

CLOW at Home – Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

Mark 10:2-16

The Pharisees approached Jesus and asked,
"Is it lawful for a husband to divorce his wife?"
They were testing him.
He said to them in reply,
"What did Moses command you?"
They replied,
"Moses permitted a husband
to write a bill of divorce and dismiss her."
But Jesus told them,
"Because of the hardness of your hearts
he wrote you this commandment.
But from the beginning of creation,
*God made them male and female.
For this reason a man
shall leave his father and mother
and be joined to his wife,
and the two shall become one flesh.
So they are no longer two but one flesh.*
Therefore what God has joined together,
no human being must separate."

In the house the disciples again
questioned Jesus about this.
He said to them,
"Whoever divorces his wife and marries another
commits adultery against her;
and if she divorces her husband and marries another,
she commits adultery."

And people were bringing children to him
that he might touch them,
but the disciples rebuked them.
When Jesus saw this he became indignant
and said to them,
"Let the children come to me;
do not prevent them,
for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.
Amen, I say to you,
whoever does not accept the kingdom of God
like a child
will not enter it."
Then he embraced them and blessed them,
placing his hands on them.

At Home Reflection

What are some things that you love about us (your family)? (Allow your child(ren) to answer.) I hope you know that I love you very much too! In our Gospel reading, we heard Jesus teach about love. Jesus was explaining to the Pharisees that, from the very beginning, God's plan was for men and women to get married and love each other for the rest of their lives.*

As Jesus was teaching, people started to bring their children up to Him so that Jesus could touch them, but the disciples told the people to keep their children away. When Jesus saw this, He told His disciples, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them!" Jesus embraced the children and wrapped His arms around them! He placed His hands on them and blessed them. Take a moment right now to imagine what it would feel like to be a child in today's Gospel story. (...pause...) What would it feel like to have Jesus wrap His arms around **you** and give you a big hug? (...pause...) What would it feel like to have Jesus put His loving hand on your forehead and give you a blessing? (...pause...) Let's give each other a hug right now and make the sign of the cross on each other's foreheads. (Feel free to keep snuggling!)

Jesus *loves* little children. He even said, "The kingdom of God belongs to those like these little children. Whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it." Children have great faith and trust. They believe what their family teaches them. Jesus wants *all* people to have great faith and trust in God and believe in what our Heavenly Father (through our Savior & Brother Jesus) teaches us.

You are loved by your family and you are loved by Jesus! Let's show our families and Jesus how much we love them too. What can you do today to show love? (Examples include: Listen to parents, follow God's commandments, pray, share with brothers/sisters, help someone in need, etc.)

*You can find helpful resources regarding separation and divorce at <https://dbqarch.org/divorce>

At Home Activity: Music & Art (& Dance?)

- ▶ Jesus Loves Me Remix | @CJ and Friends Dance-A-Long with Lyrics | @Listener Kids Music
- ▶ Jesus Loves The Little Children / He's Got The Whole World In His Hands | Caleb + Kelsey Cover

Draw a picture of Jesus giving you a big hug! You can play music (links above) while you draw.

Challenge: Learn the dance to the Jesus Loves Me Remix!

At Home Activity: The Hugging Game

Line your family up on one side of the room. Choose the first “hugger” (you could make your choice based upon any category - *oldest/youngest/tallest/shortest*). The hugger stands on the opposite side of the room and silently chooses someone to hug. They cross the room in a silly way (perhaps walking like an animal -*monkey/penguin/frog/crab*- or doing a dance move -*twirling/flossing/the sprinkler/the swim*) until they reach the person they’ve chosen and give them a big hug. The person who received the hug is now “the hugger” and crosses over to the other side of the room. The game continues until everyone has both given and received at least one hug.

More variations of the hugging game found here: [How to Play the Hugging Game](#)