

Family Faith at Home



Make Sunday Come Alive All Week!

The Department of Youth Faith Formation wants to help you and your whole family explore God's Word in your lives. Each week we will be sending out this resource which can help you reflect on the upcoming Sunday readings with your entire family.

Here are some ideas on how to use this resource:

- Consider reading one of the mass readings each evening.
- Do the discussion questions after dinner one night.
- Watch the video on a different night.
- Pray the prayer each evening.



Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Readings:

Deuteronomy 18: 15-20

Psalm 95: 1-2, 6-7, 7-9

1 Corinthians 7: 32-35

Mark 1: 21-28

[Readings can also be found at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.](#)

Discuss

1. The gospel story doesn't tell us about what Jesus taught in the synagogue, only the manner of his teaching. What do you think Jesus might have been teaching about?
2. How do you think the scribes felt when people were astonished at Jesus' teaching? Do you think they were upset, or maybe even jealous?
3. Put yourself in the synagogue as one who was listening to Jesus and saw him heal the man who was possessed. Would you tell people about what happened? Would you join other disciples of Jesus and hope to learn more from him?

Share

The gospel story begins with Jesus and his disciples entering the synagogue on the Sabbath. Jesus often taught in the synagogue, as did the scribes. However, "people were astonished" when Jesus taught. We note that when the scribes taught, they did so as instructors of what they knew. The scribes were knowledgeable men who followed the law of the Torah, the first five books of the Old Testament. Their teaching depended on what others previously said or had written. However, when Jesus taught, he did so with authority, as one who interpreted the law and spoke on behalf of God. Jesus did not refer to traditions or the law, as the scribes would. Even the unclean spirit recognized Jesus' authority as "the Holy One of God." By simply commanding the unclean spirit to leave and healing the man who was possessed, Jesus did so because of his authority as God's Son.

Watch

For families with small children, [watch this video.](#)

For families with older children, [watch this video.](#)

Pray

Speak with authority in our lives, Christ.

Speak to us, and to what is in us, so that we might be whole.

Speak to us, with love, with hope, and with strength,

so that we might hear you, and know, deep inside,

that we are your people, and that you are our God.

Let it be so.

(by Richard Bott, (<http://liturgy.richardbott.com>))

Do

Jesus didn't only teach the people who came to him; he also healed them when they were sick or hurt. See how many stories of Jesus healing you can think of as a family.

Optionally, you can have a friendly competition and see who can come up with the longest list.



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