

St. James Faith on the Go

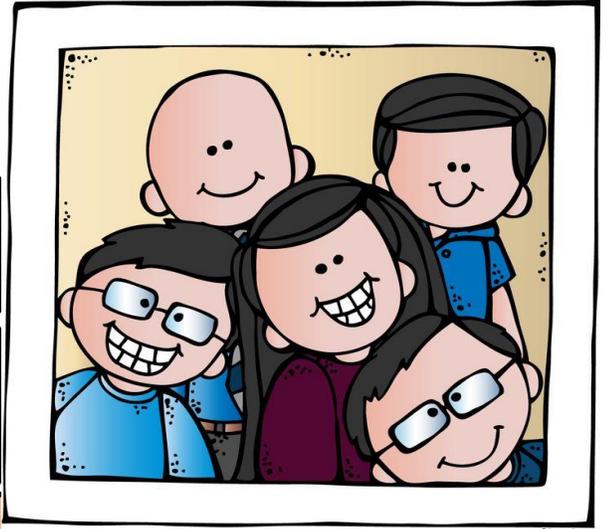
Date: Sept 26, 2021

Message: Jesus' Winning Team

Gospel: Mark 9:38-41

Opening Prayer: God is for Me by Lifetree Kids

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZmMFCMiT-ac>



Warm Up: I love the Fall! What are some great things about

Fall?

I love football, any kind: high school, college (Go Blue!) or professional!

You look around and see people wearing their team hats and shirts and there is hope that your team will be the best, even the Lions!

My favorite thing about watching sports is seeing people try their hardest for the team.

Have you ever been on a team? There are all kinds of teams: chess, dance, robotics, even reading!

What does it feel like to be part of a team?

Jesus has recruited you to be on His team and He has recruited your parents to be assistant coaches!

Every team has a name, right? Jesus' team is called The Disciples. They are also called Christians because we follow Christ, another name for Jesus.

Our squad of Jesus' team are the Catholics. But everyone who follows Jesus is a disciple.

Every team has a goal. The Lions want to win the Superbowl. A soccer team wants to win a trophy.

A reading team might have a goal of reading one hundred books.

What about Jesus's team? What is our Goal?

One of Jesus' Hall of Fame disciples was St. Paul. He taught many people in many different lands about Jesus and wrote them letters to encourage them.

You have those letters in the Bible. In Paul's letter to the Philippians he wrote, "I run straight toward the goal in order to win the prize, which is God's call to the life above." What is that life above? Heaven!

Faith on the Go will help us get in shape, meet with our coach, strengthen our spiritual muscles, and learn Jesus' plays using his playbook.

What do you think his playbook is? The Bible! In the New Testament of the Bible we will learn the teachings of Jesus and how He wants us to win the prize of life in heaven with Him.

Gospel Proclamation: Mark 9:38-41

Background: As disciples we learn about Jesus and try to live as he did. One of the miracles Jesus did was healing people by driving out demons. Having a demon was like a sickness that some people had where they might do dangerous things and hurt themselves or others. Jesus would tell the demon to go away and the person would be cured. Jesus taught his disciples to drive out demons also. Let's see what happens when one of them sees someone else doing it.

Read, or have your students read Mark 9:38-41.

What does it mean?

Why did John want the man to stop driving out demons? (John didn't know the man so he didn't think he was on Jesus' team.)

What did Jesus say? (Whoever is not against us is for us.)

If we see someone acting kindly he is likely on Jesus' team and we should not stop her. Jesus wants everyone to be on His team because that is how we win the prize. And what is the prize? (Life in heaven with Him)

Faith in Action:

If you were on a football or soccer or dance team, what do you have to do?

1. Get in shape: How would you do that? you might look in a mirror and say, I need to lose weight or I need to build up my muscles.

On Team Jesus we have to get in shape also. We might need to look at ourselves on the inside! We might ask if we are being kind to everyone in our family, in our neighborhood or at school. We might ask ourselves if we always tell the truth.)

2. Listen to the Coach: Why is it important for players to listen to their coach? (The coach knows ways to become better athletes and will tell you what you need to do.)

Jesus is our coach. How do we listen to Him? He can help us with any of our worries and stress. He can tell us how to solve our problems. He gives us strength and courage.

3. Learn the playbook: The coach has a book of plays to help beat the competition. The players study the playbook so they can follow the coach's plan. What do you think is Jesus' playbook? The Bible! Jesus shows us how to be the best disciples we can.

4. Practice! No matter what your team, sport, or activity, practice is essential to make you the best!

5. Work Together. Nobody can win a football game alone. A team needs blockers, passers, catchers, and even fans to cheer them on.

6. God gave us a community to encourage us. How do we, as disciples work together to be disciples? the most important thing we do is go to mass.

When we are at mass we meet with our coach. We reflect on our lives and how to get in shape. We say we are sorry for our sins.

We listen to God's word and learn how we can practice it.

We gather as a team and get strength from the people around us and encourage others.

Respond to the Message: Most teams have some sort of uniform, right? We will design one right now!

Use the paper below with the Team Jesus jersey or draw your own. Color the shirt with some team colors.

Put your name on the shirt. Cut out the shirt and glue it into your faith journal.

If you want you can draw yourself in the jersey. On the top of the page write: I am on Team Jesus!

Around the jersey write or draw thing you do to be the best disciple you can be!

Parents, take a picture of the project and email it to mfitzpatrick@sjnovi.net

Closing Prayer: St Paul wrote in his letter to Timothy, "I have done my best in the race. I have run the full distance and I have kept the faith. And now waiting for me is the victory prize of being with God." 2 Tim.4:7-8

Jesus, as we begin this season help us to look to you, our coach to lead us, run beside us and encourage us to do our best. Amen.

