

Fifth Sunday of the Year

Jesus cures the sick

INTRODUCTION

Jesus loves *all* people with a love so great that he died for us. Throughout his life he showed this love by curing the sick and making time to share with others.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

LIGHT THE CANDLES

Light the candles and read:

Jesus you are the light of the world; may we see the light of your love and feel its warmth in the lives of the people we meet each day.

SORRY

As we sing our song together, let us ask for God's help to make a fresh start. Sing Sorry Song 2

GLORIA

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 1: *Share your word with us.*

GOSPEL (cf Mark 1:29-39)

After preaching in the synagogue, Jesus and his disciples went to Peter's house to share a meal together. When they got there, Peter's wife told them that her mother had been taken ill and was suffering from a high fever. Jesus went to her, took her by the hand and, as he helped her up, the fever disappeared and she felt well again.

That evening, crowds of sick people gathered around Peter's house, and Jesus cured many of them. Early the next morning, Jesus went off to a quiet place to pray.

When his disciples found him, they said, 'Lord, everyone is looking for you. They have heard of the marvellous things you have done.'

Jesus told them, 'I must go and visit other villages too, because I came to tell the Good News to everyone.'

DISCUSSION

In today's Gospel, who became ill? – The mother of Peter's wife. She was suffering from a fever or high temperature.

Have you ever suffered from a fever? How did you feel?

What did Jesus do when he heard of the woman's suffering? – Immediately he went to her to comfort her and make her well again.

Who arrived at Peter's house that evening? – Everyone in Capernaum soon heard about Jesus, from his amazing teaching in the synagogue to his power over illness and evil spirits. A crowd of people suffering from all kinds of diseases gathered outside Peter's house to wait for Jesus.

What did Jesus do? – Even though he was tired, he took pity on the sick and cured many of their diseases. Jesus never turned away from anyone who needed him. Like Peter and his wife, they must have marvelled at the power of Jesus. His compassion and love was so great that he always helped those who needed him. Their love for him must have grown even greater that day.

What did Jesus do early the next morning? – He went off to spend some time alone with God praying and talking to his heavenly Father. Despite the crowds and being so busy healing the people, Jesus remembered to make some time to spend with God.

What does Jesus teach us by his actions? – Jesus helps us to understand that there are many people in the world who need our help, and we too should always be ready to give our time to help them. One way we can help those who are sick and suffering is by praying for them and asking Jesus to make them better.

Often before performing a miracle, Jesus would pray to his heavenly Father. Time after time he reminds us of the importance and power of prayer, and of making time to spend with God. Do each of you remember to spend a little time each day in prayer?

ACTIVITY

Photocopy the illustrated prayers and compile a booklet for each child. Include a few blank pages, and encourage the older children to write and illustrate their own prayers.

CREED

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus,
you are always ready to make time for others,
especially those who come to you
with worries or troubles.
Thank you for your love and goodness,
and help me remember to make time
to spend alone with you.