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# Family Conversations

HERE IS A GUIDE TO ASSIST YOUR FAMILY IN TALKING ABOUT THE SUNDAY READINGS. KEEP THESE CARDS HANDY WHEREVER THEY ARE MOST LIKELY TO BE SEEN AND USED BEFORE AND AFTER CHURCH. EXAMINE THE READINGS (OR THE HOMILY) FOR IMAGES OR VOCABULARY THAT TRIGGER REACTIONS. WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS THAT YOU HAVE THE CHAT TOGETHER. FOLLOW YOUR CONVERSATIONS WHEREVER THEY MIGHT LEAD.

## Key to the Conversations

 TAKE 30 (SECONDS): A pause to think or pray in silence.

 CHAT: a time for each person to share

 PRAY: a suggested moment for prayer

 KEY: key idea: an insight about the Scripture

# LENT/EASTER 2009 YEAR B


## INTRODUCTION


Spend a moment as a family talking about the Sunday readings. Stow this card in your automobile glove box or clip it to your visor. If you are short on time in the car, keep this card on your dining room table instead. Use the following reflections to start a conversation. You may find something in the readings or in the homily that triggers different questions, which is fine. What's important is that you have the conversation. Follow the conversation wherever it leads.


ASH WEDNESDAY  
FEBRUARY 25, 2009


## St. Paul announces that we are to be ambassadors for Christ.


Scripture Sighting from  
2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2  
"We are ambassadors for Christ!"


 KEY IDEA: During this season of Lent you are being given a special assignment. St. Paul gives us a hint of what it might be . . .

 CHAT: If you were to be made an ambassador for Christ, which of the following types of ambassador would you like to be? (A) The Ambassador for the Hope of Christ; (B) the Good News Ambassador of the Kingdom of God; (C) an Ambassador of Jesus' forgiveness and reconciliation; (D) the awesome Ambassador of joy in the Lord!

 CHAT: What do you think the Kingdom of God is like? How is life in the Kingdom of God different from your life today?

**After Church**  
 TAKE 30 (SECONDS): Today, we are marked with ashes on our foreheads. If you were to mark some part of your house to remind you it is the season of Lent, what part would you mark? How would you mark it?


 CHAT: If the priest were to put the ashes on your hands instead of your forehead, would it mean something different to you? What if he placed a cross of ashes on each side of your face, or on your feet?


 PRAYER: Jesus, help me to use this Lent to change my heart to become more loving.

**First Sunday of Lent**  
MARCH 1, 2009

## Jesus announces the Kingdom of God.

**Before Church**  
Gospel Glimpse from Mark 1:12-15  
*Jesus forcefully announces that "the Kingdom of God is at hand" and that the best way to prepare for it is to repent and believe in the Gospel.*


 KEY IDEA: What things about your life would you like to change? How would making these changes make you a better person?

 CHAT: What do you think the Kingdom of God is like? How is life in the Kingdom of God different from your life today?


**Second Sunday of Lent**  
MARCH 8, 2009


## This is my beloved Son.


**Before Church**  
Gospel Glimpse from Mark 9:2-10  
*Two very important people from history suddenly appear with Jesus, and the Apostles are shaken by the experience.*

 KEY IDEA: How do you know when God is speaking to you?

 CHAT: If God were to impress you with the sight of two very important people from history, what two people might appear with Jesus?

**After Church**  
 TAKE 30 (SECONDS): As you participated in Mass today, what did you hear or notice about signs and symbols? The priest's homily? The singing?


 CHAT: Peter's response to the vision was to set up tents to make the guests comfortable. How do we make special guests feel comfortable in our home? How could we do that better?


 PRAYER: Jesus, help me to be attentive to your voice and to the ways you appear in my life.

PALM SUNDAY  
APRIL 5, 2009


**Before Church**


Scripture Sighting from Isaiah 50:4-7  
“The Lord GOD has given me / a well-trained tongue, / that I might know how to speak to the weary / a word that will rouse them.”


 **KEY IDEA:** How comfortable are we at proclaiming the Good News of Jesus’ love for us?

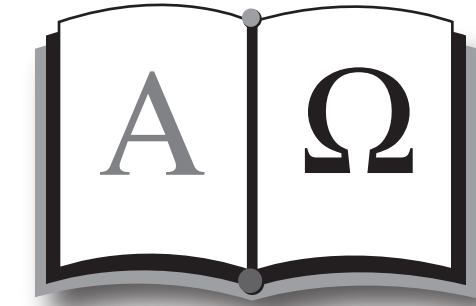
 **CHAT:** Take turns trying to say this tongue twister: She sells sea shells by the sea shore. Talk about the value of saying such statements. (Tongue twisters help us learn to enunciate better—they help us to develop well-trained tongues.)

**After Church**

 **CHAT:** The Gospel reading today was very long. What do you remember from it? How might we proclaim this Gospel message more effectively?

 **TAKE 30 (SECONDS):** We give out palms at Mass today because it is part of the Gospel story. The palms have been blessed and should be treated with respect.

 **PRAYER:** Clap your hands at five different times throughout the day today to symbolically raise your “Hosanna” to the Lord!




CATECHETICAL  
SUNDAY


EASTER SUNDAY  
APRIL 12, 2009

*He has been raised!*


**Before Church**


Gospel Glimpse from Mark 16:1-7  
(from the Vigil)  
“Do not be amazed! You seek Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified. He has been raised; he is not here.”


 **KEY IDEA:** Jesus’ Resurrection is an amazing thing!

 **CHAT:** Name some things that have happened in your life that you have found amazing. How was Jesus’ Resurrection from the dead an amazing thing?

**After Church**


 **CHAT:** What actions, symbols, and words happen at Easter Mass that are very different from Masses during the rest of the year?


 **TAKE 30 (SECONDS):** What customs and rituals are a part of your family’s Easter celebration?


 **PRAYER:** Amaze me, O Lord, with your love and grace!


THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT  
MARCH 15, 2009

*Jesus cleanses the Temple.*

**After Church**  
 **CHAT:** If Jesus were to return today, what actions (or lack of action) do you think would make him angry all over again?


 **TAKE 30 (SECONDS):** What keeps us from paying closer attention to God?


 **PRAYER:** Holy Spirit, help me to use all my emotions to bring me closer to living the true path of the Gospel.


**Before Church**  
Gospel Glimpse from John 2:13-25  
*Jesus angrily clears out those doing business in the Temple area, and the Apostles remember a prophetic line from Scripture: “Zeal for your house will consume me!”*  
 **CHAT:** What do you want the most in the whole world? What are you willing to do to get it?


FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT  
MARCH 22, 2009


*We are his handiwork.*

**After Church**  
 **TAKE 30 (SECONDS):** When you were at Mass today, what examples of kindness, respect, or sharing did you see?

 **CHAT:** Have each family member say one nice thing about every other family member.

 **PRAYER:** Lord Jesus, give me the gentle nudge I need to do good works at home, at school, and at work, even when I don’t feel like it.


**Before Church**  
Scripture Sighting from Ephesians 2:4-10  
*For we—you and me—are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for good works!*  
 **KEY IDEA:** Each one of us is created good and holy; each of us has gifts and talents to do good works to build the Kingdom of God.


 **CHAT:** Lent is the time the Church sets aside each year to help us change our lives so that we can give more attention to God. What changes do we each need to make to free us for God?


FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT  
MARCH 29, 2009


*We shall know God in our hearts and minds, not just by written laws and commandments.*


**Before Church**  
Scripture Sighting from Jeremiah 31:31-34  
*“I will place my law within them, and write it upon their hearts; I will be their God, and they shall be my people.”*


 **KEY IDEA:** God wants all believers to be like a family.

 **CHAT:** Some rules are written down like laws, but other rules are memorized in our minds and hearts. Name some rules that are written down and others you know in your heart.

 **PRAYER:** Lord, open my heart and mind to learn more and more about you!

 **TAKE 30 (SECONDS):** What are ways to teach about Jesus that do not involve words?

 **CHAT:** Music at Mass communicates in different ways. What songs did you sing today? How did the songs encourage us to do?

**After Church**  
 **CHAT:** Music at Mass communicates in different ways. What songs did you sing today? How did the songs make you feel? What did the songs encourage us to do?