

4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

AUTHORITY OF JESUS

In this week's toolkit, we find Jesus in front of the crowd teaching about scripture. The crowd was surprised to hear Jesus speak with such authority. After preaching, Jesus shocks the crowd again when He commands an evil spirit to come out of a man. These actions (and more) made Jesus well known throughout the land. Some people began to believe that He really was God.

PRIMARY LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Jesus is the perfect teacher whom we can imitate.

Scripture Resources: [Mark 1:21-28](#); [John 3:1-36](#)

Catechism Resources: [CCC 520-521](#)

Jesus teaches with a greater authority than any other teacher – the authority of God.

Scripture Resources: [Matthew 28:18](#); [Luke 4:31-37](#)

Catechism Resources: [CCC 547-548](#)

Jesus shows the Kingdom of God is near by using His authority to free others from evil.

Scripture Resources: [Matthew 5:17-20](#); [Luke 11:14-20](#)

Catechism Resources: [CCC 549-550](#)



**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 Jesus is the perfect teacher whom we can imitate.**

To help your child ponder this idea, ask:

- What do you think Jesus is like?
- How does He teach you in your life?
- How can you follow Jesus teachings and be more like Him?
- Do you have any other teachers in your life like Jesus whom you can imitate?

02 Jesus teaches with a greater authority than any other teacher – the authority of God.

To help your child ponder this idea, ask:

- What are some of the things your teachers teach you?
- Why do you think your teachers want you to learn about these things?
- What can Jesus teach you?
- How can Jesus' teachings help you?

03 Jesus shows the Kingdom of God is near by using His authority to free others from evil.

To help your child ponder this idea, ask:

- Why does rejecting evil help bring about God's Kingdom?

FOR OLDER CHILDREN*Learning Objectives***01 Jesus is the perfect teacher whom we can imitate.**

Jesus, being God and man, was the perfect man because He had no sin. We should listen to Jesus and do whatever He teaches us to do.

To help your child ponder this idea, ask:

- Why should we imitate Jesus?
- What are some ways we can imitate Him?
- How can we help others to imitate Jesus too?

02 Jesus teaches with a greater authority than any other teacher – the authority of God.

Jesus is also God, so His teachings contain the truth. We find this truth in the scriptures. Scripture is composed of the Old Testament (before Jesus' time) and the New Testament, (which begins with Jesus' birth.) Jesus is able to teach about the Old Testament better than anyone because it spoke about Him and His coming into the world.

To help your child ponder this idea, ask:

- How does the crowd react to Jesus' teaching?
- What do you think Jesus taught?
- How would you have reacted to Jesus' teaching which differed from what you learned?



03 Jesus shows the Kingdom of God is near by using His authority to free others from evil.

In the Kingdom of God, there is nothing evil that God cannot overcome. Being God, Jesus has authority over all things, even evil.

To help your child ponder this idea, ask:

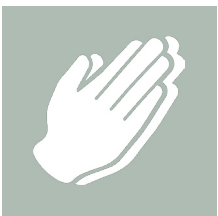
- Why does Jesus command the spirit to leave the man's body?
- What do we learn about Jesus when we see that the evil spirit obeys Him and leaves?
- Although we are not God, like Jesus, we can do things to prevent or stop evil in the world. How can you prevent or stop evil?



LISTEN: FAMILY LECTIO DIVINA

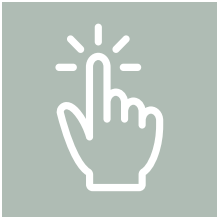
Read the passage below for this week's family Lectio Divina time. Ask what your child's favorite part is or what stood out to them. Ask what God may be trying to show your child through the chosen scripture. Please refer to the Parent Guide for further recommendations on doing Lectio Divina with children.

[Mark 1:21-28](#) - Jesus shows authority in word and deed



PRAY: SPECIAL PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

As a family, pray the "St. Michael the Archangel" prayer on page 6 of the Prayer Guide.

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

PLAY “Simon Says” with your children. Use the game to show that Jesus is our model and teacher and we should strive to imitate Him like we imitate “Simon.”

“Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do so will be called least in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever **obeys and teaches these commandments** will be called **greatest** in the kingdom of heaven.”

Matthew 5:19

