

good news

Family Connect Newsletter
Week of February 4-10
Preparing for February 11,
The Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

[Click for Sunday's Readings](#)

Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46
Psalm 32:1-2, 5, 11
1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1
Mark 1:40-53

Parent Connect

Thoughts on Mark 1:40-53



The leper who approached Jesus was taking a big chance coming out into society. Jesus, unafraid, and acting contrary to Jewish Law, touched the man, granting his wish to be made clean. The man moved Jesus not just to pity but to action, no matter what the cost would be to himself. All of us must learn to take action no matter what the cost, or our pity is useless.

According to Jewish law, after Jesus touched the man, he had to go through rites of purification, not only to protect himself, but the rest of the community.

At the end of the story Jesus was the one looking for solitude. He has changed places with the leper, seeking to remain outside the town. Yet people are still drawn to him.

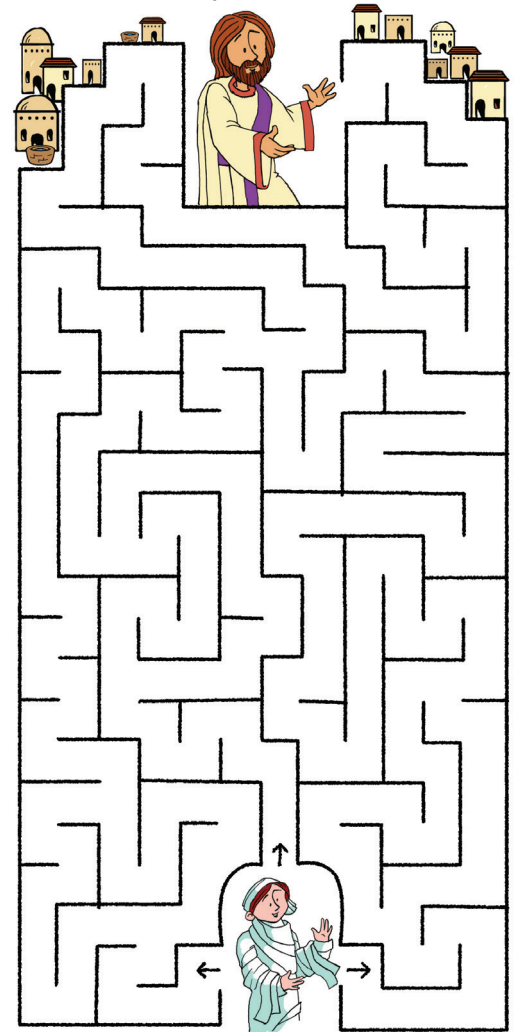
Children do a lot of begging. When they won't give up, it can be quite annoying, and they learn quickly how such behavior can produce the results they are seeking. There are many Gospel stories where someone repeatedly asks Jesus for something, and he gives in to them.

Without people who persist in asking for things, nothing will change in our world. We choose our causes and learn to stick to our convictions no matter how long it takes to get results.

Prayer is the same. We ask God for many things, and we know God is always listening. Gospel stories like this one provide examples of persistent prayer.

A-Maze-ing!

Help the sick person find their way to Jesus.



START

SAINT OF THE WEEK

Thursday, February 8

St. Josephine Bakhita

1868-1947

Josephine was born in Sudan to a wealthy family. While still a child, she was kidnapped and sold into slavery. In 1883 she was purchased by Callisto Legnani, an Italian consul who planned to free her. She accompanied Legnani to Italy in 1885, and worked as a nanny for the family of Augusto Michieli. She was treated well in Italy, and grew to love the country. She joined the Church on January

9, 1890, and took the name of Josephine as a symbol of her new life.

She entered the Institute of Canossian Daughters of Charity in Venice, Italy, in 1893, and served the community for 50 years. She was gentle and caring, having great sympathy for the poor. By 1930 she was in demand as a speaker to raise funds to support mission work.

In May, 1992, she was beatified by St. John Paul II, and canonized by him in October, 2000. St. Josephine is thought to be the only saint born in Sudan.

Let's Talk Around the Table!



- What does it mean when we say we "feel sorry for someone"? If we really mean what we say, we are probably feeling compassion. This is also called pity. Feeling this way is very good if and when it moves us to take action.
- What action did Jesus take in the Gospel story?

Pray Today!

Lord, Jesus, I want to go beyond pity and share your love with those in need. Amen.