



LIVING THE WORD

**God's Word @ Home
Family Faith Formation
2021-2022**



Family Guide

Sample Lesson

September 12, 2021

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Sunday, September 12, 2021
16th Sunday after Pentecost
Year B

Peter Calls Jesus the Messiah

Gospel Reading: Mark 8:27-38

Key Verse:

He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.”
– Mark 8:29

The Point:

Peter longs for a powerful Messiah, but Jesus came to give his life.

Liturgical Color:

Green

Gospel Summary

Jesus pauses to check in with his disciples. “Who do people say that I am? Who do YOU say that I am?” Peter’s claim of Jesus as Messiah is a claim to royalty, but clearly this is not the Jesus that the disciples have experienced up to this point. Jesus goes on to tell them about his upcoming suffering and death, but Peter tried to change the narrative, denying the inevitable. Peter wants a savior who is strong and powerful, but that is not what Jesus is describing. We know the end of this story; but at this point, the disciples only see a bleak and frightening road ahead.

Peter longs for a powerful Messiah, but Jesus came to give his life. Jesus speaks of losing his life for our sake, not of great victories and won battles won. Furthermore, he calls us to take up our own cross as well. The Christian faith is not one of glory and strength, but one of servanthood and sacrifice. Because we follow Jesus’ example, we do not seek to rule over others, but to serve them.



Activities & Supplies

Introduction

I Say I Am

Introduce yourself.

10 min.

- Paper
- Markers or crayons

Learning the Word

Who Is Jesus?

Understand our own view of Jesus.

15 min.

- Bibles
- Mural paper
- Markers or crayons
- Tape

Activities

Share the Real Jesus

Tell someone about the Jesus you know.

10 min.

- None

What Does It Mean?

Discover the meaning of your name.

10 min.

- Internet-connected devices

Slow Growth

Play a slow game.

10 min.

- Activity Sheet A
- Scissors
- Bowl or basket



Activities & Supplies

Prayer

5 min.

• None



God's Word @ Home

Introduction

I Say I Am

10 min.

Introduce yourself.

Supplies:

- Paper
- Markers or crayons

Instructions:

1. As we begin a new Sunday school year together, we start by talking about identity. Who is Jesus? Who did the disciples say that he was? Who did God say that Jesus was? Who did Jesus say that he was?
2. We are going to take a moment to share special things about ourselves with each other. Use the paper to write down symbols that are important to who you are as a person. What do you think of when you think about your own identity? What do you like to do, what is a part of your life that is important, how do your friends see you? Take a moment to draw some symbols, include your name, and then we will share the symbols we have drawn with each other.



Learning the Word

Who Is Jesus?

15 min.

Understand our own view of Jesus.

Supplies:

- Bibles
- Mural paper
- Markers or crayons
- Tape

Preparation:

1. Post mural paper on a wall at a height that all family members can reach. If this is not an option in your space, have a large section of paper on a table.

Instructions:

1. **We will begin by listening to the story. For the next few weeks, we will hear the story from the Gospel of Mark. This is the second book in the New Testament. Mark is quick and precise with his language. He gets right to the point and does not use a lot of flowery or descriptive language.**
2. **Let's all turn to Mark 8:27-38.** Invite one person to read this passage out loud to the rest of your family.
3. When everyone is finished, ask:
 - a. **What are Jesus and his disciples doing?** [*Traveling to Caesarea Philippi.*]
 - b. **What is the first question that Jesus asks the disciples?** [*Who do people say that I am?*]
 - c. **If someone asked you that today—"Who do people say that Jesus is?"—how would you answer them? Share your thoughts with us.**
 - d. **What is the next question that Jesus asks the disciples?** [*Who do you say that I am?*]



- e. If someone asked you that today—“Who do you say that Jesus is?”—how would you answer them? Share your thoughts with us.
4. **When you talked about how people view Jesus, what words did you use? How do people think about Jesus today?** Write some of those words on the mural paper.
 5. When everyone is finished, discuss what they wrote as a large group.
 6. **Now, how does this view of Jesus compare with what you see and experience? Write or draw your description of Jesus. You might choose to draw over the words that others use.**
 7. When everyone is finished, discuss what was written or drawn.
 8. **How are these two perceptions of Jesus the same? How are they different? Why do you think that is?** Allow time for sharing thoughts.
 9. **Peter shares his thoughts about how he perceives Jesus: he thinks of him as a Messiah. A Messiah was thought to be a mighty king, a strong warrior, a conqueror. But Jesus goes on to share about his upcoming crucifixion and death. Peter's idea of who Jesus was is quite different from how the story actually ends.**



Activity

Share the Real Jesus

10 min.

Tell someone about the Jesus you know.

Supplies:

- None

Instructions:

1. **Of all of the ways that you think of Jesus, what one word is your favorite description?** Allow time to share thoughts.
2. **How could you use that one word description to tell others about Jesus?**
3. **Now, let's take that one step further: how can you actually demonstrate that to someone else? Let's say you like to think of Jesus as "love." How can you show Jesus' love to someone else? Or if you like to think of Jesus as a healer, what can you do to help someone heal? Maybe you like to think of Jesus as friend; how can you be a friend to someone this week?**
4. **Take a moment to make a plan to show your favorite aspect of Jesus to someone else this week. Share those ideas.**
5. **Close with prayer: Jesus, you are so many things to so many people: Teacher, Messiah, Lord, Friend, Creator, Comforter. Help us to reach out to others in your name. Amen.**



Activity

What Does It Mean?

10 min.

Discover the meaning of your name.

Supplies:

- Internet-connected devices

Instructions:

1. **Names and titles mean a lot and can tell other people something about us. Do you know what your name means or where it comes from?** Talk about how each family member was named, if you know.
2. **Let's look our names up on a baby name finder website and see if we can find their meanings.** After looking up each family member's name ask: **Is it what you thought?**
3. **What does that meaning say about who you are? Do you feel like it is an accurate definition? Why or why not?**
4. **How can your actions be more reflective your name's meaning? Or, if you do not like the meaning of your name, what do you wish your name meant that would be a more accurate reflection of who you are as a person? Share your thoughts with us.** Allow time for sharing.



Activity

Slow Growth

10 min.

Play a slow game.

Supplies:

- Activity Sheet A
- Scissors
- Bowl or basket

Preparation:

1. Make one copy of Activity Sheet A.
2. Cut the slips apart and put them into a bowl or basket.

Instructions:

1. **Pentecost is a time of growth. It is especially a time for us to grow in our faith and knowledge about Jesus.**
2. **How quickly do plants grow? How about children? Sometimes things seem to grow very slowly. Let's play a game where we see how slowly we can do something.**
3. Play a game of charades in each small group. Draw a suggestion from the bowl or basket and act out that activity. The challenge is to act it out in slow motion. Take turns so each person gets to act out one activity.



Prayer

Echo this slow-motion prayer together:

Dear Jesus, (echo)
Help us (echo)
To know (echo)
That growth (echo)
Can be slow (echo)
But to keep trying. (echo)
Amen. (echo)

Remember to use “The Word @ Home” sheet throughout the week as a part of your family devotions!



Slow Growth

Play a slow game.

Play baseball.	Feed a pet.
Take a shower.	Read a book.
Use a computer.	Make your bed.
Wash dishes.	Chop vegetables.
Hug your family.	Ice skate.
Swim.	



The Word @ Home

Pentecost 16

Gospel Reading: Mark 8:27-38

Prayer of the Week

Jesus, help us to know you and recognize you and to share who you are with others. Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you. What is God's message to us? How should we respond?

Sunday

Read Mark 8:27-38 Peter calls Jesus the Messiah.
Share one word that you would use to describe Jesus.

Monday

Read Proverbs 22:1-21 Words of wisdom from Solomon.
Share a verse in this section that you find most interesting. Why does it stand out to you?

Tuesday

Read Colossians 3:1-11 Set your mind on things above.
Pray together to "put to death" one thing that comes between you and God.

Wednesday

Read John 7:25-36 Jesus confuses the crowd.
If you had seen Jesus speaking, what do you think you would have thought of him?

Thursday

Read 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 Paul proclaims Christ crucified.
Think of one way that you can base your faith on God's power instead of on what humans say.

Friday

Read Romans 11:25-32 Israel will be saved.
What do you remember about the history of the Israelites? Reread parts of their story in Exodus.

Saturday

Read Matthew 23:29-39 Woe to the hypocrites.
Name one person that you have listened to who has had a positive affect on your faith life.



Blessing for the Week

Share this blessing while tracing a cross on each person's forehead or hand with their permission:
Jesus calls you to be like him. Amen.