

## Fifth Sunday of the Year

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### Jesus cures the sick

#### INTRODUCTION

Jesus loves all people with a love so great that he died for us. Throughout his life he showed this love by curing the sick and making time to share with others.

#### SIGN OF THE CROSS

#### LIGHT THE CANDLES

Light the candles and read:

Jesus, you are the light of the world; may we see the light of your love and feel its warmth in the lives of the people we meet each day.

#### SORRY

As we sing our song together, let us ask for God's help to make a fresh start. Sing Sorry Song 2.

#### GLORIA

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 1.

#### GOSPEL (MARK 1:29-39)

After preaching in the synagogue, Jesus and his disciples went to Peter's house to share a meal together. When they got there, Peter's wife told them that her mother had been taken ill and was suffering from a high fever. Jesus went to her, took her by the hand and, as he helped her up, the fever disappeared and she felt well again.

That evening, crowds of sick people gathered around Peter's house, and Jesus cured many of them. Early the next morning, Jesus went off to a quiet place to pray. When his disciples found him, they said, "Lord, everyone is looking for you. They have heard of the marvelous things you have done." Jesus told them, "I must go and visit other villages, too, because I came to tell the Good News to everyone."

#### DISCUSSION

In today's Gospel, the mother of Peter's wife was suffering from a fever. How do you feel when you

have a fever? When Jesus heard of the woman's suffering he immediately went to comfort her and make her well again.

Everyone in Capernaum soon heard about Jesus, from his amazing teaching in the synagogue to his power over illness and evil spirits. A crowd of people suffering from all kinds of diseases gathered outside Peter's house to wait for Jesus.

Even though he was tired, Jesus took pity on the sick and cured many of their diseases. He never turned away from anyone who needed him. His compassion and love were so great that he always helped those who needed him. The people's love for him must have grown even greater that day.

Early the next morning, Jesus went off alone to pray. Despite the crowds and being so busy healing the people, Jesus remembered to spend time with God.

By his actions, Jesus helps us to understand that there are many people in the world who need our help, and we, too, should always be ready to give our time to help them. One way we can help those who are sick and suffering is by praying for them and asking Jesus to make them better.

Often before performing a miracle, Jesus would pray to his heavenly father. Time after time, he reminds us of the importance and power of prayer, and of making time to spend with God. Do each of you remember to spend a little time each day in prayer?

#### ACTIVITY

Copy the illustrated prayers and compile a booklet for each child. Include a few blank pages and encourage older children to write and illustrate their own prayers.

#### CREED

#### CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, you are always ready to make time for others, especially those who come to you with worries or troubles.

Thank you for your love and goodness, and help me remember to make time to spend alone with you.