

October 6, 2019

Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Families

Questions

- ◆ At a time when there has been a fight or other discord in the family, among your child's friends, at school or at church, ask your child, "Can you envision a world without fighting or violence? What would it look like? How would people settle disagreements or conflicts?"
- ◆ This week's Responsorial Psalm, 95, says of God, "let us acclaim the Rock of our salvation." Of course God is not a rock any more than we are sheep, but "rock" is a way to imagine God's strength and steadfastness. Ask, "What else in nature might God be like? A tree? Mountain? Cloud? Canyon? Flower? Sunset?" Explore the many qualities of God through his creation.
- ◆ At a time you find appropriate, ask your child, "Did Jesus' followers ever feel doubt? Were they ever unsure about their faith?" If you have a mustard seed in the house, find it and look at it, or find an image in a book or on the Internet. In today's Gospel, Jesus's disciples asked him to increase their faith, and he responded that faith the size of that little seed could be powerful.

Activities

- ◆ If your child is personally involved in a dispute, discuss the issues and make a plan for peaceful resolution, seeking justice for all involved. With the child, list in two columns what each party wants and then what each could give up to reach a compromise.
- ◆ With your child, plant a seed in a pot and set it in a sunny window. It could be a citrus seed you would otherwise discard or a seed you found or bought. Let the child water it and observe what happens over the next days and weeks. Faith the size of a mustard seed can grow in the same way.
- ◆ Find the image of God in Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel ceiling, looking in an art book, encyclopedia, or on the Internet. Point out to your child how God gives life to humans, just as God's Spirit animates you, your child, and all people. Find other images of God by other artists and compare. Ask your child which images seem truer to him.