

# The Gospel at Home

## **This Week's Gospel: Luke 24:46–53**

On this Sunday, most parishes will celebrate the Feast of the Ascension. For the rest, the feast is celebrated on Thursday, May 5. The Gospel and the feast recalls Jesus leaving this earth and ascending to his Father in heaven. The second reading from the Acts of the Apostles also contains the promise that Jesus will come again. This Sunday is also Mother's Day. Be sure to show Mom how special and loved she is.

## **Exploring the Gospel Message**

**Seeds (Preschool):** This week your child learned about Jesus' returning to his Father in heaven. They learned, too, that they belong to a church family that believes in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, and that lives by his Holy Spirit. Ask your child to tell the family about Sammy Squirrel.

**Promise (Grades K–1):** On this Mother's Day, your child learned more about Mary—God's mother and our mother, too. Talk about ways Mary cared for Jesus and Joseph. Talk about how important Mary is to you personally. Look at the images of Mary you see in your home and in your parish church. Talk, too, about the Feast of the Ascension.

**Good News (Grades 2–3):** Your child's class learned that Jesus sends us out to be Spirit-filled people. Your child may have come home with a bracelet that announces that your child is a follower of Jesus. The teacher has signed the bracelet. Ask your child to share with the family the booklet that tells what led up to the wearing

of the bracelet. The story includes the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

**Venture (Grades 4–6):** In class, your child learned that everyone has a vocation—the way each is called to love and serve in the world as Jesus did. The disciples were witnesses to all that Jesus said and did. Talk about how your family can witness to your faith in today's world. Ask your child to share with the family the story of Mother Teresa of Calcutta and her vocation to care for the poor and the dying. (Mother Teresa will be declared a saint by Pope Francis this coming September.)

**Visions (Grades 7–8):** In class this week, your son or daughter learned that a good disciple responds to Jesus' call to be his witness in the world. Talk together about ways your family can bring the Good News to others by the way you live, speak, and act. The class also discovered a plan for keeping their faith alive during the summer. It is a weekly activity based on the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Ask your teen to share the plan with the family so that everyone can participate in this simple and effective week-by-week activity this summer.

## **Pray Together**

When you complete your conversation about the week's Gospel lesson, plan to attend a weekday Mass as a family. This can be difficult because of work and school schedules, but with a little planning and a sacrifice of time, it can be done. After the Mass, spend time together in church praying silently.