

St. Joseph's Family Activities October 2022 (Year C)

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St. Joseph is the patron saint of the family, and the family is the “domestic Church.” These sheets were developed to support my parish of St. Joseph in Great Malvern, Worcestershire, but they are now used by parishes and schools all over the country. As always, feedback and suggestions are most welcome.

Sunday Mass is the cornerstone of our week; it's the source of grace for living a life IN Christ. We can help the whole family to grow in faith by spending precious moments together to pray as a family, even if it is just a few minutes after a meal. It can be a fruitful time. Light a candle and have a few moments' silence and remind everyone that they are in the presence of God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Start with just a few moments and build up the scope and variety of prayers slowly. Give everyone the opportunity to voice their own prayers as well as reciting (and learning) traditional prayers.



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The gift of Jesus Christ at the centre of our life of faith

It was on 1st October 2020 that the first edition of these Family activity sheets was published and when I look at that first sheet, I can see how these have developed over the two years that I've been working on them! Thanks be to God for His many graces and blessings! One wonderful blessing I have received is in researching of the lives of the different saints. I have learned a great deal about the Church in heaven, and what a terrific inspiration these men, women and children are to us all. And then by reflecting each week on the Gospel for Sunday Mass I have been helped to enter more deeply into the message of salvation that we receive week by week on Sundays.

One new development is that we have been gifted the lovely picture of Jesus in the top right-hand corner. This picture has been given to us to use in family, parish and school catechesis for free, but the copyright still belongs to Roseanne Sharpe, the artist. I have been given permission to use the picture with or without the scripture quote (included below). It is wonderful to have our “own” picture of Jesus Christ to use in these resources. Most of the other pictures are photographs I have taken in churches and the copyright of these photos is mine. Please do use all these pictures in your own catechesis but none of them are for resale! These resources are deliberately provided free of charge and so you may pass them on to others free of charge!

There are Four Dimensions of our Faith, and the activities all reflect one or more of each of these dimensions.

Professing the faith (speaking about it and learning the faith)

Celebrating our faith in the liturgy and the sacraments



Living the faith in Christ (making choices by the grace of Jesus Christ)

A prayer-filled life where the Our Father takes centre stage

Children's liturgy of the word for this week

Discussion on the Gospel



Gospel for 27th Sunday Year C

2nd October 2022

Luke 17:5-10

The apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith.' The Lord replied, 'Were your faith the size of a mustard seed you could say to this mulberry tree, "Be uprooted and planted in the sea," and it would obey you.'

'Which of you, with a servant ploughing or minding sheep, would say to him when he returned from the fields, "Come and have your meal immediately"? Would he not be more likely to say, "Get my supper laid; make yourself tidy and wait on me while I eat and drink. You can eat and drink yourself afterwards"? Must he be grateful to the servant for doing what he was told? So with you: when you have done all you have been told to do, say, "We are merely servants: we have done no more than our duty."'

The Gospel of the Lord

R/: *Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ*

- ✠ Light a candle
- ✠ Make the Sign of the Cross
- ✠ Someone read the Gospel slowly

It's worth showing the children a mustard seed – it's a tiny round seed about the size of a pinhead. So what Jesus is saying that even a tiny bit of faith in Him can do amazing things.

Q: What did Jesus say that His disciples could do if they had even a tiny bit of faith? (A: Tell a mulberry tree to move itself and it would.)

Q: Today's Gospel is about faith. What is faith? (A: It's believing in Jesus.)

Q: What do we believe about Jesus? (A: Open....)

Q: So, we all have faith in Jesus and like the tree it has to grow. What makes a tree grow? (A: Sun, soil, water....)

Q: As the tree is fed by these things, grows and produces fruit, our faith grows and produces fruit when it is fed. What helps our faith in Jesus to grow? (A: Coming to Mass, praying, learning about Jesus, reading the Bible, the sacraments ...)

Q: Suddenly Jesus seems to change the subject and starts to talk about how a master might treat his servant. Does a master normally serve the servant? (A: No.)

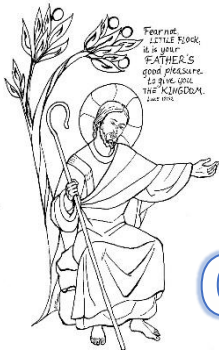
Q: On another occasion, Jesus told His disciples that THEY had to be servants. What does a servant do? (A: Looks after other people.)

Q: When did Jesus serve His disciples? (A: When He washed their feet at the Last Supper. [Jn. chapter 13])

Q: In the Gospel, Jesus is making the link between having faith in Him and serving other people. When we really believe that He is God and that He is inviting us to Eternal Life (heaven) we serve people not because we HAVE to, but because we WANT to. We serve people as a response of love to Jesus serving us. Our serving other people is a response of faith. We treat other people as if they are Jesus. When we do this, our faith in Jesus grows, and, like the mulberry tree does, and produces lots of fruit.

Finish with the prayer of St. Ignatius on the next page which can be coloured in and put up for display.

Note also the pictures of the mulberry tree and the baskets of fruit (not to scale).



Teach us good Lord to serve you as
you deserve; to give and not to
count the cost; to fight and not to
heed the wounds; to toil and not to
seek to rest; to work and
not to ask for reward, save
that of knowing that we
do your holy will. Amen.

**Gospel for 28th Sunday
Year C**

9th October 2022

Luke 17:11-19

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus travelled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered one of the villages, ten lepers came to meet him. They stood some way off and called to him, 'Jesus! Master! Take pity on us.' When he saw them he said, 'Go and show yourselves to the priests.' Now as they were going away they were cleansed. Finding himself cured, one of them turned back praising God at the top of his voice and threw himself at the feet of Jesus and thanked him. The man was a Samaritan. This made Jesus say, 'Were not all ten made clean? The other nine, where are they? It seems that no one has come back to give praise to God, except this foreigner.' And he said to the man, 'Stand up and go on your way. Your faith has saved you.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

R:/Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Children's liturgy of the word for this week

Discussion on the Gospel



- ✠ Light a candle
- ✠ Make the Sign of the Cross
- ✠ Someone read the Gospel slowly

If you are leading this during Mass, it might be a good idea to find out from Father which preface he is using and then (assuming that the children are back in church) he can perhaps say the opening part more slowly and encourage the children to really listen/follow it as he thanks God the Father.

Q: Where was Jesus? (A: On the border between Samaria and Galilee.)

Q. This is important as the Jews did not like the Samaritans and thought that they were not good people. Who came up to Jesus as he entered a village? (A: 10 lepers.)

Q: What is a leper? (A: Someone who has a nasty skin disease that in those days was not curable. Lepers had to keep "social distance" from everyone else and so could not work or go into any town or village.)

Q: What did Jesus say when the lepers asked Him to have mercy on them? (A: "Go and show yourself to the priest")

Q: The priests were the ones who decided if a sick person was well enough to mix with the community again. So, Jesus was sending the lepers to the priest to prove that they were cured and could go back to their homes. How many came back to say thank you? (A: One.)

Q: Who was the one who said thank you? (A: A Samaritan.)

Q: How did he say thank you? (A: He praised God at the top of his voice and threw himself at Jesus' feet.)

Q: Saying thank you is really important. When do we say thank you? (A: Open.)

Q: During Mass the priest says "thank you" to God the Father. Do you know when? (A: Mainly in the Eucharistic Prayer which is a long prayer saying thank you to the Father.)

Q: One word for Holy Communion is "the Eucharist" and this actually means "The Thank You". So, when people receive Jesus in Holy Communion they are actually saying, "thank you" to Jesus for saving them from their sins. How did Jesus save us all? (A: By dying on the cross, rising and ascending into heaven.)

The Preface is at the beginning of the Eucharistic Prayer. It always begins by saying thank you to the Father, such as this one here. (Either read the one below or the one your priest will be using at Mass.)

Around the picture of Jesus, write or draw things that you want to say thank you to Jesus for. When we say thank you to Jesus, He thanks the Father on our behalf.

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord.



Gospel for 25th Sunday of Ordinary Time Year C

16th October 2022

Luke 18:1-8

Jesus told his disciples a parable about the need to pray continually and never lose heart. 'There was a judge in a certain town' he said 'who had neither fear of God nor respect for man. In the same town there was a widow who kept on coming to him and saying, "I want justice from you against my enemy!" For a long time he refused, but at last he said to himself, "Maybe I have neither fear of God nor respect for man, but since she keeps pestering me I must give this widow her just rights, or she will persist in coming and worry me to death."'

And the Lord said 'You notice what the unjust judge has to say? Now will not God see justice done to his chosen who cry to him day and night even when he delays to help them? I promise you, he will see justice done to them, and done speedily. But when the Son of Man comes, will he find any faith on earth?'

The Gospel of the Lord. R:/Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Children's liturgy of the word for this week



Discussion on the Gospel

- ✚ Light a candle
- ✚ Make the Sign of the Cross
- ✚ Someone read the Gospel slowly

If you are able to, it would be worth including the first reading as it's a real image of Moses' faith and perseverance in prayer. The image of him holding his hands up and being supported when he was tiring is a great one. It also shows us how we can help other people in being faithful as Aaron and Hur supported Moses.

Q: Why did Jesus tell the parable? (A: He wanted to emphasise the need to pray continually.)

Q: What was the widow doing? (A: She was pestering the judge for justice.)

Q: What is a widow? (A: A woman whose husband has died. In those days women could not go out to work and so if a woman's husband died then she had no way to earn money and so would not be able to pay the judge.)

Q: What does the judge do in the end? (A: He gives her what she wants just to get peace for himself.)

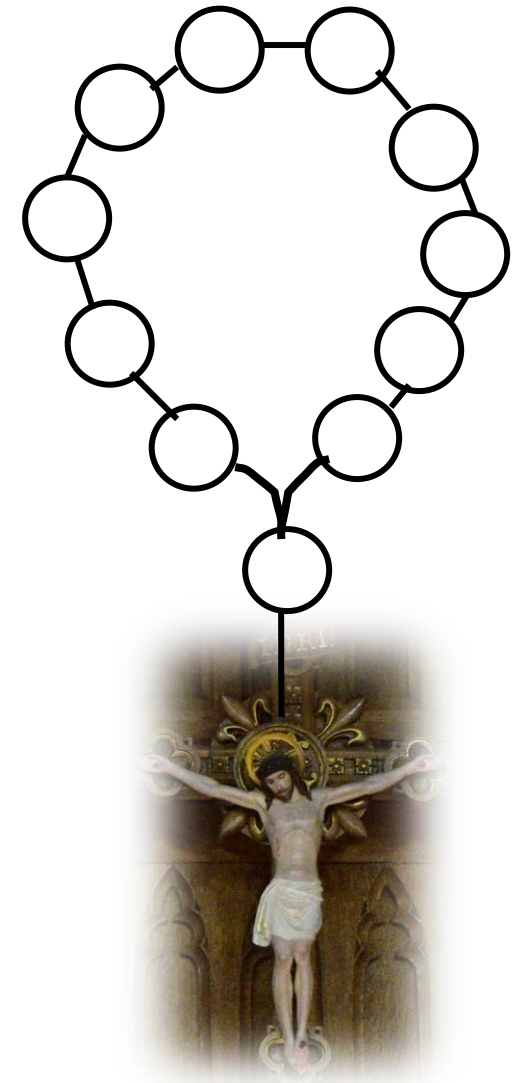
Q: Jesus explains that God the Father is not like the unjust judge. What is God like then? (A: Open, but you could add that God will respond to those who cry to Him day and night – that is, those who keep on praying for something they need.)

Q: What is praying? (A: Talking and listening to God the Father through Jesus Christ His Son by the power of the Holy Spirit.)

Q: Each of us needs to keep praying for things – big things like peace and justice and little things like family upsets. We also need to pray for ourselves. We are good at praying for other people, but let's think a moment, when did we last pray for ourselves? (A: Open.)

Q: Jesus talks about constantly praying, but we can't pray when we are asleep. The Church all over the world is always praying, so when we are asleep, other people are praying. When we are awake and pray, we are joining in with the continuous prayer of the whole Church. Do you know anyone in a different country? (A: Open.)

Q: Think about the fact that they will be praying when we are asleep. Mary, our blessed mother in heaven loves nothing more to pray for us. When we pray to her, because she is right next to Jesus, she asks Jesus to help us. October is the month of the Rosary so let's finish by saying the Hail Mary three times. (More if you have more times, or even a decade of the rosary if you have time).



Pray a decade of the rosary. Colour in One "bead" as you pray each Hail Mary. Think about a different country for each Hail Mary and see if you can point it out on the world map. When you do this, you are praying for the people there who will pray for you when you can't pray. (Don't forget the bottom bead is the Our Father at the beginning, and the Glory Be at the end of each decade.)

Children's liturgy of the word for this week

Gospel for 30th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year C, 23rd October 2022

Luke 18:9-14

Jesus spoke the following parable to some people who prided themselves on being virtuous and despised everyone else: 'Two men went up to the Temple to pray, one a Pharisee, the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood there and said this prayer to himself, "I thank you, God, that I am not grasping, unjust, adulterous like the rest of mankind, and particularly that I am not like this tax collector here. I fast twice a week; I pay tithes on all I get." The tax collector stood some distance away, not daring even to raise his eyes to heaven; but he beat his breast and said, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner." This man, I tell you, went home again at rights with God; the other did not. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the man who humbles himself will be exalted.'

The Gospel of the Lord: R/
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Discussion on the Gospel



- ✠ Light a candle
- ✠ Make the Sign of the Cross
- ✠ Someone read the Gospel slowly

Again we continue to dwell on the importance of prayer. Last week we focussed on continuous prayer and that when we prayed, we were joining in with the ongoing continuous prayer of the whole Church. Here the focus is on where our heart lies in prayer. This session includes a moment of silent contemplative prayer, trying to help the children to realise that prayer is about a movement of the heart, not just formulae of words.

Q: Who went to the Temple to pray? (A: A Pharisee and a tax collector.)

Q: What kind of person was the Pharisee? (A: He was proud and virtuous; he fasted and gave to the poor. But he was also judgemental and looked down on other people.)

Q: What was a tax-collector? (A: Someone who collected the taxes from the Jews and paid them to the hated Romans. The tax collectors were hated by the Jews.)

Q: How did the tax-collector pray? (A: He beat his breast and asked God for mercy.)

Q: What does it mean to ask God for mercy? (A: To ask God not to be angry and to forgive us our sins.)

Q: When do we ask God for mercy at Mass? (A: Near the beginning in the "I confess" and/or in the prayers "Lord have mercy/Christ have mercy/Lord have mercy".)

Q: Why do we ask God for His mercy at the beginning of Mass? (A: So that we can recognise that we are sinful people and ask God to forgive us so that we are ready to listen to the readings and be prepared to receive Jesus in Holy Communion if we are able to.)

Q: When else do we ask God for His mercy? (A: In the Sacrament of Confession/Reconciliation.)

Q: What happens in this Sacrament? (A: God the Father forgives us our sins when we tell Jesus through the priest the bad things we have done.)

We can ask God for His mercy at any time. When we speak to Jesus, and He speaks on our behalf to His Father straight away! Of course, we won't receive the grace that comes in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, but the Holy Spirit still fills us with His love. *Let's shut our eyes and imagine that we are looking at Jesus ... Tell Him something bad that you have done ... Say sorry to Jesus ... See Him smile at you and hold out His hand to you ... say thank you to Jesus and when you are ready, open your eyes and come back to the room. Finish by saying the I confess slowly or the children repeating it after you, so they begin to learn it as a prayer.*

The "I Confess"*

**I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and
sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I
have failed to do,**

***And, striking their breast 3 times,
say:***

**through my fault,
through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;**

**therefore I ask blessed Mary
ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our
God.**

Draw a picture of the tax collector striking his breast and asking God for mercy. Is he going to have a sad face because he is sorry or a happy face because He knows how much God loves Him?

Children's liturgy of the word for this week

Gospel for 31st Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year C, 30th October 2022

Luke 19:1-10

Jesus entered Jericho and was going through the town when a man whose name was Zacchaeus made his appearance: he was one of the senior tax collectors and a wealthy man. He was anxious to see what kind of man Jesus was, but he was too short and could not see him for the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to catch a glimpse of Jesus who was to pass that way. When Jesus reached the spot he looked up and spoke to him: 'Zacchaeus, come down. Hurry, because I must stay at your house today.' And he hurried down and welcomed him joyfully. They all complained when they saw what was happening. 'He has gone to stay at a sinner's house' they said. But Zacchaeus stood his ground and said to the Lord, 'Look, sir, I am going to give half my property to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody I will pay him back four times the amount.' And Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because this man too is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek out and save what was lost.'

The Gospel of the Lord: R/: *Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ*

Discussion on the Gospel

- ✠ Light a candle
- ✠ Make the Sign of the Cross
- ✠ Someone read the Gospel slowly

Today's Gospel neatly follows on from last week's theme of seeking God's mercy. Again we have a tax collector

Q: What did Zacchaeus do in order to see Jesus? (A: He climbed a tree.)

Q: What was a tax-collector? (A: Someone who collected the taxes from the Jews and paid them to the hated Romans. The tax collectors were hated by the Jews.)

Q: What did Jesus do when he reached the tree? (A: Stopped and spoke to Zacchaeus.)

Q: What did Jesus say to Zacchaeus that surprised him and everyone else? (A: That He was going to stay at Zacchaeus' house that day.)

Q: How did Zacchaeus react to Jesus saying this? (A: He was pleased [welcomed Him joyfully].)

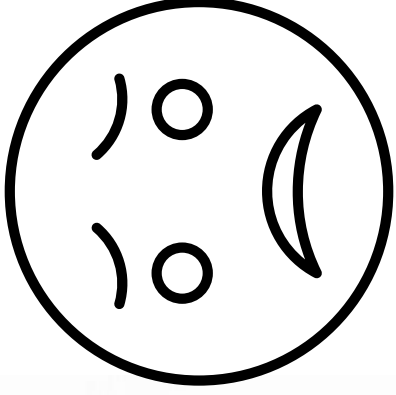
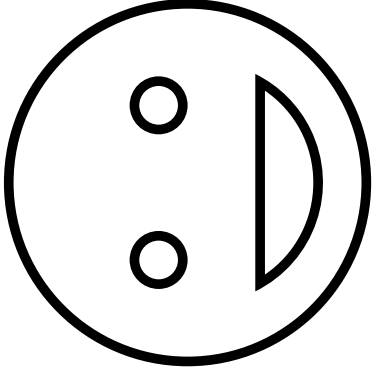
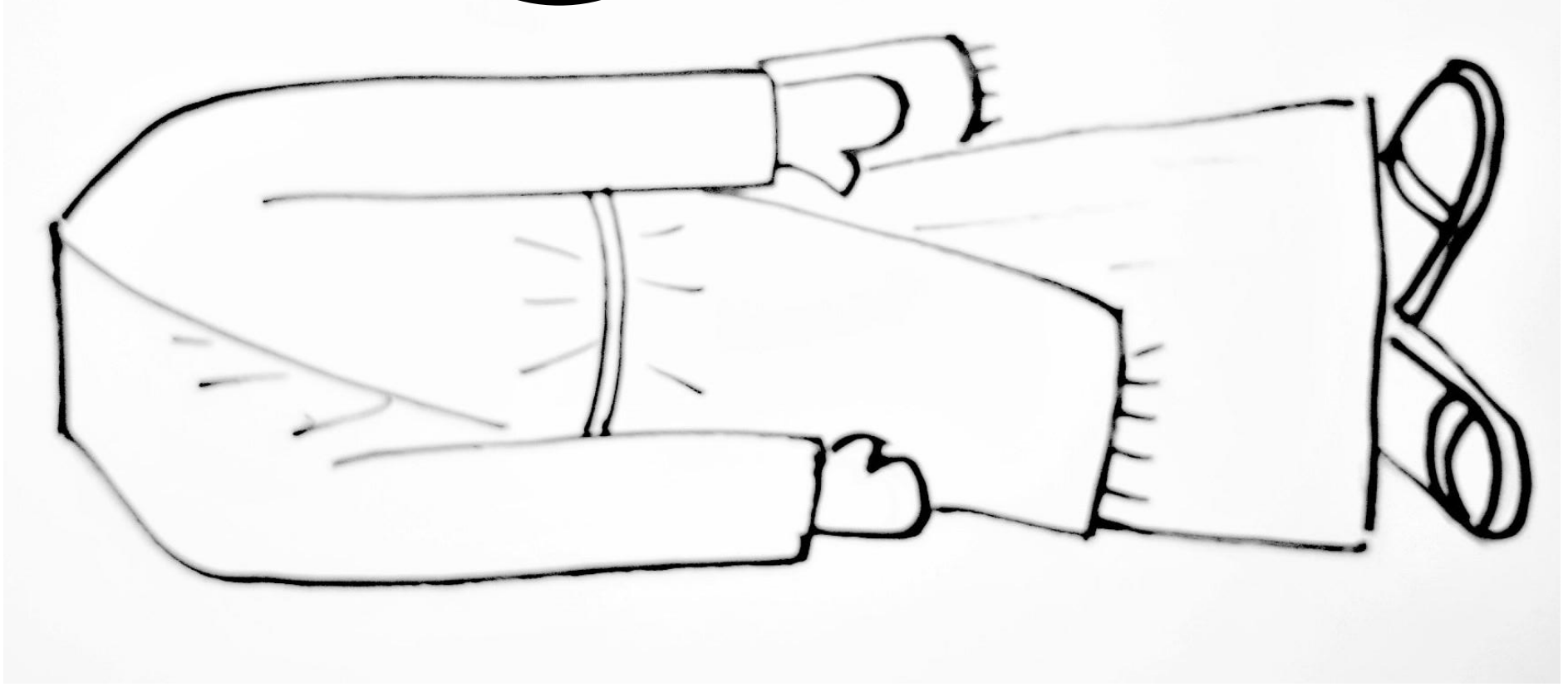
Q: What did everyone else say? (A: They grumbled and said that Jesus was going to stay at a sinner's house.)

Q: What did Zacchaeus do as a result of meeting Jesus? (A: He said that he was going to repay people 4 times and give half his property to the poor.)

Q: This is an amazing conversion of heart! One minute he is a nasty cheating little man and the next Zacchaeus has found joy and love when he meets Jesus. When do we meet Jesus? (A: At Mass, in the Eucharist, in the other sacraments, especially Baptism, when we pray, in other people who reflect Jesus' love.....)

Q: Zacchaeus' whole life changed when he met Jesus and this is who the saints are. Their lives have been changed by meeting Jesus. Jesus wants our lives to change too and so He invites Himself to be a part of our lives. How can we give Jesus a chance to be a part of our lives? (A: Open, e.g., regular prayer, Mass, read the Bible regularly, set up a sacred corner at home, use holy water at home, chat to Jesus throughout the day, telling Him how we are feeling...)

On the next page is a "puppet" to cut out and make. There are two faces – make one sad and the other happy. The sad one is Zacchaeus before he met Jesus and the happy one is after. Cut out the figure and stick a paper straw on the back with tape. Then stick both "faces" onto a thin stick such as a BBQ skewer (better cut off the sharp end) and slide down the straw. The face can then turn from sad to happy. The children can use the puppet to remind them that Jesus makes us happy! Send me photos of the results!



Here is a Zacchaeus "puppet" to cut out and make. There are two faces - a sad one and a happy one. The sad one is Zacchaeus before he met Jesus and the happy one is after. Cut out the figure and stick a paper straw on the back with tape. Then stick both "faces" onto a thin stick such as a BBQ skewer (better cut off the sharp end) and slide the skewer down the straw. The face can then turn from sad to happy. You can use the puppet to remind you that Jesus makes us happy!