

Family Page



There is a big difference between "knowing" about Jesus and truly "believing" in him. There is no way you can "teach" your children faith. But your own faith, with God's help, is the light that will lead your children to discover theirs.

This week, use every opportunity to emphasize the divine power of Jesus to the children. "Witness" to them about times when Jesus has answered your prayers during difficulties. As an aid in your teaching, select one of the following readings: John

11:1-44 (The Raising of Lazarus) or Mark 5:21-43 (Jairus' Daughter). From these passages, the children can more fully grasp the power of Jesus as he works through the prayers and faith of his people.

To lead the children from "knowing" to "believing," encourage them to learn and say the short Act of Faith below.

Act of Faith

Dearest Jesus, I truly believe that you are the Son of God. I believe that you became man, died for our sins, and rose into heaven to be with your Father. I believe that you care for me, that the Holy Spirit guides me, and that the Father will answer all my prayers in your name. Amen.

In the boxes below, draw the faces of the people named.



Peter

Jesus

John

Elijah



explaining GOD'S WORD

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B) • Mark 8:27-35 • September 12, 2021

I am the son of Elizabeth. I was chosen by God to tell the people that Jesus was coming. Who am I?



I am a holy man from the Old Testament. I am sometimes called the greatest of all the prophets. My name is



I am one of Jesus' disciples. I was chosen by God to teach people about Jesus. Jesus gave me a new name and made me the head of the Church. I am



I am the Son of God and son of Mary. I became man so that all would know how much God loves them. I am sometimes called "the Messiah." I am



Here is a little game you can play after you have learned all about the people in today's gospel. Fill in the blanks with the proper names.





ho Do You Say That I Am?

Wouldn't it be nice
to have lived in Jesus' day —
to have been his best friend,
to have walked with him,
and talked with him,
and listened to his words?
Wouldn't it be nice
to have known him as the apostles did?

Well, you know *more* about Jesus
than the apostles knew.
You know how Jesus died
and rose from the dead on Easter.
You know how Jesus lives
in the hearts of his people today.
The apostles didn't know these things.
These things hadn't happened yet.

Jesus asked his apostles,
"Who do people say I am?"
"Some say John the Baptizer," they said,
"and some say you are Elijah."
"And you," Jesus asked Peter,
"who do you say I am?"
Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah!"

Jesus wasn't playing guessing games.
It was important for the apostles
to know who Jesus was.
He was not just another holy man,
like Elijah or John the Baptizer.
He was God's own Son.



He had the power to heal
and the power to forgive sins.
Later the apostles would tell
the whole world about Jesus.
First, they had to know who he was,
and they had to believe in him.

You need to believe in Jesus too —
to believe he is the Son of God.
You must remember his love
and the love of the Father.
When you pray, you need to know
your prayers are always heard.

Remember,
Jesus
always
hears
our
prayers.



People We Meet in Today's Gospel



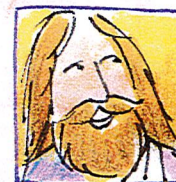
ELIJAH: Elijah was a holy man who lived long before Jesus came into the world. He was a prophet chosen by God to tell the people about God's promise of a Messiah, a Savior. Elijah was called the greatest of all the prophets.



JOHN THE BAPTIZER: John was the son of Elizabeth, Mary's cousin. He was chosen to get the people ready for Jesus' coming. He baptized people in the river Jordan.



PETER: Peter was also chosen by God. He is sometimes called Simon in the Bible. Jesus named him Peter because Peter means "Rock." Peter became the very first leader of our Church. He took care of Jesus' people on earth.



JESUS: Jesus is called the Messiah. This means *promised by God*. The people had waited hundreds of years for the Messiah. When he came, some did not know him. Jesus, God's own Son, is the Messiah.