



Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 6, 2014

Jesus Reveals the Mysteries of God's Kingdom

Lectionary #100

Zechariah 9:9–10

Psalms 145:1–2, 8–9, 10–11, 13–14

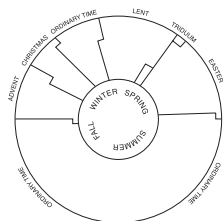
Romans 8:9, 11–13

Matthew 11:25–30

Focus: To learn about God the Father from Jesus.

Catechist's Context

It isn't the ones the world calls "learned" who know the wisdom of God, but those the world scarcely notices. The detailed laws governing every aspect of life were unnecessarily burdensome for Jesus's Jewish contemporaries compared to the simple faithfulness that Jesus exemplified.



Liturgical Calendar Connection

Help the children find the Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time. Remind them that the color green represents a time of growing in understanding of Jesus's teaching. Invite them to count the number of green Sundays in Ordinary Time.

Connecting to the Word

☺ Has anyone ever tried to learn a game that has really complicated rules?

It's frustrating! Some people think that following God is very complicated, too, but Jesus tells us that it isn't. Following God means loving him and loving each other. It doesn't have to be complicated unless we make it that way. Let's hear what Jesus has to say about getting to know God and doing what's really important in this Sunday's Gospel.

Sign of the Cross

All make the Sign of the Cross.

**In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.**

Alleluia

See Matthew 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia.

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven
and earth;

you have revealed to little ones the mysteries
of the kingdom.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Based on Matthew 11:25–30

Invite the children to listen to you and to watch you, and then to repeat what you say and do.

Jesus prayed:

fold hands in prayer

“I give you praise, Father!

lift hands in praise

You give your truth to the common people,

touch fingers to forehead, then cross hands over heart

not to the ones who think they know it all.

smugly tap forehead with index finger

You let your Son

touch center of each palm with middle finger of other hand

teach everyone about you, Father.”

point heavenward

Then Jesus said:

chatty hand, thumb against fingers

“Come to me,

motion to others to follow you

all you who are overwhelmed with rules,

wipe brow exhaustedly

for I am humble of heart.

cross hands over heart

I will give you rest,

rest head on folded hands

and teach you that love is what really matters.”

cross hands over heart

Gospel Reflection

Learning from Jesus

☺ I wonder what kinds of rules you have in your home.

Most rules we have in our homes, schools, and countries are designed to help us be kind and thoughtful to others. God has only one rule: love. That sums it all up. The more we complicate the rules, the harder it is to remember that love is what they're really all about.

☺ Are the rules at your house about love? In what ways?

☺ Are some of the rules in your classroom about love? In what ways?

☺ I wonder how we can show one another love at home or at school.

Focus on Church Teaching

Jesus blesses his Father in his prayer of praise in this Sunday's Gospel, acknowledging his wisdom in revealing his truth to the "little ones" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2603). The Church, like Jesus, offers rest to those who labor or are burdened in the world (*Familiaris Consortio*, 85). Christ revealed God's wisdom to us, his followers, and called us to build God's Kingdom on earth in accordance with the Father's will (*Lumen Gentium*, 3).

Good News Book

You will need construction paper, white paper, coloring materials, a hole punch, and yarn to do this activity.

Explain that Jesus teaches us about God's love and goodness through the words of a book called the Bible. The children will create their own version of a Good News Book. Distribute drawing paper and coloring materials to the children. Show them how to fold the sheet of drawing paper in half. On the inside half of the sheet, they will draw a picture of Jesus teaching them about God's love and goodness. Provide folded construction paper to make a cover, and insert the drawing paper inside. Punch holes along the folded edge of the cover and drawing paper together, and show the children how to string yarn through the holes to bind the book. The children can decorate the cover.

God Calling

Sit in a circle with the children. Remind them that praying is not just about talking to God. It is also about listening to God. One way that we can listen to God is to pay attention to the things Jesus teaches us in the Bible. In the past year, the children have learned many things about God. How well have they been listening? Tell the children that you are going to whisper something that you have learned from listening to God's Word to the child next to you. Like the game "Telephone," the child will pass the message to the person next to him or her. The message will be whispered around the circle. When it comes back to you as the first person, check if it was the same message you initially whispered. Explain that everyone is going to have to listen very carefully to hear God's message. Play a few rounds, allowing the children to start a new message.

Learning about the Lectionary

Invite a priest, deacon, seminarian, or sacristan to visit and show the children the Lectionary or *Book of the Gospels*. If you aren't able to secure your guest speaker, ask if you may borrow one of these books to show the children yourself. Explain that this beautiful book contains the readings from the Bible that we use at Mass, the same stories that you share during your time together. Show the ribbons that can be used to mark the place where the next reading is located. Point out that the teachings of Jesus are in these pages, and read this Sunday's Gospel aloud directly from the book.

Prayers and Blessings at Home

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 6, 2014



Lectionary Readings

Zechariah 9:9–10

Psalms 145:1–2, 8–9, 10–11,
13–14

Romans 8:9, 11–13

Matthew 11:25–30

Our Father

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass
against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

Prayer for the Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lord God,
may we never cease to praise you.
Send us your Holy Spirit,
so that we may grow in faith, hope,
and charity.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.
Amen.

Family Blessing

During the summer, find one thing each day that reveals God's great wisdom and love. Share this each evening, and end your discussion with this simple blessing, naming what you've discussed:
Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation.
Through your goodness, you have given us _____.

Living the Liturgy at Home

As a family gathered together, talk about your favorite Bible stories. Share why they are your favorites and what it is that God reveals to you in each of them. Listen to the faith stories of each family member, and enjoy the companionship of God in your conversation. Be open to the relationship that God offers you through the way your personal stories intersect and interact with the stories of our faith.



Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 13, 2014

Fertile Ground for God's Word

Lectionary #103

Focus: To receive and follow through on God's Word.

Isaiah 55:10–11

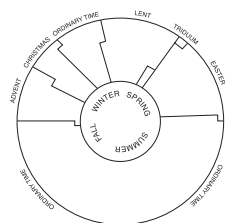
Psalms 65:10, 11, 12–13, 14

Romans 8:18–23

Matthew 13:1–9 (longer form, Matthew 13:1–23)

Catechist's Context

This Sunday's readings speak to us of the Word of God and the abundance it brings through those who embrace it. Through the parable of the sower, Jesus challenges us to ask ourselves how we receive his Word, how deeply we let it become rooted in us, and how much fruit we yield for the Kingdom.



Liturgical Calendar Connection

Invite the children to find this Sunday on the liturgical calendar. Ask, where are we in Ordinary Time (at the beginning, middle, or end)?

Connecting to the Word

Green, the color for Ordinary Time, is also the color of most growing plants. In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus tells us that the teaching of God is like seed that grows into a plant.

Sign of the Cross

All make the Sign of the Cross.

**In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.**

Alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia.

The seed is the word of God; Christ is the sower.

All who come to him will have life forever.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Based on Matthew 13:1–9 (longer form, Matthew 13:1–23)

Use a chalkboard, dry-erase board, or newsprint and a marker to draw as you tell the story.

A crowd gathered to hear Jesus teach. He told them a story about the true teaching of God, which he said was like seed that someone scatters on the ground.

draw a path

Jesus said that some seed fell on the footpath.

draw dots along the path

Birds came and ate it all up.

draw a couple of birds along the path

Some seed fell on rocky ground where there was only a little soil.

draw some rocks, and dot some seeds among them

The seed sprouted quickly.

draw little shoots from each seed

Then the sun rose and scorched the plants because they didn't have deep enough roots.

draw strong rays from a hot sun and drooping leaves on the little shoots

Some seed fell among thorns.

draw thorny plants and dot a few seeds among them

The thorns grew up and choked the plants.

draw a few shoots from the seeds, then add more and more thorny branches until the shoots can barely be seen

Finally, Jesus said, some seed fell on good soil.

draw dots away from the other drawings

These grew into healthy plants, and produced lots of fruit.

draw larger plants with fruit hanging from them

Gospel Reflection

Seed of God's Truth

☉ I wonder what the seeds in the story represent.

The seeds represent God's teachings. Some people don't understand God's teaching. It doesn't change their lives, and soon they forget about it. (Point to the footpath you drew, and connect this idea to the birds eating the fallen seeds on the footpath.)

Some people learn about God, and they are happy with what they hear, but they don't really make the teaching part of their lives. When troubles come along, their faith shrivels up.

☉ I wonder what part of the drawing represents these people (the seeds among the rocks).

Some people hear God's teaching, but they're too concerned about other things to pay much attention to God.

☉ I wonder what part of the drawing represents these people (seeds among thorns). Some people learn God's teaching and make it part of the way they live their lives.

☉ I wonder what part of the drawing represents these people (fruit-bearing plants).

We bear good fruit when we love others, help others, do good things, and behave kindly.

☉ Do you know anyone who bears good fruit?

Focus on Church Teaching

The Holy Spirit helps us live by the teachings of God and the Church. As we grow in faithfulness, we bear fruit to the glory of God (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1724).

Our busy, modern culture can distract us from our relationship with God and his truth. The parables of Jesus challenge us to action and provide us with a means of reflection on how well we respond to the challenge (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 546).

Sow Seeds

You will need fast-growing seeds, water, and a plant pot or access to a garden plot to do this activity.

Invite the children to help plant, water, and care for the seeds every week. Remind them of this Sunday's parable as the seeds begin to sprout. When the plants are large enough, have the children take them home to help them remember that when they learn from God's teaching and live their lives by it, they are like a plant that grows and brings beauty and goodness into the world.

Seed Relay

You will need seeds or something that represents seeds, such as beans or buttons; two dishes; enough plastic spoons and paper cups for each child; and a large receptacle, such a plastic box or shoebox.

Set up the activity by placing two dishes of seeds on one side of the room. Both dishes must contain an equal number of seeds. At the other end, place two empty receptacles. Create two teams of children, and hand each player a spoon and paper cup. Line the players up between the dishes of seeds and the receptacles.

Players will move the seeds from person to person, from the dish to the receptacle. Apart from the starter, each player must transfer seeds by means of their spoons or cups only. Tell the children to try not to drop the seeds as they move them down the line. More than one seed may move down the line at a time, but no player should have two or more seeds in his or her possession. The first team to transfer all the seeds to the receptacle is the winner.

Explain that the teachings of God are like the seeds. We receive them from others and we pass them along so that others may learn of the goodness of God.

The Fruit of Love

You will need white and red construction paper, scissors, glue, and coloring materials to do this activity. An option to use red heart stickers will eliminate the need for red construction paper, glue, and scissors.

Invite the children to draw trees on the white paper. Then, have them cut small hearts from the red construction paper to glue onto the trees as fruit. Remind the children that those who hear God's teaching and live by it are like plants that grow and bear much fruit. We don't grow apples or oranges; our fruit is actions of love. Ask the children to give examples of acts that show love.

Prayers and Blessings at Home

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 13, 2014



Lectionary Readings

Isaiah 55:10–11

Psalms 65:10, 11, 12–13, 14

Romans 8:18–23

Matthew 13:1–9 (longer form,
Matthew 13:1–23)

Our Father

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass
against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

Family Blessing

**During the summer, find one thing each day that reveals God's great wisdom and love. Share this each evening, and end your discussion with this simple blessing, naming what you've discussed:
Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation.
Through your goodness, you have given us _____.**

Prayer for the Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Creator God,
let your Spirit move in power over us
to transform our hearts into the good soil
you seek.
Then may your Word bear fruit
a hundredfold through our deeds,
and thus reveal a world
that eagerly awaits the blessed hope and
glorious freedom of your reign.
We ask this through our Lord
Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.
Amen.**

Living the Liturgy at Home

Those who hear the Word of God and let it take root in them are like plants that grow in fertile soil and then bear much fruit. This week, as a family, discuss how the Word of God enriches your lives and enables you to bear fruit. How are you able to glorify God, and how will you be able to share this seed with others?



Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 20, 2014

Justice Tempered with Compassion

Lectionary #106

Focus: To experience the Kingdom of Heaven.

Wisdom 12:13, 16–19

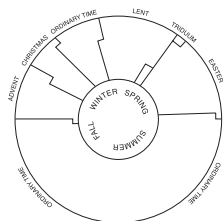
Psalms 86:5–6, 9–10, 15–16

Romans 8:26–27

Matthew 13:24–30 (longer form, Matthew 13:24–43)

Catechist's Context

This Sunday's readings remind us that we are all sinners and we must not condemn one another. We must strive to be faithful followers of Jesus, to have faith in the Holy Spirit to guide our prayers, to help one another grow in holiness, and to trust that God will judge all with justice and mercy.



Liturgical Calendar Connection

Help the children find this Sunday on the liturgical calendar. Ask them to find Pentecost and Easter, and to count how many weeks ago each was celebrated.

Connecting to the Word

☪ Have you ever helped weed a garden?

Weeding can be tricky because gardeners have to be careful not to pull up the good plants along with the weeds. If you aren't sure whether a plant is good or a weed, it's best not to pull it up. Jesus tells a story about good plants and weeds, but what he is really referring to are good people and bad. Only God can be sure which is which. Let's hear what Jesus says about judging who is good and who is bad in this Sunday's Gospel.

Sign of the Cross

All make the Sign of the Cross.

**In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.**

Alleluia

See Matthew 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia.

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven
and earth;

you have revealed to little ones the mysteries
of the kingdom.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Based on Matthew 13:24–30 (longer form, Matthew 13:24–43)

Use a chalkboard, dry-erase board, or newsprint and a marker to draw as you tell the story.

Jesus told another story. Here, he compared people to plants.

A farmer planted wheat seeds.
draw several rows of seed dots

While he was asleep that night, an enemy planted weeds among the wheat.
draw short lines among seed dots

When the wheat began to grow, so did the weeds.
draw sprouts from the wheat and weed seeds

The farmer's field workers came and told him about the weeds, and he knew an enemy had planted them. The workers asked him if they should pull up the weeds. The farmer told them not to, because they might accidentally pull up the wheat, too.

He decided to wait until the wheat was fully grown. Then the harvesters could more easily tell where the weeds were because they would be the plants with no fruit. The wheat could then be safely gathered into the barn.

Gospel Reflection

The Kingdom of Heaven

☺ What do you think about this story?
What did you learn?

Weeds don't produce grain that can be made into bread. Anything that didn't produce useful grain was obviously a weed. It's hard sometimes to tell a weed from a good plant, and it's the same with deciding whether a person is good or bad. Jesus says we can't really tell whether someone has good in their heart or bad. Only God knows.

People who live according to God's teachings are good. Those who don't will be like weeds, which don't bear fruit and are useless. Someday, those who have lived good lives will be gathered into God's Kingdom, like the wheat that was gathered into the barn. Those who have not lived good lives will be left out like the weeds.

Focus on Church Teaching

While Christ was sinless, the Church is not. We are all in need of repentance together (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 827). The Church prays daily for the mercy of God, who wants all to repent and be saved (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1037). Peace is found in justice, especially a justice that is tempered with mercy and love, the fruits of self-sacrifice (*Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, 520).

Visit to the Reconciliation Room

Bring the children to see your parish's reconciliation room. Explain that in the sacrament of Confession people have the chance to talk to the priest and tell God and the community that they're sorry for the things they've done that were wrong. The priest assures them that the community is praying for them and that God will help them to do better in the future. God forgives us if we're sorry. God is kind and loving, and he wants to help all of us do our best so we can enter into his Kingdom someday.

Welcome the Wheat

Invite the children to form a circle and hold hands. One child stands in the center as God's angel. The circle moves around the "angel," as everyone chants:

Welcome the wheat into the barn!

Welcome, welcome the wheat!

**Those whom God has loved and saved
He sends his angel to greet!**

The circle stops moving, and the "angel" chooses another child to join him or her in the center. The circle begins moving as the children chant the rhyme again. Play continues until all are gathered into God's barn. Remind the children that God wants all of us to join him and his angels someday. He wants us all to be like the wheat gathered into the barn.

"The Farmer Says . . ."

This game is similar to "Simon Says." You are the farmer. Direct the children to touch their toes, hop on one foot, etc., only when the farmer says to do so. Players who fail to respond to the farmer's commands, or who respond to commands that aren't preceded by the words "The Farmer Says" are out. The farmer declares them weeds, and now they will help the farmer catch others who aren't following the farmer's directions. The last child still in the "field" is declared the wheat, and he or she will help bring all the weeds back to become wheat again. Start the game over. After a few directions that no one misses, declare them all wheat, and "gather them into the barn."

Prayers and Blessings at Home

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



July 20, 2014

Lectionary Readings

Wisdom 12:13, 16–19

Psalm 86:5–6, 9–10, 15–16

Romans 8:26–27

Matthew 13:24–30 (longer form,
Matthew 13:24–43)

Our Father

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass
against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

Family Blessing

During the summer, find one thing each day that reveals God's great wisdom and love. Share this each evening, and end your discussion with this simple blessing, naming what you've discussed:
Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation.
Through your goodness, you have given us _____.

Prayer for the Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Merciful Father,
your patience reflects your desire
for us to repent and live in your grace.
Give us the strength and the will
to change those things that are contrary
to you.
Grant this through Jesus Christ,
our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.
Amen.**

Living the Liturgy at Home

This Sunday's readings tell us that God's justice is tempered with compassion. If there are any hard feelings or resentments in your family, try this week to resolve them with compassion and love. Pray together for peaceful resolutions to the divisions in our world. Do something together that helps in the quest for justice. You might resolve to purchase only fair-trade coffee, tea, or chocolate; simplify an area of your family life; or begin recycling.



Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 27, 2014

Yearning for Wisdom

Lectionary #109

Focus: To understand the path to the Kingdom of Heaven.

1 Kings 3:5, 7–12

Psalms 119:57, 72, 76–77, 127–128, 129–130

Romans 8:28–30

Matthew 13:44–46 (longer form, Matthew 13:44–52)

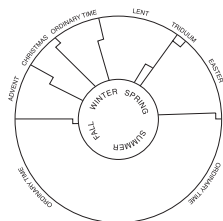
Catechist's Context

Jesus tells us in this Sunday's Gospel that all else pales in comparison with the Kingdom of God. If we're wise, we won't accept the cheap imitations that the world has to offer. Entering the joy of the Kingdom requires giving up lesser pursuits and keeping our eyes on the prize.

Connecting to the Word

☪ Have you ever traded one thing for another?

When we trade, we give up something not worth too much to us for another we value more. Let's hear what Jesus has to say in this Sunday's Gospel, about the most important thing of all: the Kingdom of God.



Liturgical Calendar Connection

Help the children find this Sunday on the liturgical calendar. Explain that God has given us many Sundays and holy days to spend with him. He's also with us during the regular days of the week. Let the children know that God is with us all the time, not just on these special days or in church.

Sign of the Cross

All make the Sign of the Cross.

**In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.**

Alleluia

See Matthew 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia.

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven
and earth;

for you have revealed to little ones the
mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Based on Matthew 13:44–46 (longer form, Matthew 13:44–52)

To tell this story, you will need a small box, a piece of fabric, and a small ball or a marble.

Jesus said that the kingdom of God is like a treasure,

place the little box in front of you

a treasure buried in a field.

cover the box with fabric

A person finds the treasure.

lift the edge of the cloth, and peek underneath

The person wants the treasure so much that he or she sells everything he or she owns and uses the money to buy the field so he or she can have the treasure.

lift the cloth and hold the box close to your heart

☺ I wonder what kind of treasure is so wonderful that someone would sell all they have to get it.

Jesus told another story about the kingdom of God. He said it's like a really expensive pearl.

hold up the ball or marble

Someone finds the pearl and sells all he or she has to buy it.

hold the ball to your heart

Gospel Reflection

The Kingdom of Heaven

☺ I wonder why Jesus compares the Kingdom of God to a treasure or a great pearl.

The Kingdom of God is where Jesus is, a place filled with love and goodness. Being with Jesus is the greatest treasure. Giving up other things that we want is worth it if that helps bring us closer to God. The people who wanted the treasure or the pearl in Jesus's stories gave up all they had because the Kingdom of God is worth more than anything.

☺ I wonder what kinds of things we might have to give up for the Kingdom of God.

Sometimes we feel selfish. Sometimes we want to just have our own way. But in order to live in the Kingdom of God with Jesus, we have to be as good and loving as Jesus is. We have to be unselfish. We have to think of others and not just ourselves. That's how we get to the Kingdom of God.

Focus on Church Teaching

God's truth and wisdom, timeless treasures, are seen in the order of the universe (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 216). Jesus bears witness to truth and reveals the wisdom of God (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 217). Wisdom draws us to what is good and inspires us to see the deeper truth that lies within visible reality. The Church, guided by the Holy Spirit, is the steward of the treasure of God's mysteries (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1117).

Find the Treasure Crayon Rubbings

You will need enough hearts pre-cut from poster board for each child, drawing paper, and crayons to do this activity.

Instruct the children to lay the hearts under their drawing paper and to rub a crayon lightly over the top until the "hidden" shape of the heart appears. Remind them that love is the greatest treasure of all, and God is love.

Hidden Treasure

For this activity, you will need "treasures" such as children's jewelry, candy in shiny wrappers, or paper cut-outs of treasure. Select items that are not ordinarily in your space so it is clear to the children that they are "treasures." Ensure that each child will have one item. Hide them around your space before the children arrive.

Tell the children that they are to hunt through the room to find the hidden treasures. Tell them that when they find one, they are to take it and sit in a designated area to wait for the others to find their treasures. Once everyone has a treasure and is seated together, explain that the Kingdom of God is not a treasure that we enjoy by ourselves. The Kingdom of God is a treasure to be enjoyed with our whole community. End the activity by singing a song of unity or praying to celebrate being together with Jesus.

Prayers and Blessings at Home

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 27, 2014

Our Father

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass
against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

Prayer for the Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Good and generous God, in Christ you
have revealed your Kingdom to us,
a treasure hidden in a field,
a pearl of great price.
Grant us your Spirit's gift of discernment,
that we may learn to distinguish aright
between the passing wealth of this
present world
and the enduring value of your Kingdom.
We ask this through our Lord
Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.
Amen.



Lectionary Readings

1 Kings 3:5, 7–12

Psalms 119:57, 72, 76–77, 127–
128, 129–130

Romans 8:28–30

Matthew 13:44–46 (longer form,
Matthew 13:44–52)

Family Blessing

During the summer, find one thing each
day that reveals God's great wisdom and
love. Share this each evening, and end
your discussion with this simple blessing,
naming what you've discussed:

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation.
Through your goodness, you have
given us _____.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Jesus tells us that the Kingdom of God is
a treasure so great that the ones who recog-
nize its value will give up anything that stands
in the way of attaining it. Discuss as a family
whether or not anything is shadowing the
Kingdom of God in your lives, and resolve to
remove any obstacle you find. Pray together
for the grace to recognize these obstacles so
that you may continue unimpeded on the path
to the Kingdom of heaven.