

3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

In prior weeks, we heard John the Baptist speaking about the Kingdom of God and how it was “at hand” or here with us. When John is arrested, Jesus continues this teaching. What is the Kingdom of God? It is Heaven. But we pray “thy kingdom come” every time we pray the “Our Father.” Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI explains it this way: “The keyword of the proclamation of Jesus is the Kingdom of God. But the Kingdom of God is not a thing, a social or political structure, a utopia. The Kingdom of God is God. Kingdom of God means: God exists. God is alive. God is present and acts in the world, in our – in my life.” Like the disciples, we too are called to serve the Kingdom of God, each in our own particular vocation.

PRIMARY LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The Kingdom of God means God is present in our life and in the world.

Scripture Resources: [John 1:43-51](#)

Catechism Resources: [CCC 541-542](#)

We are all called to serve a role in the Kingdom of God.

Scripture Resources: [Acts 20:32-35](#); [Matthew 5:14-16](#)

Catechism Resources: [CCC 541-542](#)

Some people are called to leave everything for the Kingdom of God.

Scripture Resources: [Matthew 13:44-46](#)

Catechism Resources: [CCC 546](#); [CCC 873, 915](#)



**PONDER: EXPLORE KEY THEMES FOR THE WEEK**

Look for opportunities throughout the week to ponder with and communicate these truths to your child(ren). Use the questions below each objective to explore the topic throughout the week. Remember that our faith is a mystery and you don't always need all the answers. Refer to the Parent Guide for more recommendations on pondering with your child(ren).

FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN:***Learning Objectives*****01 The Kingdom of God means God is present in our life and in the world.**

To help your child ponder this idea, ask:

- What is a kingdom? Who rules a kingdom?
- Who does the Kingdom of God belong to?
- If Jesus is telling us the Kingdom of God is here, then where is God?

02 We are all called to serve a role in the Kingdom of God.

To help your child ponder this idea, ask:

- What do you think the Kingdom of God is like?
- What role would you like to play in God's Kingdom?
- How can you live out this role now?

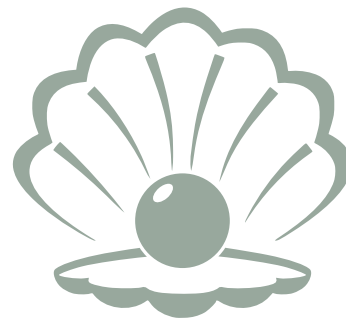
03 Some people are called to leave everything for the Kingdom of God.

To help your child ponder this idea, ask:

- Have you ever been asked to do a special task or job? (Setting the table, stirring the cake batter, leading a prayer?)
- How did it make you feel to do that job?
- Who are the people that do special jobs in your life?
- Who are the people who do special jobs for the Jesus and the Church?

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls. When he finds a **pearl of great price**, he goes and **sells all that he has** and buys it.

Matthew 13:45-46



FOR OLDER CHILDREN

Learning Objectives

01 The Kingdom of God means God is present in our life and in the world.

God sent His only Son, Jesus, into the world to save us from sin and death and teach us about His Father in Heaven. Through His teaching and miracles, Jesus helps His disciples understand what the Kingdom of God is – God present in the world and acting in our lives every moment of every day. We can share in God’s Kingdom by loving and serving God and one another through our words and deeds.

To help your child ponder this idea, ask:

- Jesus tells us the Kingdom of God is “at hand.” What does He mean by that?
- What do you think the Kingdom of God is like?
- How do you think people act in the Kingdom of God? How should you act?

02 We are all called to serve a role in the Kingdom of God.

The Kingdom of God is something very special and it’s where we desire to be. God is asking us to help make His kingdom more present in our world today. God has given each one of us unique gifts that can help us to serve our role in His Kingdom. When we use our gifts with love, we help others to share in His Kingdom, too.

To help your child ponder this idea, ask:

- What are your talents?
- Can you use these talents to serve God’s Kingdom?
- How can you use these talents to bring the Kingdom of God here in the present?

03 Some people are called to leave everything for the Kingdom of God.

God calls each and every one of us to a state of life called a vocation. Some people are called to be clergy, like priests and deacons. Some are called to religious life, or consecrated life, like a monk or nun. Many of us are called to marriage. Each of these vocations are sacred, are a call from God, and help lead people closer to God.

To help your child ponder this idea, ask:

- What do you think it is like to be a priest or a person consecrated to God?
- How is priesthood or consecration different from marriage?
- Have you ever had to leave something behind so that you could have or do something greater? What was that like? Are you happy with your decision?
- Why do priests and consecrated persons “leave everything” for the Kingdom of God? What does their example tell you about the Kingdom of God?

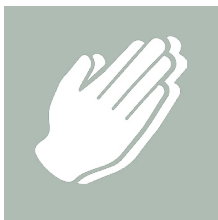
REPENT

AND BELIEVE IN THE GOSPEL

**LISTEN: FAMILY LECTIO DIVINA**

Choose one or more of the passages listed below for this week's family Lectio Divina time. Ask what your child's favorite part is or what stood out to them. Ask what God may be trying to show your child through the chosen scripture. Please refer to the Parent Guide for further recommendations on doing Lectio Divina with children.

[Mark 1:14-20](#) - Jesus proclaims the Kingdom of God and calls disciples
[Matthew 13:44-46](#) - Jesus explains the Kingdom of God



PRAY: SPECIAL PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

A daily prayer for the week: Pray the “Our Father” as a family every day this week and shout out the phrases “Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” You can find the prayer in the Prayer Guide on page 3.



ACT: CONCRETE WAYS TO LIVE OUT THIS WEEK'S THEME

CREATE crowns with the child(ren) and use this prop to introduce talking about the Kingdom of God. Leave the crowns on the prayer table or somewhere else you can see them for the rest of the week to remind everyone about the Kingdom of God throughout the week.

