

I love you!

Happy Mother's Day





# Real People try to find

## GOD



### GOSPEL THEME

Jesus is the way, the  
truth, and the life.

**E**LAINE Hayes was lost, hopelessly lost in a crowd at a fireworks display. She had stopped to watch some people making fresh lemonade at a stand, but when she turned around to rejoin her family, they were gone! She didn't know which way to go!

Edward J. Oliphant III was watching two politicians arguing on television. One woman claimed she was telling the truth and that her

opponent wasn't, but her opponent was saying that *she* was lying and *he* was telling the truth! They were arguing and talking all over each other and *nobody* was listening to anyone else. Mr. Oliphant said angrily, "The heck with them all!" and turned off the TV. "God knows who's telling the truth!"

Marva Tadeucci has eight grandchildren and lives at home alone. Three years ago

her husband died, and just yesterday the veterinarian had to put her dog to sleep because Shags was sick and old. Mrs. Tadeucci washed dishes and looked out her kitchen window to see snow falling. Tears rolled down her cheeks and dropped into the suds as she washed Shags' dish for the last time. She missed Herbert and she missed Shags. Nobody seemed to need her anymore. "Where have their lives gone?" she wondered.

## THINK ABOUT it!

In these stories there is a girl seeking the right way, a man wondering where he can find truth, and a woman who wonders where life is.

In today's gospel, Jesus tells us that *he* is "the way, the truth, and the life." He says that if we follow and believe him we can have eternal life with God. Jesus wants us to know that at times our lives will be like his. We will serve others, we will suffer, we will die. But that's not the end! God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit together give us new life. We need to continue believing that Jesus loves us and is with us, even when we are frightened, angry, or sad. Those are the important times to remember that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.



# SHARING the GOOD NEWS

Activity for Class  
or Family

If you had lived before the time of Jesus, you would have an entirely different view of God than you now have. Jesus introduced us to *Abba*, the God who is Father to us all. The more we read of Jesus' teachings, the closer we come to knowing God. Jesus said, "I am in the Father and the Father is in me." Thus, our view of our relationship to God is made clear by our understanding of family relationships. Here is a way you can cement that understanding while enforcing this week's message by making a family tree.

- 1 In a class, everyone should have a large piece of construction paper in front of them. At home, one large piece of construction paper will do. Also have various other scraps or pieces of construction paper or fabric so everyone can cut out small symbols.
- 2 On the large piece of paper, draw a tree with lots of bare branches.
- 3 Make symbols that represent each member of the immediate family. Symbols should be based on the most distinctive feature of each member (smile, helping hands, and so forth).
- 4 Paste the symbols for the youngest members on the lowest tree branches. As one moves up the tree, the symbols should stand for increasingly older people. Go as far back as possible in the family history.
- 5 At the very top of the tree, place a large circle with the words: *We are God's family* written on it.
- 6 For the following week, children should use the completed tree as a prayer starter at home. They can replace

customary dinner grace with the Lord's Prayer as they hold hands with each other around the table. This form of prayer is an excellent way of identifying each of us as a child of God.



Start

## Circle of LOVE

In today's gospel, Jesus speaks comforting words to his people. Beginning at the arrow, read every other letter to see the promise Jesus gives us.




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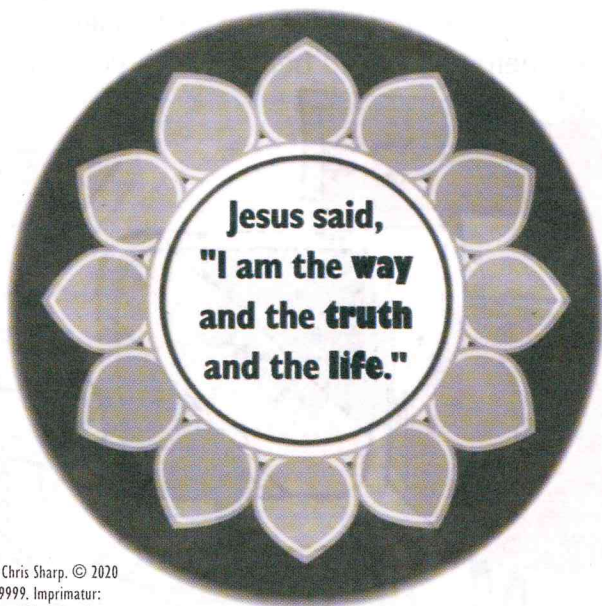
# Family Page



In today's gospel story, Jesus says he is going to prepare a place for us in his Father's house. He reminds his disciples that he is the way, the truth, and the life.

Nothing is more important to your family than to keep each member following Jesus' way. If you give your children everything yet somehow lose sight of their spiritual needs, you fail them. To help your family keep on the road toward heaven, teach them to live each day for God. Suggest small things that they can do to achieve this.

Make a Road-to-Heaven poster, using pictures of people helping people. These can be cut from magazines or drawn by the children. Paste the pictures along a road leading upward. Write across the bottom of the poster these (or similar) words: OUR ROAD TO HEAVEN IS PAVED WITH GOOD DEEDS AND LOVE.



# explaining GOD'S WORD

Fifth Sunday of Easter (A) • John 14:1-12 • May 10, 2020



Jesus told his disciples he was going to prepare a place for them in his Father's house — heaven. Solve the rebus to see what heaven is like.



HEAVEN IS THE PLACE OF PERFECT





# What Will Heaven Be Like?

Do you ever wonder what heaven is like? Do you ever ask yourself, "How do people get to heaven? How can I know the right way?"

Jesus says, "I AM the way! Follow me and do what I have done."

*Jesus led the way in helping people.*

When a classmate drops some books, do you follow Jesus and help pick them up?

*Jesus led the way in sharing with the poor.*

When your school collects clothes and toys for the poor, do you follow Jesus and give some of your things?

*Jesus led the way in praying.*

When you wake up each day, do you follow Jesus and say a prayer of thanks to God for another new day?

*Jesus led the way in forgiving others.*

When someone hurts your feelings, do you follow Jesus and forgive them?

*Jesus led the way in visiting the sick and helping them.*

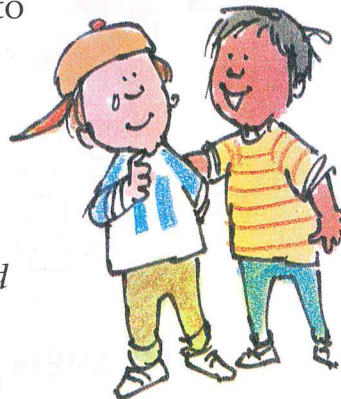
When someone you know is sick, do you follow Jesus and go to see them or send them a card?



If you follow Jesus, you will find the way to heaven.

Happiness is the beautiful promise of today's gospel story.

And HEAVEN is what happiness is really all about.



## HEAVENLY SIGNS

Here are some things that will make you happy on earth and help you get to heaven. Can you unscramble them?

