

The Gospel at Home

This Sunday Gospel: Mark 10:2-16

In Sunday's Gospel, Jesus teaches us that from the beginning of Creation, God made men and women to join together in love. All of us are social beings who are created for making bonds of love and friendship with one another. Those bonds become inseparable in marriage. This reality underlies the lifelong, faithful commitment the Church celebrates in the Sacrament of Matrimony.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): Ask your child to tell you the story about Jesus that he or she heard in class. Children are usually open to people of all races and economic conditions—just as Jesus was. Children are especially good at responding wholeheartedly to goodness in others. Display the picture your child drew of your family along with the blessing on the back of the picture.

Promise (Grades K–1): Your child learned that Jesus welcomed the little children and blessed them. Take a few moments to talk with your child about how much Jesus loves all children and wants them to follow him. Your child also learned the Sign of the Cross. Ask your child to lead the family in making the Sign of the Cross before and after every meal this week.

Good News (Grades 2–3): In class this week, your child learned that welcoming others is a way to show respect, love, and concern. He or she also learned that Jesus welcomed little children and blessed them. Another important lesson for the week was the Third Commandment—keeping Sunday holy. Share together ways that your family can keep Sunday holy. Make a plan for some special ways you will celebrate next Sunday and keep it holy.

Venture (Grades 4–6): In class this week, your child learned about the bonds that hold a family together and recognized that lasting

love is Jesus' ideal for marriage. The class also learned that marriage is a sign of God's love. Take some time to pull out some family wedding pictures. Talk about why weddings are such joyous celebrations. Invite your child to share with the family the story of Saint Thomas More.

Visions (Grades 7–9): Your youngster's class identified the benefits and challenges of family life. The class also took an honest look at the problems that occur when parents divorce or separate. Even though families may face serious problems, the class learned that lasting love is what is taught about marriage. Talk about ways your family can bear witness to that everlasting love. Ask your young person to tell you about the two sacraments that are called sacraments of service.

Pray Together

After your weekly discussion, sit quietly together. Then have each member of the family say a prayer to the Holy Family—Jesus, Mary, and Joseph—to help all of you grow and flourish as a family that shows everlasting love.

Gospel Table Talk

- Read this Sunday's Gospel (uscgb.org/bible/readings/).
- Have a conversation about children throughout the world. Unfortunately there are so many children in this world who live with poverty, hunger, and violence.
- Briefly discuss a few things your family and children have that not all children have access to (e.g., enough food, shelter, people who care about them, etc.).
- Pray for all children, especially those who are suffering in any way.

