

## Fourth Sunday of the Year

### The power of Jesus

#### INTRODUCTION

Everyone knew Jesus as an ordinary carpenter, the son of Mary and Joseph; but Jesus was also the son of God. Today we hear how the people in Capernaum began to realize that there was something very special about Jesus of Galilee.

#### SIGN OF THE CROSS

#### LIGHT THE CANDLES

Light the candles and read these words:

I, the Lord, will be your everlasting light and my glory will shine on you always. (Isaiah 60:19)

#### SORRY

God is always ready to forgive us and welcome us back to his love. Listen to this story:

Once there was a loving father whose son left home and lived a life of selfishness. His father felt sad and lonely but never stopped loving his son. One day the son returned to ask for his father's forgiveness. His father hugged and kissed him and forgave everything he had done.

(Luke 15:11-24)

We all make mistakes and do things which are wrong. If we remember this story we will never feel afraid to say "I'm sorry" to God.

#### GLORIA

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia

Your word is a light for my path,  
a lamp to guide me closer to you.

Alleluia, alleluia.

#### GOSPEL (MARK 1:21-27)

Jesus was staying in a town called Capernaum, and on the Sabbath day, he went to the synagogue to pray. There he began to teach the people, and they were amazed because he spoke to them of God in a way that no one else had ever done before. Suddenly he was interrupted by a man who was disturbed by an evil spirit. He shouted loudly at Jesus, and everyone was afraid.

Jesus said in a firm voice. "Be quiet, spirit, and leave this man in peace." The man began to shake, and then with a loud cry, the spirit left him. Everyone was amazed by what had taken place. "What is happening?" they asked. "This man Jesus can explain scriptures like no one else, and even the spirits will obey him."

#### DISCUSSION

A synagogue is a building where the Jewish people meet to pray and listen to the scriptures. Where do Christians meet to listen to God's word? We meet every week in church to listen to God's word. Each week we gather together as a family to listen to the word of God.

The readings are taken from the Bible, a very special book which tells of God's great love for his people. It is divided into two main parts: the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament tells us about the history of the Jewish people and of God's love for all creation. The New Testament tells us about the life and teaching of Jesus and his apostles.

God speaks to us through the words of the readings. He calls us to follow him, and by listening carefully and understanding what we hear, he can work in our lives.

Jesus explained the scripture readings to the people in a way that was very different. As God's son, he understood the scriptures as no one else could and was able to explain their true meaning.

The people saw a glimpse of Jesus' power when he cured the man filled with an evil spirit. He revealed something of God's power and might over all living things.

#### ACTIVITY

Four popular stories from the Old and New Testaments are illustrated. Each picture and story should be discussed and explained to the children. The pictures can then be cut out and colored, then made into individual booklets or enlarged and hung on a display.

#### CREED

#### CLOSING PRAYER

Help us to listen carefully to your words, Lord, and keep them forever in our hearts.