



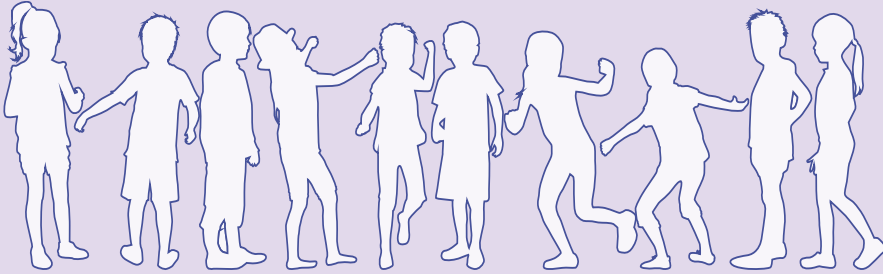
# Venture

March 22, 2020  
4th Sunday of Lent  
Laetare Sunday

## What Do I Believe In?

Write your responses in the spaces below.

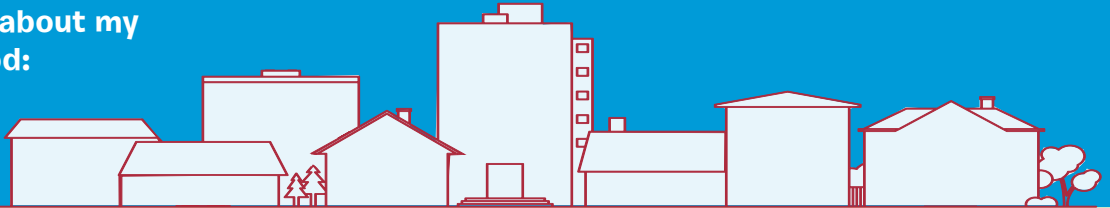
**10** qualities I like about me:



**9** beautiful objects in nature:



**8** good things about my neighborhood:



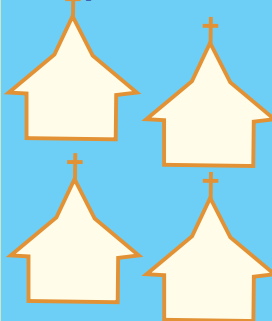
**7** good things happening in my life:



**5** wonderful qualities about Jesus:



**4** things I like about my parish:



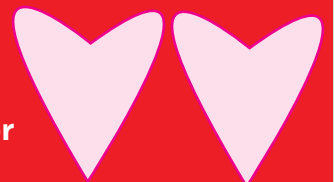
**3** times when I've prayed with all my heart:



**6** people I know who help with others:



**2** people who are always there for me:



**1** great thing God has done for me:

**G O D**

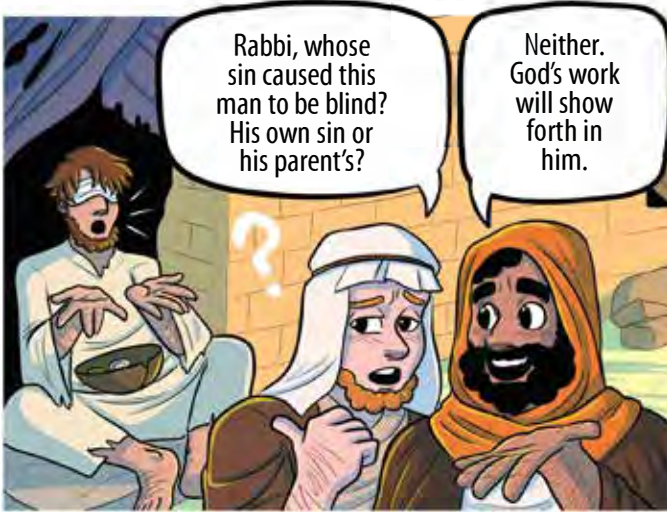


# SUNDAY GOSPEL

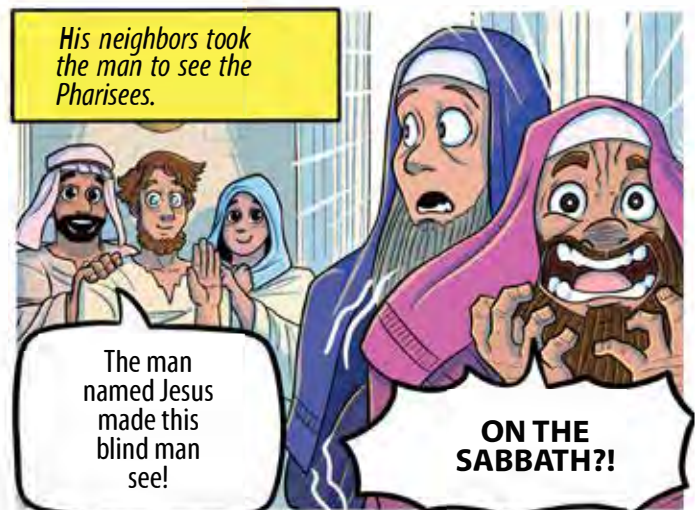
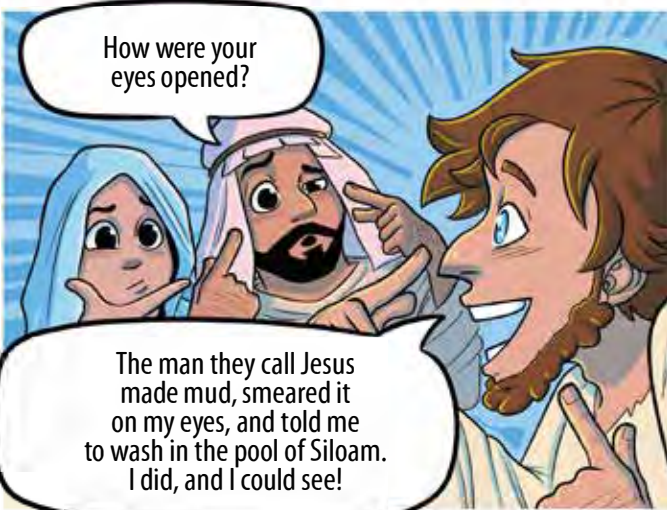
## A Man Born Blind Can See

4th Sunday of Lent

John 9:1-41



*Jesus spat on the ground, made mud with his saliva, and smeared it on the blind man's eyes.*

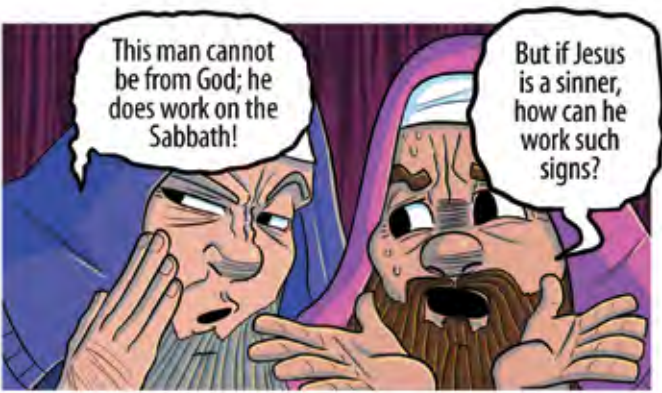


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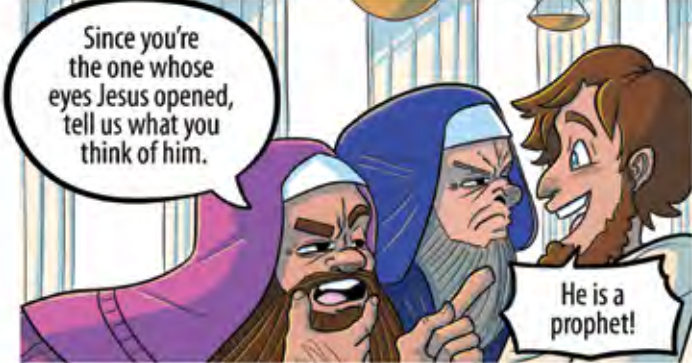
How was your blindness cured?

Jesus put mud on my eyes. I washed it off, and now I can see.



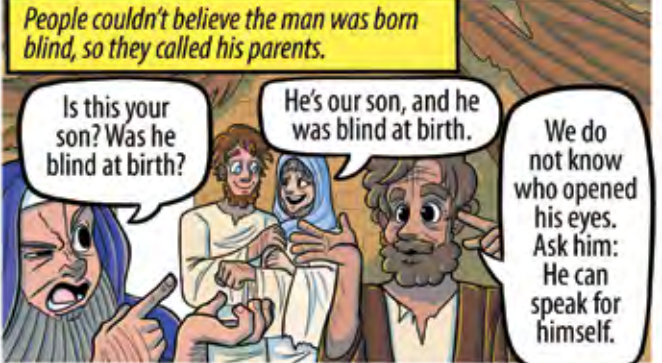
This man cannot be from God; he does work on the Sabbath!

But if Jesus is a sinner, how can he work such signs?



Since you're the one whose eyes Jesus opened, tell us what you think of him.

He is a prophet!



People couldn't believe the man was born blind, so they called his parents.

Is this your son? Was he blind at birth?

He's our son, and he was blind at birth.

We do not know who opened his eyes. Ask him: He can speak for himself.



We **know** Jesus is a sinner!

The man's parents were afraid to speak. They feared that if they said that they believed that he was healed by Jesus that they would be kicked out of the synagogue.



I don't know if he is a sinner or not. I know I was blind. Now I **SEE!**



How did he open your eyes?

I have **TOLD** you, but you won't listen!



Do you want to be his disciples?

**YOU** are his disciple. **WE** follow Moses, who spoke to God. We have no idea where Jesus comes from.



This is the news! You don't know from where Jesus comes from. But he opened my eyes. If this man were not from God, he couldn't do a thing like that!

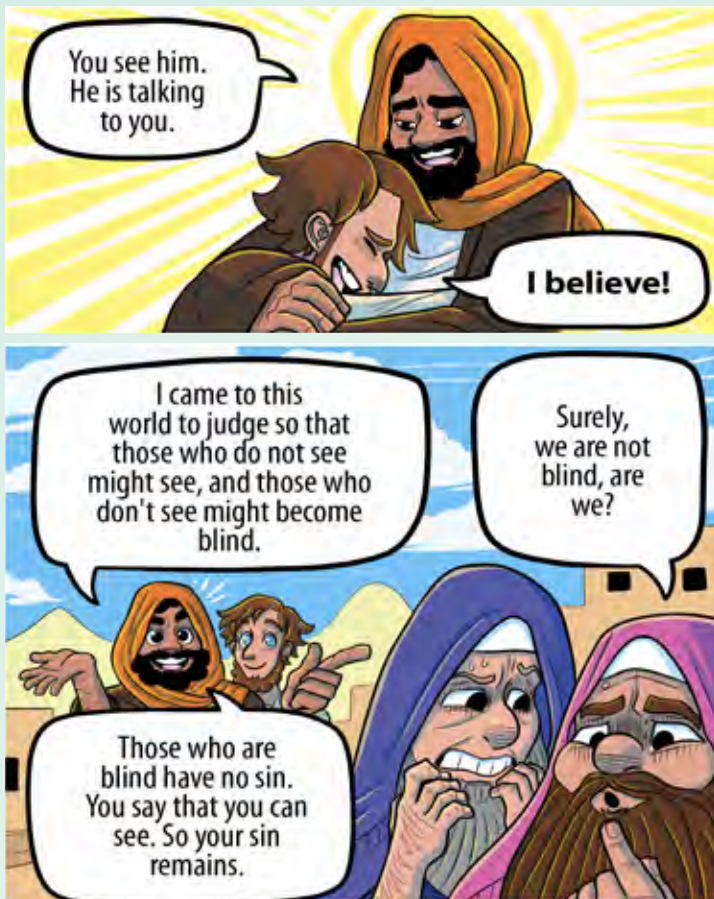
You were born in sin! Get out!



They threw the man out of the synagogue.

Do you believe in the Son of Man?

Who is he?



## THINK

- 1 What reason for the man's blindness does Jesus give?
- 2 How many times does the man tell others how his eyes were opened? What changes about who he thinks Jesus is?
- 3 Why don't the Pharisees think Jesus comes from God? Why does the man born blind disagree?
- 4 Why don't the man's parents stand up for their son?
- 5 How does the man born blind make the Pharisees angry? What do they do to him?
- 6 Who does Jesus say he is when he comes to the man who was blind? Say in your own words what the man believes about Jesus.



## Connecting GOSPEL and DOCTRINE

This Sunday's Gospel gives us a different idea of what it means to see. The man born blind receives his physical sight through Jesus' healing. As the story moves on, the man keeps seeing or understanding more fully who Jesus is.

The man washes the mud from his eyes, and he can see the people and world around him. When his neighbors and the Pharisees question what happened, he begins to tell them things about Jesus that they can't see.

The man born blind understands that Jesus must be from God or he couldn't have healed his blindness. The man born blind stands up for Jesus;

he comes to believe that Jesus is a prophet from God.

Our faith can grow like the faith of the man born blind. The more we hear about Jesus, the more ways we see to be like him and the more we grow in faith that he is God with us.

The man born blind doesn't receive his sight for any reason aside from grace. His sight—both his physical vision and his spiritual understanding—is a gift. In the same way, we receive faith as a free gift from

God. The Church teaches that we should share the gift of faith with others. Faith is a glimpse of the future we will spend with God for all eternity in Heaven.



- 1 How do you respond when you receive a gift?
- 2 The Church tells us that faith is a gift that's meant to be shared. In what ways do you share your faith with others?



Sin is disobedience. It is any word, act, or desire that breaks God's law. We can sin by accident or on purpose. Turn to pages 31–32 in *What the Church Believes and Teaches* to determine what makes a sinful act. What kind of sin do you commit if you spread a rumor about someone?

# David Is Chosen King

**T**he judge named Samuel and the king named David are two of Israel's greatest leaders. Samuel is the last of the judges. Israel's judges did not preside over courtrooms as judges do today. Instead, they led their people through crises. Samuel led his people through a difficult crisis.

The twelve tribes of Israel had no central government. Some judges, including Gideon, Samson, and Judith, led tribes against their enemies in war. Getting tribes to fight together was difficult. But around 1000 B.C., people among the tribes wanted to form a strong, unified kingdom so they could be powerful among other nations.

Samuel is the judge who led Israel in these times. Samuel grew up in the temple at Shiloh close to God. (Shiloh was the religious capital of Israel for 300 years before Jerusalem.) From the time he was very young, God spoke to Samuel.

**I**n Sunday's First Reading, God tells Samuel to go to Bethlehem to a man named Jesse, who has seven sons. One of these sons will be the king. Samuel has six of the sons line up. The youngest, David, is away herding sheep. No one bothers to call him because he is only twelve.

Samuel looks at the six young men. He thinks surely the oldest of Jesse's boys, Eliab,

who is handsome and tall, is the son God has chosen to rule Israel. God tells him that he does not judge as humans judge. People may look at the way someone appears, but God looks at the heart (1 Samuel 16:7). Jesse brings each of the six sons to Samuel, but none of these is the son whom God chooses.

**S**amuel asks if Jesse has any more sons. Jesse has to send for David. God chooses the brother no one even bothered to call home to meet Samuel. The story says that David was a handsome, healthy young man with sparkling eyes.

**Read 1 Samuel 16:13. In what way did Samuel mark David as God's chosen king?**

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During his life, David united the twelve tribes of Israel into one kingdom, and he wrote many of the psalms in

the Old Testament. David lived close to God, both in times of trouble and triumph. He sinned by having a man killed in battle so that he could marry his wife. When he realized how wrong he was, David repented and experienced **conversion**.

**Read this story from 2 Samuel 12:1-25.**

God chose David for his good heart. One of David's most beautiful songs is Psalm 139, which expresses David's feelings about God.

**Pray verses 1-14 together as a class. Write your favorite verse from this psalm below.**

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## **+** Catholic FAITH WORD

**CONVERSION** A profound change of heart that leads a person to turn away from sin and toward God.



**What if these were David and his six brothers? Who among them would you choose as a leader? For what reason?**

# We Profess Faith

When Jesus tells the man born blind that he is talking to the Messiah, the man kneels before Jesus and says, "I believe." These last words of the Gospel are the same as the first words of the Apostles' Creed we say at Mass.

The beliefs we profess in the Creed are the same as our Baptismal promises. In these promises, we reject evil and profess our faith in God.

Catechumens, people who are studying to become Catholics, receive the Creed at one of the Sunday Masses of Lent. They will profess their faith publicly for the first time at their Baptisms at the Easter Vigil.

The Catholic Church has several creeds. The Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed, the ones we profess at Mass, are best known. Our creeds state the most basic truths that Catholics believe about God the Father, Son, and Spirit, and about the Church.

Following is the text of one of the creeds of the Church with some very important words left out. Fill in the missing words. Then use the numbers under eight of the letters to fill in the missing title to the Creed.

The \_\_\_\_\_ Creed

I believe in God, the \_\_\_\_\_  
almighty, Creator of heaven and earth,

and in Jesus \_\_\_\_\_, his only  
\_\_\_\_\_, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy  
\_\_\_\_\_, born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
he descended into hell;

on the third day he \_\_\_\_\_ again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the  
right hand of God the Father almighty;  
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the \_\_\_\_\_ catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the \_\_\_\_\_  
of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
and \_\_\_\_\_ everlasting. Amen.

## Creed Quiz

Can you fill in the blanks with the name of the right creed?

We recite the \_\_\_\_\_ Creed at Mass.

We pray the \_\_\_\_\_ Creed when we say the Rosary.

Catechumens receive the \_\_\_\_\_ Creed as part of their preparation for Baptism.

The \_\_\_\_\_ Creed was formulated at the Council of Nicaea in A.D. 325.

Answers are in the Teaching Guide.



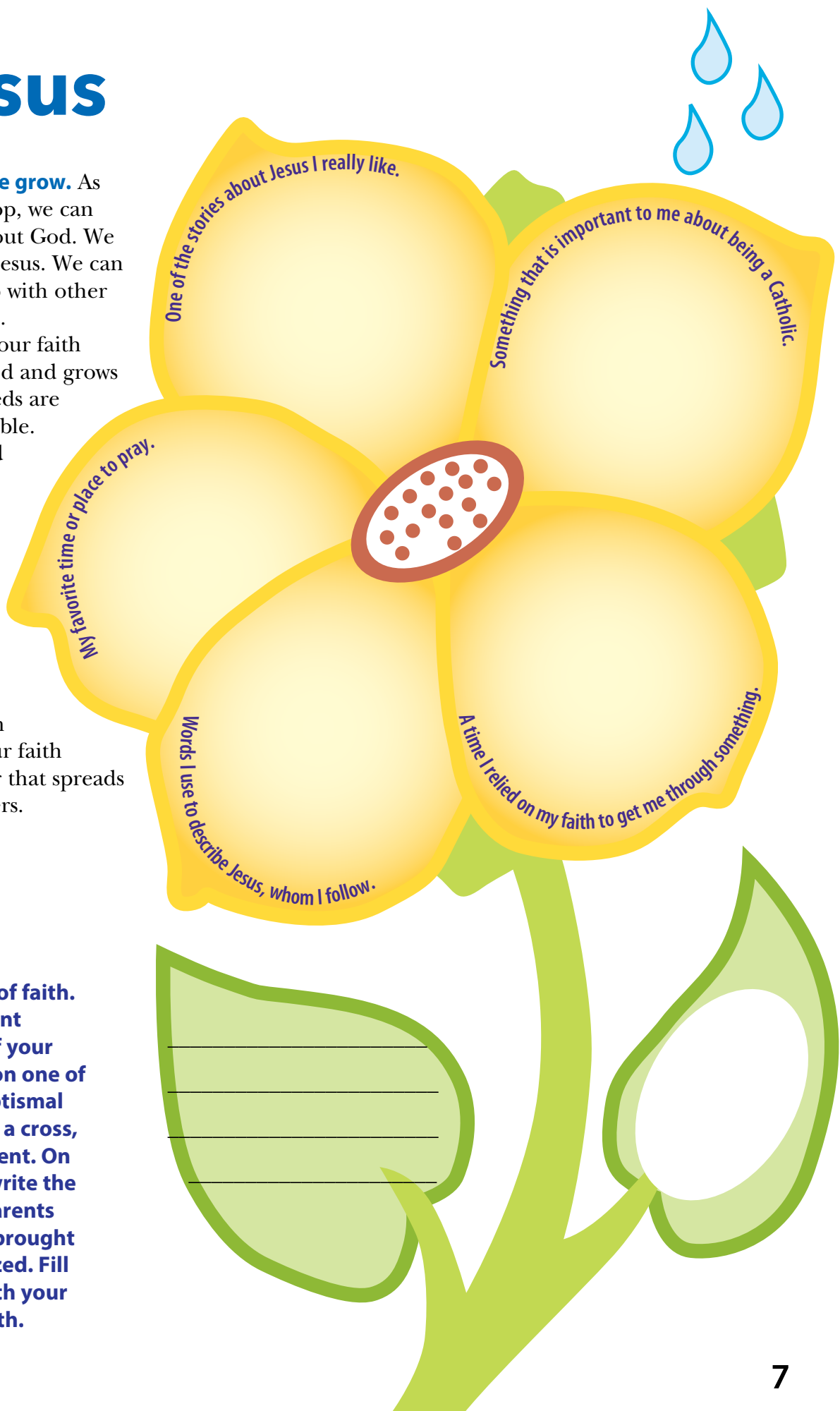
# In Jesus

**Faith grows as we grow.** As our brains develop, we can ask questions about God. We can learn about Jesus. We can pray and worship with other followers of Jesus.

Imagine that your faith starts out as a seed and grows into a flower. Seeds are little and vulnerable. Sun and rain and nutrients in the soil turn them into strong and beautiful plants.

Your faith started small, too, but grows every day as you learn from the Church and from one another. Your faith becomes a flower that spreads its beauty to others.

**Create a flower of faith.** Write on the plant stem the year of your Baptism. Draw on one of the leaves a baptismal symbol—water, a cross, or a white garment. On the other leaf, write the name of your parents and those who brought you to be baptized. Fill in the flower with your responses of faith.





# We Are Children of the Light

**The Scripture stories we read at Mass this Sunday are about darkness and light, blindness and sight.** We want to act in ways that keep us in the light of Christ. When we choose not to sin, we are children of the light. When we help others, we show them Christ's light.

This service is based on this Sunday's Second Reading, Ephesians 5:8-14.

Sit together in semi-darkness with one lighted candle. Light a taper candle after your group speaks.

**Leader:** Brothers and sisters: You were once in darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.

**Group 1:** We will live as children of light.

**Leader:** Light produces every kind of goodness. Light shows us the truth. Lord, teach us what pleases you.

**Group 2:** We will live as children of light.


**Leader:** We avoid sin and say no to people who tempt us to

sin. We won't keep secrets or share untruths. Nothing can be hidden in the light.

**Group 3:** We will live as children of light.

**Leader:** Like the man born blind, we see and believe in you, Lord. We trust in your light.

**Group 4:** We will live as children of light.

 Play and sing "Lenten Gospel Acclamation" (CD-2, #2). The lyrics are based on John 8:12, which is the Verse Before the Gospel this Sunday.

**Underline the images of light in the song:**

Glory to you, O Word of God,  
Lord Jesus Christ.  
I am the light of the world,  
says the Lord;  
All who follow me will have  
the light of life.  
I am the resurrection and the  
life.  
All who believe in me will live  
forever.



## With My Family and Friends

Scan here for parent resources. 



### Pray

God, open my eyes so that I will see you in all of Creation. Amen.



### Think

If you were blind and could suddenly see, who or what would you be most excited to see?



### Act

Instruct the members of your family to close their eyes for part of the Mass. Encourage them to pay attention to things they can smell, taste, hear, and feel. After Mass, discuss what you observed when you couldn't see.

## Look to the Light in Creation

**Read Genesis 1:1-5.** When God creates the universe, the first thing he does is to bring light to darkness. God then separates darkness from light and night from day. This week, the new moon is on Tuesday (March 24). With no moon visible in the sky, you can see other lights more clearly, including planets. Look for Mercury low in the eastern sky, just before sunrise. On that same day, look to the western sky just after sunset. The bright planet is Venus. **Pray:** Thank you, God, for all of your Creation.

For free at-home activities, visit



[gospelweeklies.com/seasonal](http://gospelweeklies.com/seasonal)