

The Gospel at Home

This Sunday's Gospel: Matthew 22:34-40

In this Sunday's Gospel, the Pharisees are again trying to test Jesus. They were well aware that there are many laws in the first five books of the Bible—the books the Jews call the Torah, or the Law. The Pharisees asked Jesus which law was the greatest. Jesus answered at once: To love God with your whole self and to love your neighbor as yourself. Then Jesus gave the reason these two laws are important—because all the other laws depend on these two commandments. This week is a wonderful opportunity for your family to celebrate your love for God and your love for one another.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): Your child understands that there are family rules everyone must obey. Review some of your family rules. Share how these rules can show love for God and love for one another. Display the family prayer that your child assembled in class and use the prayer after meals for a few days.

Promise (Grades K-1): Your child learned about the Great Commandment—to love God and to love others. Talk with your child about the signs that he or she is loved. Invite your child to teach you how to play the game the class played. Talk about all the ways to show love that are shown on the game.

Good News (Grades 2-3): Your child's life is filled with rules. You provide many of those rules, but so do teachers, coaches, and other adults. But there is no more important rule than the Great Commandment—love of God and love of neighbor. Ask your child to share the story "Swimming Lessons" with the family. Ask your child to teach the family the game "Keeping Jesus' Law of Love."

Venture (Grades 4-6): Your young person learned about the Great Commandment. Ask your youngster to tell you about the "Put Yourself in My Shoes" show. If you were to put on the show in your family, what would be the challenges and how could you help one another? Talk about how your family puts the commandment to love into action every day.

Visions (Grades 7-9): Ask your youngster to share the story of Irena Sendler. Talk about how Irena's life was a living witness to the Great Commandment. Discuss, too, the play the young girls wrote and performed about Irena's life. Not everyone is called to great courage, but everyone is called to show love for God and love for one's neighbor. Talk about ways your family can show that love. (For an inspiring evening, the family will be enriched by viewing the film, "The Courageous Heart of Irena Sendler." It is available on Netflix.)

Pray Together

When you complete your conversation about the Sunday's Gospel lesson, create a family litany. Make a list of all the ways your family can show love for God and love for others. Take turns reciting items from the list. After each item, the family can pray, "They will know we are Christians by our love!"

