



Seek First the Kingdom

Parents in Partnership with God – Sharing Faith with Children

A Ministry of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Immaculata, Pennsylvania

PARENTS – FIRST TEACHERS OF PRAYER Part 6 of 6: Sunday Gospel “Take-Aways”

As the *First Herald of the Gospel* to children, it is the parent-privilege to introduce a child to God and to prayer-ways that engage the child in conversation with God.

Conversation leads to knowing;
knowing leads to loving;
loving leads to serving.

This bulletin is one of six newsletters:

- Prayer Prompts
- Parent Blessings
- Love for Scripture
- Blessed Sacrament Prayer
- Participate in Mass
- Sunday Gospel “Take-Aways”

May the suggestions that follow support you, the parent, to fulfill this divine task.

“All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient and equipped for every good work.”

(2 Timothy 3: 16-17)

This is especially true of the Gospels. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John relate stories and teachings of Jesus. The words, lessons, messages, and advice are as relevant today as they were when first recorded. Prayer happens at the place where the Scripture intersects with our personal lives. So we must listen reverently to catch God’s word for us in a particular Gospel.

Become familiar with the life-giving messages in the Sunday Gospel. Perhaps one sentence will “pop out.” Commit it to memory and put it into your “spiritual pocket” for future use.

Put yourself in the place of each character in the Gospel story. Take away lessons for the heart, attitudes and behaviors to cultivate into personal character development or attitudes and behaviors to remove from your personality, or to avoid, or to tone down.

Let the **Gospel Character** (figure) tutor you or mentor you. Each one has something to teach us. We learn virtue and values from folks like Mary, Joseph, angels, shepherds, kings, disciples like Nicodemus and Andrew, and townsfolk like Zaccheus or Peter’s mother-in-law. We can also learn what not to be when we study folks like Herod, Pilate, Judas, persecuting soldiers, mob-participants who shouted, “Crucify him! Crucify him! The truth is that we are a part of all of these people at various moments in our lives.

Before going into Sunday Mass choose one Gospel Character on which to focus attention.

Then on the travel home or at home share Gospel ABCs with your family members.

A = Attitudes: Manners or feelings that lead to life and loving relationships like openness, forgiveness, conversion, awareness, sensitivity, etc. OR approaches that block life and love like suspicion, rash judgment, self-righteousness, or negativity.

B = Behaviors: Actions or reactions to a person or a circumstance that are life-giving like: welcoming others, sharing gifts of nature and grace, owning up to mistakes, offering reconciliation, asking forgiveness, etc. OR life-blocking behaviors like: lying, betraying another, gossip, excluding others, acting on prejudices, seeking revenge, etc.

C = Consequences: Effects or results of thought and action. Positive attitudes and behaviors produce joy, energy, enthusiasm for life, vital relationships, healing, etc. Negative attitudes and behaviors paralyze. They block the heart to what good there is and negativity becomes a “turn off” to others and, possibly, builds up into depression.