We Help the Church

This Week’s Scripture

focuses on all the people who help fulfill the Church’s mission by using their talents in various ways.

Our Gifts

My friends,

The Holy Spirit gives each person gifts to do God’s work in the world. Some people’s gifts help them talk about Jesus, others’ gifts help them heal sick people, and others have gifts that help them teach. There are many other gifts, and the Holy Spirit gives them to us so we can help one other.

My love be with you all in Christ Jesus,

Based on 1 Corinthians 12:1, 4–11; 16:21, 24

It Helps to Know

Scripture tells us that

• we are all part of the one “Body of Christ,” and must work together for the good of all.

The Catechism teaches us that

• God gives each of us different talents and calls us to share them with one another, both in the parish church and in the larger community. (CCC, 1937)

There are many ways to serve in our parish communities. Some people serve in the Mass as ushers, lectors, music ministers, altar servers, or extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion. Others serve through works of social service or charity, such as by helping with food pantries or outreach to the sick or homebound.

Keep It Simple

• One important precursor to service in the Church is service in the family, the “domestic church.” As your child grows, be sure to provide ways he or she can help with household tasks.

• Look for opportunities to volunteer as a family in your parish, such as by helping with a parish mission project.

How Four- and Five-Year-Olds Understand the Lesson,
by Joseph White, Ph.D.

Four- and five-year-olds are often aware of the various people working in different roles in their Parish Church, especially those they see at Mass (musicians, ushers, lectors, etc.) and their own catechists, but they may not be fully aware of what these people do or why. We can help children this age understand the jobs of these special “helpers” by explaining in simple, child-friendly language.

© 2010 by Our Sunday Visitor.
Visit Allelu.com for weekly Scripture readings, reflections, and activities.
Setting the Family Table

**Mealtime Prayer**

Holy Spirit, giver of gifts, thank you for our many talents. Help us see how we can use our gifts to help each other and to help our church family. Amen.

**Saint of the Week**

John Bosco (1815–1888)

Feast Day: January 31

**Did you know?**

John Bosco used his tremendous energy and talents to help countless children live better lives and come to know God.

**Saint John Bosco, pray for us!**

---

**Our Own Special Gifts**

*Match* the pictures to show how the children are using their gifts. *Talk* about how you use a special gift God gave you.

---

**Through the Week**

Select one thing you can do as a family to help a neighbor or someone else.

---

**Ask Me!**

Ask your child these questions, and see if he or she can give you the answers. (If not, give a hint, and review the questions again later.)

1. What is a talent? (a gift, something we do well)
2. Who gives us talents? (God)
3. Why does God give us talents? (to serve him and to help others)

---

*Our Own Special Gifts*

**Match** the pictures to show how the children are using their gifts. **Talk** about how you use a special gift God gave you.
In this week’s lesson your child learned:

- The Church uses colors to mark time.
- The seasons of the Church year help us think about and celebrate Christ’s life and work of salvation.

It Helps to Know:

Scripture tells us that

- “There is an appointed time for everything and a time for every affair under the heavens” (Ecclesiastes 3:1).

The Catechism teaches us that

- the life of the Church is ordered according to seasons with Sunday as the foundation for the liturgical year. In the cycle of the Church year, we re-experience the awaiting that preceded Christ, the celebration of his Incarnation, the drama of his death, and the triumph of his Resurrection.
- just as “the presence of the Risen Lord and his saving work permeates the entire Liturgical Year” (USCCB, Ch. 14), throughout all of the seasons in our lives, God is with us.

How Four- and Five-Year-Olds Understand the Lesson, by Joseph White, Ph.D.

Time is still a mystery for young children, and they are most likely to notice the concrete, visible symbols that mark the passage of time, such as celebrations that mark particular days or seasons. Similarly, they will recognize the passage of the Church year through the change of colors in the Church décor and the vestments of the priest, and through the special liturgical celebrations.

© 2010 by Our Sunday Visitor. Visit Allelu.com for weekly Scripture readings, reflections, and activities.
How the Church Tells Time

Color each priest’s vestment for the liturgical season.

- **Advent** = purple
- **Christmas** = white or gold
- **Lent** = purple
- **Ordinary Time** = green

**Advent,** **Christmas** and **Lent**

**Colours**

*Advent* = purple
*Christmas* = white or gold
*Lent* = purple
*Ordinary Time* = green

**Saint of the Week**

**Francis of Assisi**

(1181–1226)

**Feast Day:** October 4

**Did you know?**

As a young man, Francis lived only for himself, but he responded to Jesus’ call to serve him and became one of the Church’s greatest saints. **Saint Francis,** pray for us!

**Mealtime Prayer**

*Jesus, all year we think of you! We wait for your birth during Advent. We delight in your birth at Christmas. We rejoice in your Resurrection at Easter. We learn from you in Ordinary Time. Amen.*

**Through the Week**

After Mass this week, talk about what color vestments the priest wore. Discuss the current Church season.

**Ask Me!**

Ask your child these questions, and see if he or she can give you the answers. (If not, give a hint, and review the questions again later.)

1. What is one thing the Church uses to mark time? (colors)
2. What does the color purple mean in the Church year? (that we are "getting ready")
3. What are the gold or white "celebration" times in the Church? (Christmas and Easter)
In this week’s lesson your child learned

- God created us to have many kinds of feelings.
- It is okay to have many kinds of feelings.

It Helps to Know

Scripture tells us that

- Jesus experienced a variety of emotions, from sadness at the death of his friend Lazarus (John 11:35), to anger at the thieves who set up shop in the Temple (Matthew 21:13), to joy at God’s grace at work in the minds and hearts of the simple (Luke 10:21), to almost overwhelming anxiety just before his death (Mark 14:33–36).

The Catechism teaches us that

- feelings can spur us to positive action or destructive behavior, depending on how we use and master them. (CCC, 1763)
- true love, which is wanting the best for another person, is the primary emotion and the one that can help us master all others, so that we may grow in our relationships with our friends, spouses, and children. (CCC, 1765–1766)

How Four- and Five-Year-Olds Understand the Lesson, by Joseph White, Ph.D.

From infancy onward, most children express feelings freely, although they might not label them verbally. A major task for children is to learn to express feelings in ways that show respect for others. This will often mean learning the verbal names of feelings and practicing talking about them with words (for example, saying “I’m frustrated because …” rather than having a tantrum).

Keep It Simple

- Make sure you are mastering your own feelings and showing respect for others at home. Children tend to do what they see.
- Increase your child’s “feelings” vocabulary by reflecting what you see when they are showing an emotion strongly. For example, you might say, “I can see that you’re really feeling frustrated because you want to keep playing outside and I said it was time for dinner.” Show some feeling in your words as you reflect these feelings, so your child can sense that you really understand how he or she feels.

How Four- and Five-Year-Olds Understand the Lesson, by Joseph White, Ph.D.

From infancy onward, most children express feelings freely, although they might not label them verbally. A major task for children is to learn to express feelings in ways that show respect for others. This will often mean learning the verbal names of feelings and practicing talking about them with words (for example, saying “I’m frustrated because …” rather than having a tantrum).

Keep It Simple

- Make sure you are mastering your own feelings and showing respect for others at home. Children tend to do what they see.
- Increase your child’s “feelings” vocabulary by reflecting what you see when they are showing an emotion strongly. For example, you might say, “I can see that you’re really feeling frustrated because you want to keep playing outside and I said it was time for dinner.” Show some feeling in your words as you reflect these feelings, so your child can sense that you really understand how he or she feels.

This Week’s Scripture Story

reminds us that everyone has feelings, which come from God.

The Story of Lazarus

One day Jesus learned that his friend Lazarus was sick. Lazarus’s sisters Martha and Mary asked Jesus to come and heal him. But when Jesus arrived, he found out that Lazarus had already died. Martha and Mary were crying, and Jesus cried with them. Jesus assured them that Lazarus would rise again.

He went to the tomb where Lazarus lay, and prayed to his Father in Heaven. Then he said to Lazarus, “Come out.” Lazarus did as Jesus commanded. As Jesus had promised, Lazarus was alive again.

Based on John 11:1–3, 17, 23, 32–35, 38–43

Sharing Faith at Home

Share the Scripture with your child by discussing the events of the story or reading it aloud at bedtime. Discussion starter: How can you know that God always loves you?
God our Father, you created us to experience many feelings. We can be happy, sad, surprised, scared, angry, or silly! Our feelings help us show love for others. Thank you for giving us your Son, Jesus, who loves us always.

Amen.

Model expressing feelings in ways that show respect for others.

Ask your child these questions, and see if he or she can give you the answers. (If not, give a hint, and review the questions again later.)

1. Where do feelings come from? (When God created us, he made us to have many kinds of feelings.)
2. What are some different kinds of feelings? (happy, sad, angry, afraid, etc.)
3. Is it okay to have different kinds of feelings? (Yes, but when we have negative feelings, like anger or frustration, we must learn to talk about them instead of acting out.)

How Would I Feel?

Circle the face to show how you would feel if you were the person in the picture. Then draw a happy picture of yourself.

Ask Me!

Saint of the Week

Katharine Drexel
(1889–1955)

Feast Day: March 3

Did you know?

Katharine was raised by very wealthy parents who lived their Catholic faith every day. Their example taught Katharine the importance of helping others. She worked tirelessly to provide education to those most in need.

Saint Katharine, pray for us!
Sharing Faith at Home
Share the story with your child by talking about its meaning or reading it aloud at bedtime.
Discussion starter: Why is it important to listen to your mom or dad?

We Follow the Rules

This Week’s Scripture Story

helps us understand that we should listen to our parents.

Mary and Joseph Find Jesus

When Jesus was a boy, his family traveled to the city of Jerusalem. When it was time to return home, Jesus stayed behind in the Temple. He wanted to talk with the priests and teachers. On their journey, Mary and Joseph thought Jesus was with relatives who were traveling in their group. When they realized he was not, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. They searched for Jesus for three days. When at last they found him, Mary said to him, “Why have you done this? Your father and I have been so worried.” Jesus returned home with them, and was obedient to them.

Based on Luke 2:41–51

How Four- and Five-Year-Olds Understand the Lesson, by Joseph White, Ph.D.

Many four- and five-year-olds make decisions about right and wrong based on a “reward and punishment orientation,” meaning that they decide what to do and what not to do based on whether they will be rewarded or punished. Young children are primarily self-focused, and will often make decisions based on the utilitarian principle of “what’s in it for me?” At the same time, they are beginning to understand the feelings of others and may begin to have some appreciation for the need to have “social contracts”—standards we agree on as a group that keep people safe, promote the “common good,” and help us to get along with one another.
Setting the Family Table

Mealttime Prayer

Dear Jesus,
you were once a little child who lived in a family and had to learn many things, just as we do.
Please help us as a family to listen and love each other each day.
Amen.

Through the Week
Talk about how the rules in your family relate to God’s own rules for our lives.

Ask Me!
Ask your child these questions, and see if he or she can give you the answers. (If not, give a hint, and review the questions again later.)

1. Who has special jobs in a family? (Everyone—parents and children have special jobs)
2. What is a parent’s job? (To take care of his or her children and give them what they need)
3. What is a child’s job? (To listen to his or her parents and follow their rules)

Who Is Listening?
Circle the children who are listening to their mom and dad. Color those pictures. Tell about how you listen to your mom or dad.

Saint of the Week
Joseph (first century)
Feast Days: March 19 and May 1

Did you know?
Saint Joseph was a humble carpenter from Nazareth who was the husband of the Virgin Mary and the foster father of Jesus.
Saint Joseph, pray for us!
Sharing Faith at Home

Share the Scripture with your child by talking about its meaning as a family. Discussion starter: Name some people who God wants us to love.

We Love God and Each Other

This Week's Scripture Story

This Week's Scripture Story

This Week's Scripture Story

reminds us that Jesus asks us to love him with all of our feelings and all of our thinking and even all of our moving! And Jesus asks that we love each other too!

Jesus Teaches About Love

Jesus tells us that this is how we will get to Heaven:

"You shall love your God with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind; and you shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Based on Luke 10:27

How Four- and Five-Year-Olds Understand the Lesson, by Joseph White, Ph.D.

Love is an abstract concept, but it’s one that young children understand and incorporate naturally as they form relationships with important people in their lives. They experience various expressions of love from their parents (from words of love to hugs and kisses, to help with everyday activities and basic needs), and they can also learn to show love to others in their own way, through helping others, making things for others, and in other developmentally appropriate ways.

Keep It Simple

- If your child primarily relates to others through talking, spending time talking and listening to him or her and showing love in verbal ways is extremely important.
- Likewise, if your child is visual learners, tokens of love that he or she can see are important. For children enjoy hands-on work and physical interactions with others, physical touch is important.

It Helps to Know

The Catechism teaches us that

- “Jesus makes charity the new commandment. By loving his own “to the end,” he makes manifest the Father’s love, which he receives. By loving one another, the disciples imitate the love of Jesus. Jesus says: “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you; abide in my love.” And again: “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.” (CCC, 1823)
- It has been said that charity begins at home. When we wish to grow in our ability to show love to others, it is good to begin with those who are closest to us. But we are also commanded to show love to the most vulnerable or marginalized in our society, and even to our enemies. (CCC, 1889)

It Helps to Know

The Catechism teaches us that

- “Jesus makes charity the new commandment. By loving his own “to the end,” he makes manifest the Father’s love, which he receives. By loving one another, the disciples imitate the love of Jesus. Jesus says: “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you; abide in my love.” And again: “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.” (CCC, 1823)
- It has been said that charity begins at home. When we wish to grow in our ability to show love to others, it is good to begin with those who are closest to us. But we are also commanded to show love to the most vulnerable or marginalized in our society, and even to our enemies. (CCC, 1889)

Growing and Celebrating with Jesus

Lesson 18, Ages 4-5

Sharing Faith at Home Share the Scripture with your child by talking about its meaning as a family. Discussion starter: Name some people who God wants us to love.
Setting the Family Table

Pray this prayer as a family.

Dear Jesus, we know you love us.
Every day we grow in our love for you.
We know you want us to love others.
Please help our family learn to love as you do.
Amen.

Lesson 1.indd 3-4
1/22/10 11:44 AM
Jesus Teaches Us About Love

This Week’s Scripture Story teaches us about the importance of being kind to one another and other ways to follow Jesus’ golden rule.

The Good Samaritan

To help his followers understand how we should treat other people, Jesus told this story.

“A Jewish man traveling alone was stopped by robbers. They hurt him badly and stole his money. Then they left him lying on the side of the road.”

“Along came a Jewish priest. He did not help the hurt traveler.”

“Then along came a Levite, a helper from the Temple. He did not care for the traveler either.”

“Now a third person saw the man who was hurt. He was from Samaria. Samaritans and Jews did not get along well. But this Samaritan man put medicine on the man’s wounds and bandaged them. Then he took him to an inn and paid the inn keeper to take care of him.”

Jesus then explained that we must treat all people with kindness, just as the Samaritan treated the Jewish man who was hurt.

Based on Luke 10:29–37

How Four- and Five-Year-Olds Understand the Lesson, by Joseph White, Ph.D.

The development of empathy begins in early childhood, but continues into adulthood, as we grow in our capacity to understand and respond to the feelings of others. Four- and five-year-olds tend to think the rest of the world sees the world as they do, and may often have difficulty with putting themselves in someone else’s shoes. Still, children this age can learn to identify and understand the feelings of others and respond to them.

How Four- and Five-Year-Olds Understand the Lesson, by Joseph White, Ph.D.

The development of empathy begins in early childhood, but continues into adulthood, as we grow in our capacity to understand and respond to the feelings of others. Four- and five-year-olds tend to think the rest of the world sees the world as they do, and may often have difficulty with putting themselves in someone else’s shoes. Still, children this age can learn to identify and understand the feelings of others and respond to them.

The Catechism teaches us that

• Respect for the human person proceeds by way of respect for the principle that “everyone should look upon his neighbor (without any exception) as ‘another self,’ above all bearing in mind his life and the means necessary for living it with dignity” (CCC, 1931).

Keep It Simple

• Reinforce the main points of this lesson by taking opportunities to reflect on the feelings of others. For example, while reading a story, ask your child how he or she thinks various characters are feeling.

• If you have more than one child at home, encourage them to tell each other how they are feeling, especially during conflict situations.

How Four- and Five-Year-Olds Understand the Lesson, by Joseph White, Ph.D.

The development of empathy begins in early childhood, but continues into adulthood, as we grow in our capacity to understand and respond to the feelings of others. Four- and five-year-olds tend to think the rest of the world sees the world as they do, and may often have difficulty with putting themselves in someone else’s shoes. Still, children this age can learn to identify and understand the feelings of others and respond to them.

It Helps to Know

Scripture tells us that

• Jesus says to love “your neighbor as yourself” (Luke 10:27) and “treat others the way you would have them treat you” (Matthew 7:12). Jesus doesn’t tell us to treat others the way they treat us, but rather how we would like them to treat us.

• If you have more than one child at home, encourage them to tell each other how they are feeling, especially during conflict situations.

How Four- and Five-Year-Olds Understand the Lesson, by Joseph White, Ph.D.

The development of empathy begins in early childhood, but continues into adulthood, as we grow in our capacity to understand and respond to the feelings of others. Four- and five-year-olds tend to think the rest of the world sees the world as they do, and may often have difficulty with putting themselves in someone else’s shoes. Still, children this age can learn to identify and understand the feelings of others and respond to them.

Keep It Simple

• Reinforce the main points of this lesson by taking opportunities to reflect on the feelings of others. For example, while reading a story, ask your child how he or she thinks various characters are feeling.

• If you have more than one child at home, encourage them to tell each other how they are feeling, especially during conflict situations.

It Helps to Know

Scripture tells us that

• Jesus says to love “your neighbor as yourself” (Luke 10:27) and “treat others the way you would have them treat you” (Matthew 7:12). Jesus doesn’t tell us to treat others the way they treat us, but rather how we would like them to treat us.

• Respect for the human person proceeds by way of respect for the principle that “everyone should look upon his neighbor (without any exception) as ‘another self,’ above all bearing in mind his life and the means necessary for living it with dignity” (CCC, 1931).

Keep It Simple

• Reinforce the main points of this lesson by taking opportunities to reflect on the feelings of others. For example, while reading a story, ask your child how he or she thinks various characters are feeling.

• If you have more than one child at home, encourage them to tell each other how they are feeling, especially during conflict situations.

How Four- and Five-Year-Olds Understand the Lesson, by Joseph White, Ph.D.

The development of empathy begins in early childhood, but continues into adulthood, as we grow in our capacity to understand and respond to the feelings of others. Four- and five-year-olds tend to think the rest of the world sees the world as they do, and may often have difficulty with putting themselves in someone else’s shoes. Still, children this age can learn to identify and understand the feelings of others and respond to them.

It Helps to Know

Scripture tells us that

• Jesus says to love “your neighbor as yourself” (Luke 10:27) and “treat others the way you would have them treat you” (Matthew 7:12). Jesus doesn’t tell us to treat others the way they treat us, but rather how we would like them to treat us.

• Respect for the human person proceeds by way of respect for the principle that “everyone should look upon his neighbor (without any exception) as ‘another self,’ above all bearing in mind his life and the means necessary for living it with dignity” (CCC, 1931).

Keep It Simple

• Reinforce the main points of this lesson by taking opportunities to reflect on the feelings of others. For example, while reading a story, ask your child how he or she thinks various characters are feeling.

• If you have more than one child at home, encourage them to tell each other how they are feeling, especially during conflict situations.
Through the Week
Discuss how rules about sharing, taking turns, and being kind follow Jesus’ command to treat others as we would like to be treated.

Ask Me!
Ask your child these questions, and see if he or she can give you the answers. (If not, give a hint, and review the questions again later.)

1. How did the Samaritan help the man who was hurt? (By caring for his injuries and taking him to the inn)
2. How did Jesus say we should treat others? (We should treat others the way we want to be treated.)
3. What are some ways you treat others as Jesus wants?

Mealt ime Prayer
Dear Jesus, help us treat each other the way we want to be treated. When someone is hurt, let us show our love. When someone is scared, let us show our love. When someone is sick or tired, let us show our love. Amen.

Saint of the Week
Brigid of Ireland
(450–525)
Feast Day: February 1

Did you know?
Saint Brigid is one of the patron saints of Ireland. Inspired by the preaching of Saint Patrick, she grew in faith and chose to enter religious life. She had great love for Jesus and tremendous devotion to helping the poor.

Saint Brigid, pray for us!

What Can I Make to Share?
Match the items on the left with the correct item on the right. Then draw one more thing you can make to share.

---

Lesson 1.indd   3-4
1/22/10   11:45 AM
This Week’s Scripture Story

and Helps Us

teaches us that it is important to say “I’m sorry” and make things right when we do something wrong.

Jesus and Zacchaeus

Zacchaeus collected money from people for taxes. Sometimes he took more money than he was supposed to and kept it for himself.

When Jesus was traveling through Zacchaeus’s town, Zacchaeus wanted to see him. He climbed a sycamore tree to better see Jesus.

When Jesus reached the tree, he said to Zacchaeus, “Come down quickly, for today I must stay at your house.”

At supper, Zacchaeus asked Jesus for forgiveness. He also promised to repay the people he had stolen from.

Jesus reassured Zacchaeus that he was forgiven. He said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house.”

Based on Luke 19:1–10

Sharing Faith at Home

Share the story with your child by talking about its meaning or reading it aloud at bedtime.

Discussion starter: When have you said “sorry” to someone?

© 2010 by Our Sunday Visitor.
Visit Allelu.com for weekly Scripture readings, reflections, and activities.

How Four- and Five-Year-Olds Understand the Lesson,
by Joseph White, Ph.D.

Four- and five-year-olds are still learning the rules and guidelines given to them by parents and others who care for them. Your child will learn about the unconditional love of God as he or she experiences your unconditional love, and that will motivate him or her to make good choices.

Because preschool children are developmentally egocentric, they often have little insight into how their actions affect others, but they can begin to grow in empathy as they listen to others express how they feel.
**Mealtime Prayer**

Pray this prayer as a family.

Jesus, sometimes we fight, and don’t share. Sometimes we are not good listeners. But you love us when we are good and when we can do better. Thank you for loving us always!

Amen.

**Making Good Choices**

Mark an X on the children who are making wrong choices. Circle the children who are making good choices. Tell about the good choices you have made.

**Ask Me!**

Ask your child these questions, and see if he or she can give you the answers. (If not, give a hint, and review the questions again later.)

1. How did Jesus treat Zacchaeus? (With forgiveness; he had dinner at his home.)
2. Does God love us even when we make wrong choices? (Yes, God always loves us.)
3. What should we do when we have done something wrong? (We should say we are sorry, and work to make things better.)

**Foster loving actions by spending one-on-one time this week listening, playing a game, and sharing other experiences as a family.**

**Saint of the Week**

Augustine (354-430)

Feast Day: August 28

Did you know?

As a young man, Augustine lived an immoral life. With the guidance of Saint Ambrose, he came to know God. Through his writings he taught countless people about God. He became one of the Church’s greatest saints.

Saint Augustine, pray for us!
In this week’s lesson your child learned

- When we have a problem with someone, we should try to make peace.
- When we disagree with others, we should talk instead of fighting.

It Helps to Know

Scripture tells us that

- we should try to overcome conflicts we have, either on our own or by seeking the help of others. Jesus said to his disciples: “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have won over your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you.” (See Matthew 18:15–20.)

The Catechism teaches us that

- when we forgive others, we follow Christ: “Christian prayer extends to the forgiveness of enemies, transfiguring the disciple by configuring him to his Master. Forgiveness also bears witness that, in our world, love is stronger than sin” (CCC, 2844).

Keep It Simple

- When your child is frustrated, angry, or upset, try the “1-2-3-check” method. Ask these questions: “What is the problem?” (Step 1), “What are your choices?” (Step 2), “Which action will you take?” (Step 3), and “How did it work?” (Check). Over time, your child will learn to mentally go through these steps on his or her own.
- Model the right way to handle conflict by showing patience and reason with your child when he or she acts out or misbehaves.

How Four- and Five-Year-Olds Understand the Lesson, by Joseph White, Ph.D.

The early childhood years are a time of rapid language growth. Kids are learning how to use words instead of fighting, and at times, they push, hit, and kick. They do this even when they have learned better ways of handling conflicts because they are still growing in their capacity for impulse control. In fact, the part of the brain responsible for “stopping to think” before acting will continue to grow throughout the childhood years and is not fully mature until one is in his or her early twenties.

We Learn to Forgive

This Week’s Scripture Story

reminds us that we must always forgive others.

Forgiving Each Other

Jesus spoke to his Apostles about how we must forgive. He said to them, “When someone hurts you in some way, go and find the person, and talk quietly about what happened. If the person will not listen to you, ask others to help the person understand how he or she was hurtful.”

Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, if someone insults me or hurts me in some way, how many times must I forgive him? Must I forgive him seven times?” Jesus replied, “Not seven times, but seventy-seven times.”

Based on Matthew 18:15–16, 21–22

Sharing Faith at Home

Share the story with your child by talking about its meaning or reading it aloud at bedtime. Discussion starter: When have you forgiven someone?
How Can We Be Peacemakers?

Circle then color the children who are being peacemakers. Then talk about how the other children can be peacemakers.

Mealt ime Prayer

Jesus, teach us to be peacemakers. In times when we feel angry, when we want to shout, when we feel sad, help us be peacemakers. Amen.

Setting the Family Table Through the Week

Encourage each member of your family to act as a peacemaker. Invite each person to share what he or she has done.

Ask Me!

Ask your child these questions, and see if he or she can give you the answers. (If not, give a hint, and review the questions again later.)

1. What should we do when we have a problem with someone? (We should try to make peace.)
2. What should we do instead of fighting? (We should talk and try to forgive.)
3. What is one way you try to make peace?

Did you know?

A Native American, Kateri first learned about Jesus from Jesuit missionaries who came to her village. As she grew in faith, she also taught others about Jesus. She became known for her kindness to those in need. Saint Kateri, pray for us!
In this week’s lesson your child learned

- Before he died on the Cross, Jesus shared a special meal with his friends.
- Even though he was afraid, Jesus wanted to do what God the Father asked him to do.

It Helps to Know

Scripture tells us that

- at the Last Supper, Jesus began by washing the feet of his disciples, humbling himself and taking the role of a servant at the Passover meal.
- as he celebrated the Passover with his disciples, Jesus offered himself as the new Paschal Lamb who would be sacrificed to save all people, saying, “This is my body, which will be given up for you…. This cup is the new covenant” (Luke 22:19–20).

How Four- and Five-Year-Olds Understand the Lesson, by Joseph White, Ph.D.

While four- and five-year-olds generally cannot grasp the concept of transubstantiation, they can understand that Jesus shared a special meal with his disciples that we continue to celebrate today in the Mass. They are also capable of understanding how Jesus served his disciples in the washing of the feet and the fear Jesus felt when he knew he was about to die. With children this age, we can say, “Jesus was afraid, but he wanted to do what God the Father wanted him to do.”

© 2010 by Our Sunday Visitor.
Visit Allelu.com for weekly Scripture readings, reflections, and activities.

At the Last Supper

On the night before he died, Jesus was having his last meal with the Apostles. Before they ate, Jesus poured water into a basin and washed the Apostles’ feet. He wiped them dry with a towel.

Jesus explained to the Apostles that he did this to set an example for them. He said, “As I treat you, you must treat one another.”

Then Jesus took bread, blessed it, and broke it. He gave the bread to his friends and said, “This is my body, which will be given for you. Do this in memory of me.”

After they had eaten, he took the cup and said, “This is my blood. It will be shed for you.”


This Week’s Scripture Story

This Week’s Scripture Story focuses on the events of the Last Supper.

Keep It Simple
- As a family, go to Holy Thursday Mass. This will be a great opportunity for your child to see the Scripture he or she has learned “come to life.”
- Discuss ways to serve others, just as Jesus washed the Apostles’ feet. Name specific examples of ways family members can “serve” one another.

Our Lenten Walk with Jesus

Sharing Faith at Home

Share the Scripture with your child by reading the story aloud at mealtime and talking about the events.

Discussion starter: What are some things Jesus did at the Last Supper?
Setting the Family Table

At the Last Supper

Circle the things that would have been in the room where Jesus and the Apostles had the Last Supper. Choose one of the items you circled and tell how it was part of the Last Supper.

Mealtime Prayer

Dear Jesus,
you showed us that we should help one another.
Give us the courage to follow your example, and help us grow in our love for you.
Amen.

Through the Week

Start each day with a family reminder to do one extra kind thing for someone—at home, at preschool, or at work—that day.

Ask Me!

Ask your child these questions, and see if he or she can give you the answers. (If not, give a hint, and review the questions again later.)

1. What did Jesus do with his friends the night before he died? (He shared a special meal with them and he washed their feet.)

2. Why did Jesus wash the Apostles’ feet? (to teach them that we must all love and care for one another)

3. Did Jesus do the things God the Father asked him to do, even though they were hard? (Yes.)

Peter Claver (1581–1654)
Feast Day: September 9

Did you know?

Peter Claver, a Spanish Jesuit priest, spent more than thirty years in Cartagena (modern Colombia) ministering to the Africans brought there aboard the slave ships. He dedicated his life to this work and to fighting against the sin of slavery.

Saint Peter Claver, pray for us!
This Week’s Scripture Story focuses on Jesus’ death and Resurrection.

The Resurrection

It was dawn when Jesus’ friends, Mary Magdalene and another woman named Mary, went to the tomb where Jesus’ body had been laid. It was the third day after Jesus had died. Guards stood nearby. Suddenly, there was an earthquake and an angel of the Lord appeared! The angel rolled the huge stone away from the tomb entrance.

The guards were frightened and fell to the ground. The angel turned to the women and said, “Do not be afraid. I know that you are looking for Jesus. He has been raised from the dead! Come and see the empty tomb where his body had been laid. Then go tell Jesus’ other friends.”

The women still felt a bit afraid, but they were also filled with joy. On their way to tell the other disciples the good news, they saw Jesus. They kneeled before him. He said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell the disciples that they too will see me.”

Based on Matthew 28:1–10

Sharing Faith at Home

Share the Scripture with your child by talking about its meaning or reading it aloud at bedtime.

Discussion starter: How would you feel if you saw the Risen Jesus?
Setting the Family Table

On Easter Morning

Color the scene that tells what happened on Easter morning. Color the word “Alleluia” in yellow or gold. Talk with your family about what happened on Easter.

Ask Me!

Ask your child these questions, and see if he or she can give you the answers. (If not, give a hint, and review them again later.)

1. On what day did Jesus die on the Cross? (Good Friday)
2. What happened on Easter Sunday? (Jesus rose from the dead.)
3. How do you think the women who discovered that Jesus had risen felt?

Through the Week

Especially during the Easter season, include in your home both images of the crucified Jesus and images of the Risen Christ.

Mealtime Prayer

Pray this prayer as a family:

Easter Prayer

Jesus, our friend, our brother, our Lord, we are sad when we think about your death, but we are filled with joy that you rose from the dead! We thank you and we praise you! Alleluia! Amen!

Saint of the Week

Mary Magdalene
(first century)
Feast Day: July 22

Did you know?

Mary Magdalene was one of Jesus’ most faithful followers and was at the foot of the Cross when he died. She was with the disciples who discovered the empty tomb on the day of Jesus’ Resurrection.

Saint Mary Magdalene, pray for us!
In this week’s lesson your child learned

- Sometimes good friends have to be apart, but they can still be friends and remember one another.
- Jesus is with us, especially when we remember him.

It Helps to Know

Scripture tells us that

- even though Jesus had prepared the Apostles for his Ascension into Heaven, they likely felt they were not ready to say goodbye (Acts 1:4–11).

The Catechism teaches us that

- the time children spend with their parents is an “apprenticeship in the preconditions of all true freedom” (CCC, 2223). To live as truly free adults, they must learn to master their own will, to exercise good judgment, and to put off what they want for what they need.

Keep It Simple

- On the way to Mass, talk about how Jesus is with us when we gather as a parish community to celebrate the Eucharist.
- Remind your child that Jesus is with us as we go about our lives each day.

This Week’s Scripture Story

Jesus Returns to Heaven tells about Jesus ascending to Heaven forty days after his Resurrection.

Jesus Returns to His Father

Jesus had been with the disciples for many days since his Resurrection. It was now time for him to leave them.

Jesus led his disciples to a place called Bethany. He raised his hands and blessed them.

As he blessed them, he was lifted up to Heaven.

The disciples praised him and returned to Jerusalem with joy in their hearts.

They spent much time in prayer, praising God.

Based on Luke 24:50–53

How Four- and Five-Year-Olds Understand the Lesson, by Joseph White, Ph.D.

Although they sometimes protest it, even four- and five-year-olds understand that all good things must end. They have to say goodbye to play dates, go to sleep after a good bedtime story, or go back home after a fun day at the beach. A much more abstract concept for children this age is the idea that Jesus continues to be with us through the Eucharist and through his Holy Spirit. While this is difficult to convey to children this age, the point is so important that we must attempt to at least give them “hints” about this for future understanding.
**Setting the Family Table**

**Jesus Ascends to Heaven**

*Use the code to find the hidden picture. Talk about what is happening in the picture.*

![Hidden Picture](image)

**Color code**

- b = blue
- g = green
- O = orange
- v = black
- r = red
- i = gray
- s = brown
- m = purple
- y = yellow

**Mealtime Prayer**

Dear Jesus,
we know you are near us,
and that you love us
and guide us.
Thank you for being with us every day.
We love you
and we praise you.
Amen.

**Through the Week**

Take out some photos or videos of family members who live far away and talk about ways they are still close to you and part of your life.

**Ask Me!**

Ask your child these questions, and see if he or she can give you the answers. (If not, give a hint, and review the questions again later.)

1. What can friends do when they move far away from each other? (They can still be friends and remember one another.)

2. Is Jesus with us today? (Yes, Jesus is with us, especially when we remember him.)

3. How do you think the disciples felt when Jesus left them?

**Saint of the Week**

**John the Apostle**

(first century)

Feast Day: December 27

**Did you know?**

Saint John the Apostle and Evangelist, was perhaps the youngest of Jesus’ Apostles. He wrote the Gospel of John, in which he emphasized Jesus’ divinity and Jesus’ teaching that we must all love one another.

Saint John, pray for us!
The Holy Spirit Helps the Church

This Week’s Scripture Story

This Day the Holy Spirit Came

Peter and the other Apostles were in Jerusalem, along with Mary, the mother of Jesus, and crowds of other people from many places. They were all celebrating a Jewish holiday called Pentecost.

Suddenly, the disciples heard a sound like a strong wind. Then they saw what looked like small flames, resting on them but without hurting them! They were filled with the Holy Spirit, which Jesus had promised to send.

Now they began to speak in languages they did not know, so that all those in the crowds outside could understand them all. The people were amazed.

Peter said to the people, “Be baptized in the name of Jesus, and you will receive the Holy Spirit.”

Hundreds and hundreds of people came to the Apostles to be baptized.

Based on Acts 1:14, 2:1–11, 38–41

Keep It Simple

Spend some time getting to know the “language” of your child by observing and reflecting as he or she plays or engages in a high-interest activity. Don’t guide the play or activity; instead, observe and talk about what you are seeing (e.g., “I see the dolls in the dollhouse are gathering around the table for a meal” or “I see you are using many bright colors in that picture”).

In this week’s lesson your child learned

• On the day of Pentecost, the Apostles taught many people about Jesus.
• Pentecost is often referred to as the day the work of the Church began.

How Four- and Five-Year-Olds Understand the Lesson, by Joseph White, Ph.D.

The story of Pentecost, with its focus on miracles and the Apostles’ ability to speak about Christ and be understood by all, including those who spoke other languages, may be difficult for young children to grasp. However, they are quite familiar with new beginnings, and they can understand that Pentecost is the day the work of the Church began. It is the first day that Jesus’ friends shared the Good News about his life, and many, many people decided to become part of the Church that day.

Scripture tells us that

• in the story of Pentecost (Acts 2:1–47), Jewish people from all over the known world gathered in Jerusalem for a special feast day. With Mary present, Peter and the other Apostles began to teach them about Jesus Christ.
• each person gathered to hear the Apostles, regardless of his or her own language and dialect, heard and understood them. In response, 3,000 people were baptized that day.

Sharing Faith at Home

Help your child understand the Scripture by reading it aloud as a family and discussing the events.

Discussion starter: What amazing things happened at Pentecost?

Visit Allelu.com for weekly Scripture readings, reflections, and activities.
Setting the Family Table

through the Week
Pray this prayer as a family.

 THROUGH THE WEEK
Pray the Mealtime Prayer to God the Holy Spirit each night. Talk about the different images for the Holy Spirit. Take turns sharing which image each family member likes best.

ASK ME!
Ask your child these questions, and see if he or she can give you the answers. (If not, give a hint, and review the questions again later.)

1. What did the Apostles do on the day of Pentecost? (They taught many people about Jesus.)
2. On what day did the work of the Church begin? (Pentecost)
3. What is an important way to celebrate this special day? (going to Mass)

The Holy Spirit Comes to Us

Connect the dots, then color the dove and the flames.

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18

The Holy Spirit Comes to Us

Come to us, Holy Spirit!
Come like a gentle dove, so we will know God’s love!
Come like a brisk wind, so we will know God’s greatness!
Come like a warming fire, so we will know God’s wisdom!
Come to us, Holy Spirit!
Amen.

MEALTIME PRAYER
Pray this prayer as a family.

Saint of the Week
Peter the Apostle (first century)
Feast Days: June 29, February 22

DiD you know?
Jesus called Simon and his brother Andrew to follow him and be “fishers of men.” Jesus later changed Simon’s name to Peter, meaning “rock,” and made him the leader of all the Apostles and of his Church on earth.
Saint Peter, pray for us!

SAINT OF THE WEEK
Peter the Apostle
(first century)

Feast Days: June 29, February 22

Did you know?
Jesus called Simon and his brother Andrew to follow him and be “fishers of men.” Jesus later changed Simon’s name to Peter, meaning “rock,” and made him the leader of all the Apostles and of his Church on earth.
Saint Peter, pray for us!

Ask your child these questions, and see if he or she can give you the answers. (If not, give a hint, and review the questions again later.)

1. What did the Apostles do on the day of Pentecost? (They taught many people about Jesus.)
2. On what day did the work of the Church begin? (Pentecost)
3. What is an important way to celebrate this special day? (going to Mass)