

Disciples in Mission -- Week 5 -Year III

5th Sunday of Lent:



Isaiah 43:16-21,36c
Psalm 126:1-2,2-3,4-5, 6
Philippians 3:8-14
Gospel: John 8:1-11

(3rd Scrutiny at the 9:00am Mass):
Cycle A
Readings **Ezekiel 37:12-14**
 Psalm 130:1-8
 Romans 8:8-11
 Gospel: John 11:1-45

Memory : "Neither do I condemn you."
Verse (John 8:11)

Family Activities

Theme: God forgives us.
Preparation: Pencils & paper

Memory: "Untie him and let him go."
Verse (John 11:44)

Family Activities

Theme: Jesus sets us free.
Preparation: You will be playing a game later and you will need a scarf. Also have a list handy of the different tasks (chores) that family members do (i.e.: cleaning a window, buttoning a sweater/etc.)

Opening Prayer: Holy Spirit of God, come into our hearts. Bless us and guide our sharing.

Gospel: one person reads the Gospel aloud.

Discussion: (pre-school children): When you do something wrong, do your parents still love you? How do you know? What do they do? (primary grade): Have you ever done something that hurt another person, and you knew you were wrong—but the other person still forgave you? Why do you think the other person did this? How did you feel? (preteens): Are there occasions when a person should not be forgiven for wrongdoing? When? Why? Do you think God always forgives?

Connections: We all do things we shouldn't. We all break the rules sometimes, or hurt other people. We may feel so badly about it that we think we can never be forgiven. But Jesus tells us that he does not blame us or reject us when we do wrong. He forgives us. This is why he wants us to forgive other people too.

Activity: Ask family members to think of something they've done that they feel badly about. Then, using sheets of paper, have people write down a few words or draw a picture about the incident. Then each person folds his/her paper several times and gives it to someone else. Keep papers folded up. Then say, "Ready, 1,2 3!" This is the signal for people to tear up all the papers. Put all the scraps in the trash. Then give more paper and ask people to draw or write about a happy experience. Explain that God always forgives us when we do wrong and we can make a fresh start.

Think about attending a parish Penance Service at your church.

Discussion: (pre-school children): What are some things that you can't do yet? (i.e.: tying your shoes) Why can't you do these things? What would it feel like to be able to do them? (primary grade): Think about a time when you were allowed to do something for the first time because your parents thought you were ready to do it. What did it feel like? (pre-teens): What does freedom mean to you? What would it feel like to be able to do something you can't do now?

Connections: Jesus sets us free. We are truly free when we follow Jesus. Because he loves us, following Jesus & serving Jesus frees us to grow in love.

Activity: In this game, family members will take turns trying to do things while they are handicapped by having one hand behind their back or having both hands tied together. Use the scarf to do the tying (tie loosely) You may also tie people's ankles together & have them try to walk.

Memory verse: practice the Bible verse given above

