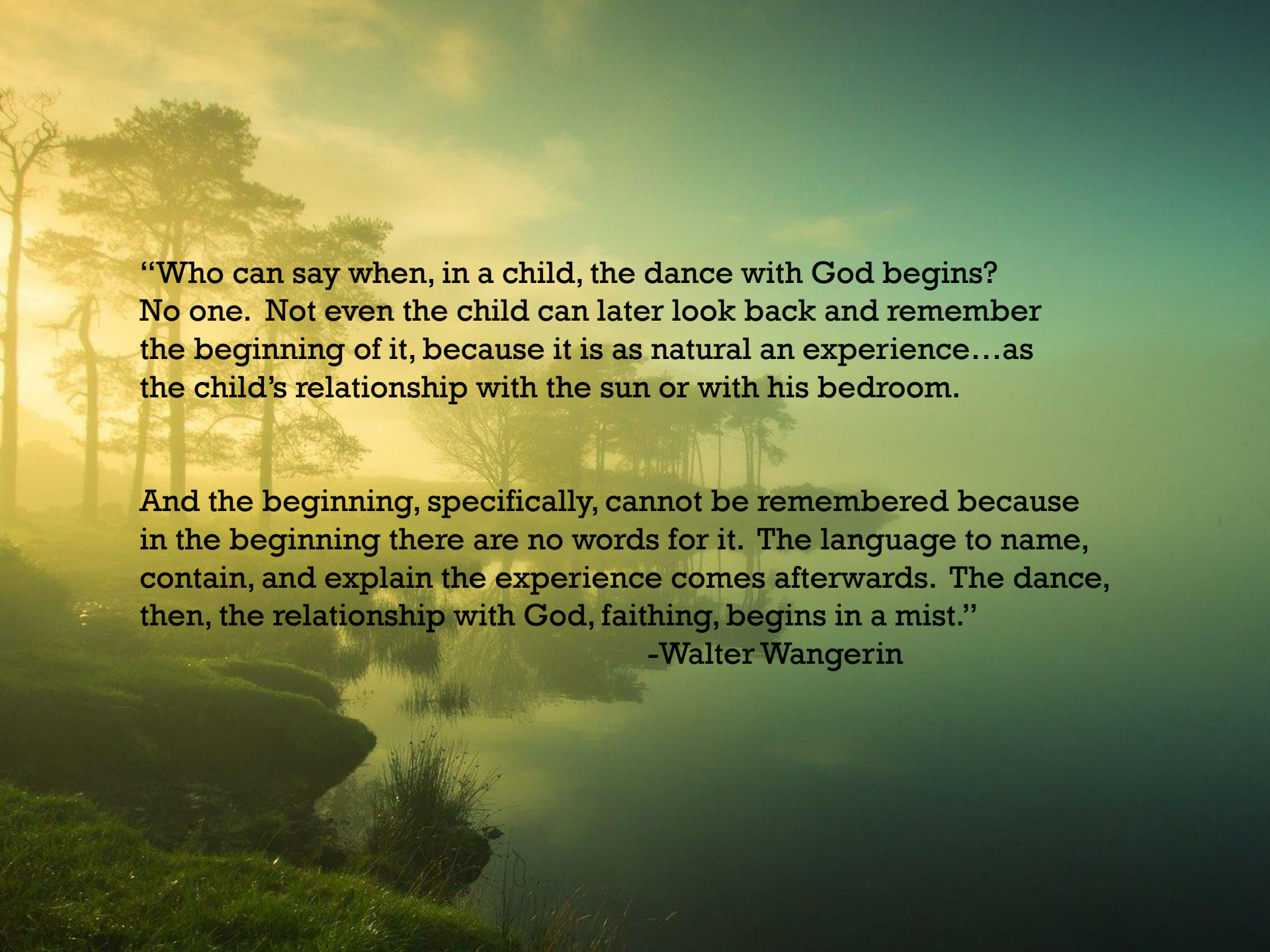




Building Faith Together at Home

Lent
Cycle A



A misty landscape with a river and trees at sunrise. The scene is bathed in a soft, golden light from the sun, which is low on the horizon. The trees are silhouetted against the bright sky, and the water in the river reflects the light and the surrounding environment. The overall atmosphere is serene and contemplative.

**“Who can say when, in a child, the dance with God begins?
No one. Not even the child can later look back and remember
the beginning of it, because it is as natural an experience...as
the child’s relationship with the sun or with his bedroom.**

**And the beginning, specifically, cannot be remembered because
in the beginning there are no words for it. The language to name,
contain, and explain the experience comes afterwards. The dance,
then, the relationship with God, faithing, begins in a mist.”**

-Walter Wangerin



What is family faith-sharing?

Faith-sharing is a way to pray together. It is a practice in which two (or more) people talk about their relationship with God. Here are a few guidelines to help you along.

1. Faith sharing should feel comfortable and easy. Relax and enjoy it. You don't need to have the answers.
2. Remember that God is active and present in your life, in your child's life and in your faith sharing. Respect that by finding a time and location that is quiet so no one will be distracted. (This is a screen-free zone.) There is no set time for this, but plan for about 20 minutes or a half hour.
3. This is not a typical parenting moment. It is not a lesson, or a time to discuss behavior, schoolwork, etc. Your family is sharing the mysteries of life and faith on an even footing. This requires reverent listening, where you accept what your child is ready to offer to you as a gift. Try not to teach, correct, judge, presume, or reject that precious gift.
4. This is a time for genuine openness on your part as well.

+ How to faith-share



- Sit down with your family and begin with the prayer before reading scripture.
- The scripture passage has been written with children ages 7 to 12 in mind. Have someone in the family read the scripture passage.
- See if the reading brought up any feelings or questions in your child.
- The Faith Sharing Questions found after the reading are there to help you jump-start this faith sharing conversation. Use them if they are a help to you.
- When it feels right, end with the closing prayer.



**THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT:
Jesus goes into the Desert
to Pray and Think**



Prayer before reading scripture



(with older children)

- Father, may the Holy Spirit be with us now as we prepare to read your holy scripture. May your eternal word penetrate our minds, hearts and souls, and open in us a deeper awareness of your Divine presence and will, in our lives and in the life of the world.

We ask this through your Son,
our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Amen

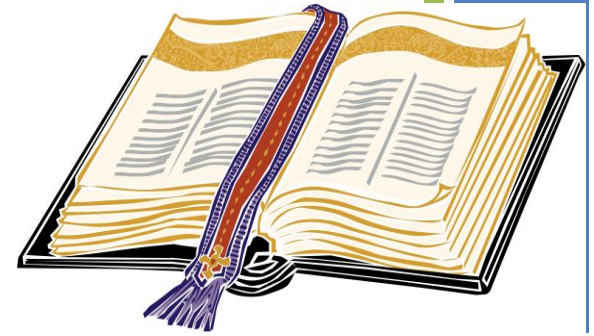
(with younger children)

- Jesus came so I could see the love his Father has for me. God's love for me is like the sun that shines on me and everyone.

May this story live and grow deep in my heart so I can show to all my friends and family God's wondrous love for them and me.

Amen

+ A reading from the Gospel of Matthew (4:1-11)



Right after Jesus was baptized, he heard the Holy Spirit calling him to go out into the desert and be alone for a while. He needed to think about his life and what God was asking him to do.

While Jesus was in the desert he fasted, which means he didn't eat very much. Many times he thought about not doing what God wanted him to do. He thought about other ways he could live his life and be much more comfortable and happy. But in the end he chose to do what God wanted him to do.

After 40 days, he came back to his friends and was ready to do God's work.

+ Faith sharing questions



1. Jesus needed some alone time. Do you ever feel like you need alone time? Where do you like to be alone?
2. Jesus felt the Holy Spirit talking to him. Sometimes we can feel the Holy Spirit talking to us. Not in words we can hear, but more like a feeling in our hearts. Have you ever felt something like that?
3. What do you think God would like you to grow up to be?
4. Sometimes it's hard to do the right thing. Even for grown ups. Can you think of a time that you needed to do something that you didn't want to do, but you did it because it was the right thing to do?

+ Closing prayer



■ With older children

We thank you God for this time together to open up the Word as a family. Please continue to bless us. Keep us true to one another and help us to always live in the light of your teachings.

Amen

■ With younger children

The Bible helps us all to know that ways we all should live and grow. I thank God for my family and all God's love they show to me.

Amen



The Second Sunday of Lent:
The Transfiguration



Prayer before reading scripture



(with older children)

- Father, may the Holy Spirit be with us now as we prepare to read your holy scripture. May your eternal word penetrate our minds, hearts and souls, and open in us a deeper awareness of your Divine presence and will, in our lives and in the life of the world.

We ask this through your Son,
our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Amen

(with younger children)

- Jesus came so I could see the love his Father has for me. God's love for me is like the sun that shines on me and everyone.

May this story live and grow deep in my heart so I can show to all my friends and family God's wondrous love for them and me.

Amen

+ A reading from the Gospel of Matthew (Mt 17:1-9)



Jesus took Peter, James and John to a high mountain. At the top of the mountain an amazing thing happened. We call it a miracle.

Jesus changed. He began to look very different to Peter, James and John. His clothes became very bright white and he looked like he was in heaven and not on the earth.

Then, suddenly, two men were there and they were talking to Jesus. The men Jesus was talking to were Elijah and Moses, who had gone to heaven a long time ago.

Then a cloud floated over all of them and God's voice came out of the cloud and said, "Jesus is my Son. Pay close attention to what he has to say." After that, Elijah and Moses were gone and Jesus went back to looking like himself.

+ Faith sharing questions



1. A miracle is something that happens but we can't explain how it happened. Can you think of a miracle that has happened to you or that you know about? (How about the sun coming up every morning or an avocado growing on the end of a tree branch?)
2. Why do you think God wanted Peter, James and John to pay close attention to what Jesus had to say?
3. What are some things that Jesus said that we need to remember to pay close attention to?
4. If I had a chance to talk to Jesus on the mountain, what would I ask him?

+ Closing prayer



■ With older children

We thank you God for this time together to open up the Word as a family. Please continue to bless us. Keep us true to one another and help us to always live in the light of your teachings.

Amen

■ With younger children

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Amen



THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
Jesus Meets a Woman at the Well



Prayer before reading scripture



(with older children)

- Father, may the Holy Spirit be with us now as we prepare to read your holy scripture. May your eternal word penetrate our minds, hearts and souls, and open in us a deeper awareness of your Divine presence and will, in our lives and in the life of the world.

We ask this through your Son,
our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Amen

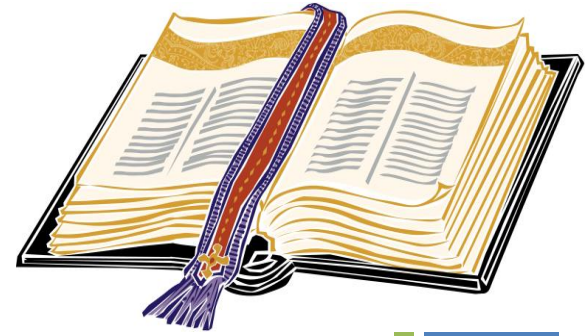
(with younger children)

- Jesus came so I could see the love his Father has for me. God's love for me is like the sun that shines on me and everyone.

May this story live and grow deep in my heart so I can show to all my friends and family God's wondrous love for them and me.

Amen

+ A reading from the Gospel of John (Jn 4:5-42)



Jesus and his disciples use to walk from place to place talking to people and telling them about God's love for them.

Jesus and his disciples were Jews. One day they walked to a place where the people who lived there didn't like Jews. There was a well outside of the town where the people got their water. Jesus waited at the well while his disciples went into town to buy food.

While he was alone, a woman came to the well. She thought that Jesus was her enemy. She had had a hard life and didn't want to talk with Jesus.

But Jesus talked with her about her life and about how God loved her. Jesus opened her eyes to God's love for her and she knew then that he was the Messiah, the one they had been waiting for.

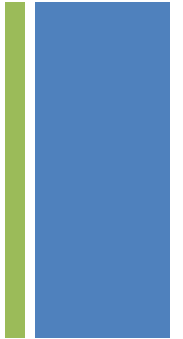
She got so excited, she went back into town and told everybody about Jesus. They were all happy to meet him. They believed in him too.

+ Faith sharing questions

1. Jesus liked to talk to people. Sometimes big crowds would come to hear him talk and sometimes he talked with just one person. If you lived back when Jesus was walking around and you saw him face to face, what would you want to talk to him about?
2. Jesus was able to makes friends out of enemies, by listening with his heart and making the woman and the people in the town feel safe and then sharing God's love with them. Are there people you wish you could make your friends?
3. Many adults and children liked Jesus. What do you think he was like?
4. The woman told her neighbors all about Jesus. If you were to tell people all about Jesus, what would you tell them?



+ Closing prayer



■ With older children

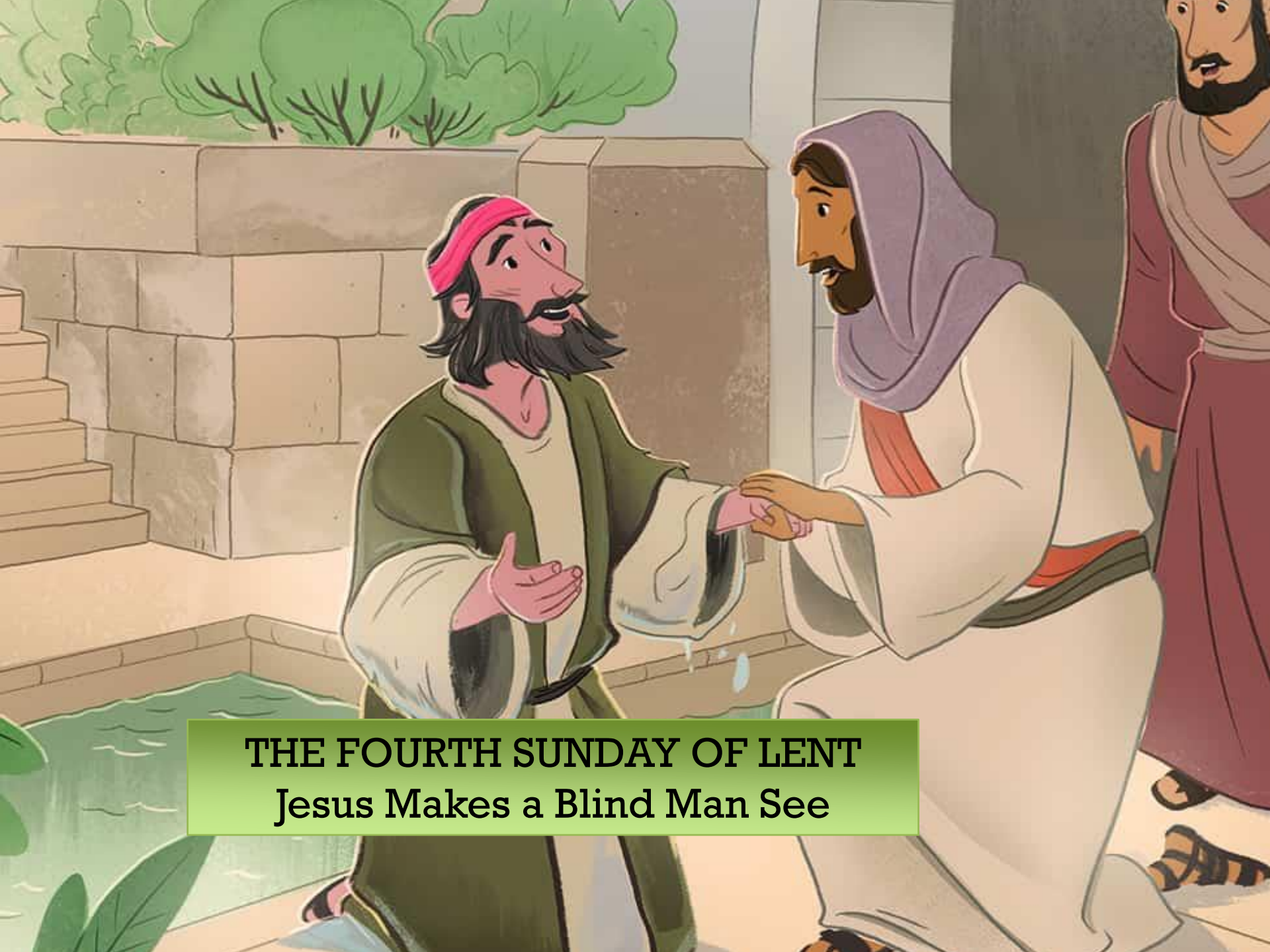
We thank you God for this time together to open up the Word as a family. Please continue to bless us. Keep us true to one another and help us to always live in the light of your teachings.

Amen

■ With younger children

The Bible helps us all to know that ways we all should live and grow. I thank God for my family and all God's love they show to me.

Amen



THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
Jesus Makes a Blind Man See



Prayer before reading scripture



(with older children)

- Father, may the Holy Spirit be with us now as we prepare to read your holy scripture. May your eternal word penetrate our minds, hearts and souls, and open in us a deeper awareness of your Divine presence and will, in our lives and in the life of the world.

We ask this through your Son,
our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Amen

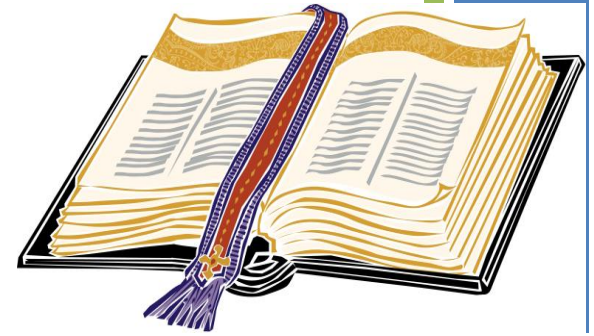
(with younger children)

- Jesus came so I could see the love his Father has for me. God's love for me is like the sun that shines on me and everyone.

May this story live and grow deep in my heart so I can show to all my friends and family God's wondrous love for them and me.

Amen

+ A reading from the Gospel of John (Jn 9:1-41)



In this story Jesus and his disciples are in the city of Jerusalem. As Jesus and his disciple are walking through the city, they pass by a man who is blind. He was born not being able to see anything.

Jesus makes a miracle and the blind man gets to see the world for the first time. Many people ask the man who used to be blind, how Jesus made it possible from him to see.

The man tells them that he doesn't know how it happened. All he knows is that he used to be blind and now he can see. He also now believes in Jesus.

Jesus tells them that he came into the world to show all people how to see the world and each other in a new way.

+ Faith sharing questions



1. If you were blind and you could suddenly see, what would you want to look at first?
2. The blind man had never heard of Jesus before. Jesus and the blind man were strangers to each other. Why do you think that Jesus decided to help him see?
3. Jesus said he came into the world to help people see the world and each other in a new way. What do you think he meant?
4. People see in two different ways. We see things with our eyes and we see things in another way with our hearts. What is something you see with your heart?

+ Closing prayer



■ With older children

We thank you God for this time together to open up the Word as a family. Please continue to bless us. Keep us true to one another and help us to always live in the light of your teachings.

Amen

■ With younger children

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Amen



THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead



Prayer before reading scripture



(with older children)

- Father, may the Holy Spirit be with us now as we prepare to read your holy scripture. May your eternal word penetrate our minds, hearts and souls, and open in us a deeper awareness of your Divine presence and will, in our lives and in the life of the world.

We ask this through your Son,
our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Amen

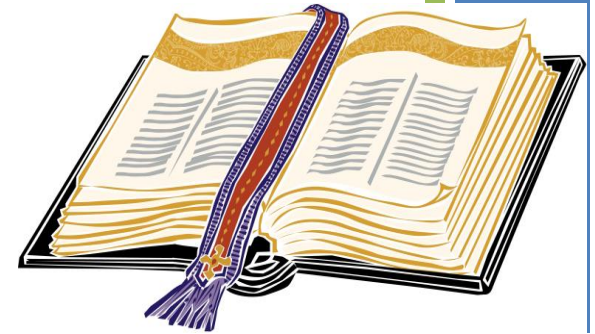
(with younger children)

- Jesus came so I could see the love his Father has for me. God's love for me is like the sun that shines on me and everyone.

May this story live and grow deep in my heart so I can show to all my friends and family God's wondrous love for them and me.

Amen

+ A reading from the Gospel of John (Jn 11:1-45)



Many people knew Jesus. He had disciples who worked with him, he had people that followed him, and he had some very good friends. One family that he was very close to had two sisters named Martha and Mary, and a brother named Lazarus.

Lazarus became very sick and died. His sisters Martha and Mary were very sad. They wished that Jesus had been with them because they knew that he could have kept Lazarus from dying.

Jesus came to visit Martha and Mary after Lazarus died and was buried. He was so sad that his friend had died that he cried.

Jesus went to where Lazarus was buried and made a miracle happen. He called to Lazarus, saying, “Lazarus, come out!”

When Jesus spoke these words, Lazarus came back to life. His sisters were very happy. Many people who were there began to believe in Jesus.

+ Faith sharing questions



1. All people get sad sometimes: children, grown ups, even Jesus. When was a time that you were sad?
2. Lazarus got to be alive two times in this world. We get to be alive one time in this world and then be alive in a difference way when we go heaven. What do you think heaven will be like?
3. Lazarus' sisters, Martha and Mary were so happy when Jesus made Lazarus alive again. They loved their brother very much. What people do you love most in the world?
4. This is the last week of Lent. What have you liked most about our time together talking about the stories of Jesus?

+ Closing prayer



■ With older children

We thank you God for this time together to open up the Word as a family. Please continue to bless us. Keep us true to one another and help us to always live in the light of your teachings.

Amen

■ With younger children

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