

The Gospel at Home

This Week's Gospel: Mark 13:24-32

During the next three Sundays as we enter into the Season of Advent, the Gospels tell of Jesus' Second Coming. Although the readings may be difficult for the younger children, the message is clear—Christ is the culmination of history. Children of all ages understand that events often change their world. The Gospel for this Sunday is a reminder that Jesus has come to save us all and will come again to call the living and the dead to life forever with God.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): Your young child needs help in identifying and dealing with his or her feelings. Their lesson this week has been a help to talk and pray about their feelings and to feel more positive and secure. Take time this week to look at children's picture books together and talk about the sad and happy faces. The conversation will let you in on how your child feels.

Promise (Grades K-1): In class this week, your child learned that he or she can always talk to God about the fears and worries of the day. The class learned that the wonders of the world around them are all God's creation. Make time to talk as a family about what worries or troubles you. Promise to help one another remember that God is always there to help.

Good News (Grades 2-3): This week your child talked about things that cause fear and worry. They learned that no matter what, they can turn to God in prayer because they recognize that God is in charge of the world. Ask your child to share the story, "A Prayer for Ethan," with the family. Make sure there are times when your family prays together.

Venture (Grades 4-6): In class this week, your child identified with a child's experience of loss, disappointment, and anger. Ask your child to share the story, "It's Not the End of the World!" with the family. The class also learned about the kind of writing (apocalyptic writing) found in this Sunday's Gospel. Talk about different forms of this writing and how it helps people understand that good will finally win over evil. This Sunday is World Day of the Poor. Discuss how your families prayers and actions can help the poor.

Visions (Grades 7-8): This week, your son or daughter contemplated how to prepare for Jesus' Second Coming. Ask your young person about the story, "End of My World." In the Gospel reading this week, Jesus talks about his Second Coming. Ask your youngster how Jesus' words made him or her feel. Hope was emphasized in the lesson on the Second Coming. Ask how your son or daughter described the faith he or she lives every day. Share the hope you have in Jesus. Consider using the Prayer of Thanks in this week's lesson.

Pray Together

The sentiment in the Bible is, "Come, Lord Jesus." When you complete your conversation about the week's Gospel lesson, make a family litany based on current events. Read headlines from the newspaper or from an online news source. After each headline, pray together: "Come, Lord Jesus."