

The Gospel at Home

This Week's Gospels: Luke 19:1-10

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus enters the life and home of Zacchaeus. Although Zacchaeus' neighbors see him as an outsider, Jesus knows him to be a human being deserving of love and dignity. Zacchaeus' story reminds us that all people are worthy of God's love. We imitate Jesus by opening up our lives to people in the community, and the wider world, who may be hungry or feel isolated.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): Your child has learned about one of Jesus' friends, named Zacchaeus. Friends are very important to children, and this week's lesson is all about friendship. Friends are people who like being with us and who enjoy sharing with us. Ask your child to tell you the story of Zacchaeus in his or her own words. Talk about family friends and how important they are to you. Look together at the meal table activity your child has made and discuss how friends share meals together.

Promise (Grades K–1): This week, your child shared experiences of friendship in class and learned that Jesus wants to be friends with all people. Ask your child to use the picture page to tell you the story of Zacchaeus. Because your child prayed the Our Father in class this week, be sure to say that prayer together at least once a day.

Good News (Grades 2–3): The story of Zacchaeus helped your child recognize the value of friendship. Talk about how Zacchaeus felt when Jesus invited himself to the tax collector's house for dinner. Ask your child to show you the Mass booklet the class put together. Talk about the two parts of the Mass—the Liturgy

of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Share how your family can show friendship to others.

Venture (Grades 4–6): Your child has learned that Jesus invites all people to his table. Ask your child to share some of his or her favorite meal stories from the Gospel of Luke with your family. Have your child recount some of the things they learned about homelessness from the interview they read in class. Review the story of Zacchaeus and discuss how your family can grow to be more like Jesus. Ask your child why Saint Martin de Porres is so important to the people of Peru.

Visions (Grades 7–8): This week's lesson uses the story of Jesus and Zacchaeus to explain the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The moments in their meeting are parallel to the four steps in the Sacrament—invitation, confession, satisfaction, and forgiveness, or absolution. Share how important the Sacrament of Reconciliation is for your family. Talk about ways you can make frequent Confession part of your family's religious routine. Take a moment to ask forgiveness from one another, too.

Pray Together

This Sunday falls right after the Feasts of All Saints and All Souls. As a family, take a few moments to talk about your favorite saints and loved ones in Heaven. Then thank God for the witness of these saints and loved ones. You can make your own Litany of the Saints by having each family member in turn say the name of a saint and all can answer: "Pray for us!"