

The Gospel at Home

This Week's Gospel: John 11:1-45

Sunday's Gospel describes Jesus raising of his friend Lazarus from the dead. The story hints at Jesus' own Resurrection, which we will celebrate at Easter. The raising of Lazarus puts Jesus in danger from his enemies, but he risks his life to be with and to help his friends.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): Young children learn about friendship from parents, siblings, playmates, teachers, and classmates. Friendship involves caring, helping, communicating, and sharing experiences. Remind your child that Jesus had friends whom he cared for, and Jesus' friends cared for him. Talk to your child about friendship and caring.

Promise (Grades K-1): Your child learned about the sadness Jesus felt when he found out that his friend Lazarus had died. Your child also learned that feelings are important. Ask your child to tell you what makes him or her sad, happy, lonely, afraid, or angry. Ask your child, too, to tell the story about how Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead.

Good News (Grades 2-3): Ask your child to share with the family the story "A Sad Time for Peter." Talk about the sad feelings Peter had when his dog died. Then talk about the meaning of Resurrection—going from death to life. Perhaps the family can visit the cemetery and pray for all the people who have died. In your regular or daily prayers, pray for family members who have died.

Venture (Grades 4-6): Your child's class learned about compassion and caring for others. Ask your child to share with the family the story "Remember the Children" about the Holocaust. Talk about the lessons of the Gospel story of Martha, Mary, and Lazarus. Make and post a list of ways your family can show compassion and caring for others during the last weeks of Lent. Have your child tell the family about Saint Marguerite d'Youville.

Visions (Grades 7-8): Your child's class explored the meaning of friendship and the feelings associated with friendship. Ask your son or daughter to tell you about the "saint" who played video games. Talk about the steps to sainthood. Talk about Martha, Mary, and Lazarus and their friendship with Jesus. Does your family have a strong belief in Jesus, and do you experience Jesus' friendship? Do you seek Jesus' help when your family experiences sorrow or loss? What does the promise of Resurrection mean to each member of your family? Have your youngster tell the family about Megan Gannon.

Pray Together

After dinner one evening, join in a "Lazarus Prayer." Each member of the family can tell the story of a family member, a friend, or even a well-known person who has died recently. After each story, say the following prayer. "Jesus, you promised that if we live and believe in you we will have life everlasting. Please come and grant him/her life forever with you."