

The Gospel at Home

This Sunday's Gospel: Mark 10:46-52

In Sunday's Gospel, the blind Bartimaeus had to make up his mind about Jesus without the benefit of seeing him. He asked Jesus for the gift of sight. His faith was rewarded with vision. We all learn about Jesus from what we hear of him from those who teach us and from what we see in his followers. Our faith response is also rewarded with the gift of vision. We come to see Jesus as our Lord and Teacher who leads us to the Father.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): When you help your child become more aware of the larger world, you are helping him or her become aware of the signs of God's love and goodness. That is the way you can help build a foundation of faith. Ask your child to tell you the story of the blind man. Ask: What gift did Jesus give the man? Play a seeing game like "I Spy" with your child. Point out that signs of God's love are all around us.

Promise (Grades K-1): The stand-up figures your child brings home this week will help him or her tell the story of the blind man who came to Jesus. Talk about the gift of seeing. Take a family walk with your child and discover all the wonderful things to see. Look for animals, flowers, trees, and people. At the end of the walk, say a prayer of thanks for all the gifts God gives.

Good News (Grades 2-3): Children of this age are often very willing to follow another's lead. Talk about how important it is to know when to follow and when not to follow someone. The class also explored

the Fifth Commandment and learned about anger and how this commandment forbids the use of violence against others. It also is a commandment about respecting others and all of Creation. Talk about ways your family handles anger and how you show respect for others and the world.

Venture (Grades 4-6): Your child's class came to recognize that Jesus calls them to faith in him as God's Son. From the story of the blind man, they learned that there is more to "seeing" than just with one's eyes. The class also learned that the sacraments are signs that help us experience God's grace. As a family, talk about the sacraments. Share your experiences of family Baptisms and Confirmations, the Eucharist, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Visions (Grades 7-8): Ask your youngster to share what he or she learned about the Second Vatican Council during this week's class. Share why this great event in the history of the Church is so important for today's world. Talk about the lesson of the man who was born blind. As a family, discuss where you see examples of love and faith in your neighborhood, at work, at school, or in the world.

Pray Together

October is the month of the Holy Rosary. As a family, pray at least one decade of the Rosary together. Make the recitation of the Rosary an interesting and happy event. Ask the Blessed Mother to take away any family "blindness" and give you all the vision of those who follow Jesus.