

Tenth Sunday of the Year

The family of God

INTRODUCTION

All families everywhere belong to one large family – the family of God. We share one heavenly Father and are all brothers and sisters, as Jesus explains to us today.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

LIGHT THE CANDLES

Light the candles and say Candle Prayer 3: *The light of God.*

SORRY

God is our Father and we are his children. He is slow to get angry and always ready to forgive. Together we ask for his forgiveness with the prayer that Jesus taught us to say: Our Father . . .

GLORIA

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 3: *Alleluia, alleluia.*

GOSPEL (cf Mark 3:20-21, 31-35)

Crowds of people followed Jesus wherever he went, eager to hear him teaching and to see if all that they had heard about him was true.

One day, such a crowd gathered that it was even impossible for Jesus to have something to eat. When his family heard about this they said, 'Things are getting out of hand! Someone needs to go and take care of Jesus.'

They set off to find him, but there were so many people around him, that they had to send a message to him. Someone came to Jesus and said, 'Your family are outside, and they are waiting to see you.' Jesus said to the people sitting around him, 'Who is my family? All of you are my brothers and sisters! Anyone who does what God wants them to do, will truly belong to my family!'

DISCUSSION

Why were the family of Jesus worried about him? – They knew that Jesus spent much of his time curing the sick and preaching to the crowds. He always put the needs of others before his own, even when he was hungry and exhausted. His family were worried that no-one was taking care of Jesus, and that he would become ill.

What did they decide to do? – Like all families, they cared deeply for each other, and so they set off to take care of him and to make sure that he

was eating and resting enough.

When Jesus heard that his family had arrived, what did he ask? – He asked the question 'Who is my family?' He wanted to explain that anyone who did what God wanted them to do, and lived in God's love, belonged to one large family. The members of this family are not related like cousins or aunts or uncles are. They are all related because of the love they share for God and for each other. They share one heavenly Father and are all brothers and sisters of Christ.

What is this one large family called? – The family of God.

When are we called to join this family? – At baptism we were called as Christians to join the family of God, and to follow the teachings of Jesus.

When and where do we meet as one family? – Every Sunday we come to Mass to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus. We gather to pray and to listen to God's word, which helps us to live as Jesus taught us. Christians throughout the world are united every Sunday, when they gather to worship and praise God for his goodness.

ACTIVITY

Cut out enough circle shapes to allow one for each child, and ask the children to draw a picture of themselves with their family. Draw the number 'one' on a cut out banner as shown, and help the children to write or glue on the words 'We all belong to '1' family of God.' They can then stick their pictures onto the banner.

CREED

CLOSING PRAYER

Loving Father,
as brothers and sisters of Jesus,
we gather together as one family
to worship you and give you praise.
Help us to always treat each other
with love and kindness
just as you taught us to.