

The Gospel at Home

This Week's Gospel: John 9:1-41

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus opens the eyes of a man blind from birth. It is the man born blind who sees Jesus for who he really is. The man's neighbors, parents, and teachers have sight but are blind to who Jesus is. In many parishes, those preparing for Baptism receive the Creed this week, and many of this week's lessons help young people know the Creed.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): Young children are proud of their ability to recognize objects and call them by name. Ask your child to name different colors and shapes in your house. Teaching them the names of the different flowers, birds, and animals around them is a concrete way to help children see the wonders of God's Creation.

Promise (Grades K-1): This week your child learned to appreciate the sense of sight. Ask your child to share with the family the story of the man who was born blind. Talk about what a gift it is to see the wonders of God's world. Consider taking a walk around your neighborhood or area and notice all the things we can see and believe. Then talk about the many things we can't see, but we still believe, such as love.

Good News (Grades 2-3): Ask your child to show you the puppets he or she made in class. You may want to use the puppets to act out the Gospel story of the man born blind. Ask your child what a creed is. Talk together about what it means to believe and why it is important that we say the Creed at every Sunday Mass. Consider going outside to find signs of Spring like the story the class read this week.

Venture (Grades 4-6): In class, your child read a comic telling the story of the blind man whose sight was healed by Jesus. Have your child point out the part of the story that they find most comforting or challenging. Ask your child to share something they learned about either the Nicene or the Apostle's Creed with your family. As a family, discuss how your faith has grown with each of you, and how you hope your faith will keep growing.

Visions (Grades 7-8): The Gospel of the man born blind gave your child's class an opportunity to learn what it means to really see. Ask your child to tell the whole family about Louie—a legally blind teenager who works to help other people see. Talk about all the different ways of "seeing." Although we often say, "Seeing is believing," talk together about how "believing is seeing." You might want to end your family chat by reciting the Apostles' Creed (found on the last page of your child's lesson).

Pray Together

Have each member of the family write a "Prayer Tweet." That means that the prayer can be only 140 characters or less. The prayer should be about how important it is to really see or to ask God to help you overcome your blindness. Younger children will need some help with their prayers. After all the prayers are written, let each person share his or her prayer with the family. If members of your family use Twitter, you may want to share these prayers with your followers, too.