N	L	O	Y	T	N
N	F	R	N	B	P	S	I	L	A
L	O	V	E	Z	F	A	X	E	U
X	L	T	S	W	U	Y	H	N	L
R	A	L	S	I	L	S	P	E	B
H	A	P	P	I	N	E	S	S	N

PRaise; PRayer; FAITH; KINDNESS; LOVE; HAPPINESS