

The Gospel at Home

This Sunday's Gospel: Mark 10:35–45

James and John ask Jesus a question that reveals common human ambitions—to be special, to be recognized, and to have privilege. They want to know if they can be at Jesus' side in the Kingdom. Jesus' response contains a simple and direct prescription for his followers: If you want to be first, you need to serve others. Jesus came to serve, not to be served, and he wants all of us to do the same.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): Young children love to be first, sometimes pushing to be first in line or crying if somebody else is served first. At the same time, the child usually responds with enthusiasm when asked to serve—by handing out dessert or helping carry something. This week, set aside a few minutes to talk with your child about who is a helper and how he or she can be a helper. For the young child, helping and sharing are doorways to an attitude of service.

Promise (Grades K–1): Your child learned that the people who are first among those who follow Jesus are those who serve others. Talk with your child about who he or she considers important or “first.” Then talk about ways that your family can follow Jesus by serving others. Ask your child to tell you the story of “Touchdown!”

Good News (Grades 2–3): This week's class focused on Jesus' call to his followers to be great by serving others. The class also explored ways to keep the Fourth Commandment—honoring one's parents. Ask your child to share with the family the story, “The Rabbit Food Fight.”

Then take a moment to praise your child for being obedient and helping around the house. Talk about other ways to honor one's parents and to make living together more pleasant for all.

Venture (Grades 4–6): This week's lesson helped the class recognize the value of using their gifts for others. Your child also learned the importance of making good moral choices when it comes to respecting and serving others. Talk about ways that your family follows Jesus' example of love and service to others. Talk about what personal or family friends show you about God's love. Take some time practicing the skill of searching the Bible that was introduced in class.

Visions (Grades 7–8): In class, your youngster studied the problems migrant families face and discovered how people of faith are serving them. Ask your son or daughter to tell your whole family about how the Kino Teens (named after the missionary Padre Eusebio Kino) help at the U.S.-Mexican border in Arizona. Discuss the importance of serving others as a sign that we are disciples of Jesus Christ. The class also talked about the common good as one of the principles of Catholic social teaching. What does the common good mean for your family?

Pray Together

Have a “newspaper” prayer session. Find two or three articles in the daily paper or stories on television, radio, or internet news that show a need for the service of others. Say a simple prayer for each of those situations. Invite everyone in the family to look for opportunities to be of service during the coming week.