

Getting Ready for Chapter 12

Take Home



We Pray with God's Word

In this chapter the children will discover how and where Jesus prayed. They will experience using their imagination to pray with the Gospel story of Jesus blessing the children. By putting themselves into the story, they will imagine what they would see, hear, feel, say, and do. The children will learn that praying with Bible stories can help them grow closer to Jesus.

ACTIVITY

Just Relax! To relax is the first step in praying with a Gospel story. Practice with your child. Sit comfortably in a quiet place. Close your eyes. Then breathe slowly while concentrating on your breathing. If you become distracted, bring your attention back to your breathing.

WEEKLY PLANNER

On Sunday

Listen carefully to the Gospel story during Mass. Imagine what it would be like to be in the story.

On the Web

www.blestarewe.com



Visit our Web site for the saint of the day and the reflection question of the week.

Saint of The Week



Saint Mark
(first century)

Mark traveled with Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary journey. Mark is one of the Four Evangelists, or Gospel writers, and his was the first to be written. He wrote that Jesus understands our suffering and that we will one day share in Jesus' eternal glory.

Feast Day: April 25



**A Prayer
for the
Week**

Dear Lord, bless our family with your presence. Help us hear your voice as we pray with Gospel stories. Help us live out the lessons we learn from your holy word. Amen.

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Scripture Background

In the Time of Jesus

Children Jesus blesses the children and tells his listeners that they must be like little children to enter the kingdom of heaven. The chief characteristic of children is acceptance; they know best how to accept gifts—with openness and faith. Jesus says that only those who accept the kingdom as a gift received through prayer and faith may enter it. Jesus goes against the common judgment of children in his day—that they hold no legal rights—by stating the special relationship they have with him.

You can read about Jesus blessing the children in Mark 10:10–16.

OUR CATHOLIC TRADITION in Prayer

The Spiritual Exercises Ignatius of Loyola, born in Spain in 1491, became the founder of the Jesuits. While studying his own spiritual life, Ignatius took notes on his experiences with prayer, suffering, and conversion of heart. His writings became known as the *Spiritual Exercises*. The exercises include Ignatius's approach to meditation. His method involves asking God for a special grace, reflecting on a Gospel scene by using one's imagination and senses, putting oneself into the scene, and applying the Gospel message to one's own life. Ignatius believed that everyone could learn to pray in this way. The *Spiritual Exercises* became Ignatius's greatest single contribution to Western spirituality.