

FAITH IN 5

Ordinary Time: Week 24

Ages 3-8

1. This week read Luke 15: 1-32. In the readings, Jesus tells us three different parables, or stories- the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son. **Do you remember what happens in the parable of the lost son?** A father had two sons. The younger son took a lot of money from his Father, left home, and spent every penny. He had no money left, was hungry, and wanted to go home. **Do you remember how his father responded when he came home?** Instead of being angry, the father was overjoyed with happiness. He was so happy, in fact, he gave him a gift and threw a party for him. **What are we meant to learn from this parable?** Jesus wants us to know that God, our Father in Heaven, is like this Father from the story! God loves us so much! No matter how many bad things we do, or how much we sin, God will continue to welcome us back. God will always love us and forgive us.
2. **After the Creed, what happens next during Mass?** Next, we say the bidding prayers, or intercessions. A lector usually lists off many prayers and as a congregation (or group of Catholic Christians) we respond with "Lord, here our prayers." **What is something you can do at this time?** You can tell God some of your own personal prayers- maybe pray for a friend or family member who especially needs it at this time.
3. **What does it mean when we say something is "Holy?"** All Holy things come from God. Only God is perfectly Holy. When we say something is Holy (for example, the Church) we are saying that our God works in it. Everything on earth that God shines through is Holy and God makes the Church Holy. **Can you think of some things that we might describe as Holy?** Holy sites, Holy Communion, Marriage, Feast days, even people are Holy!
4. The feast day of the exaltation of the cross (or "Holy Cross Day") is celebrated on September 14th! **What does exaltation mean?** To exalt something means to lift something high or speak really highly of something. **What do we celebrate on this special feast day?** We celebrate the day when Jesus's cross was found and taken out of the ground. Saint Helena helped find the Cross when she went to Jerusalem to search for the holy places where Jesus lived. They excavated (or took out of the

ground) three crosses. It is said that the one which was Jesus's healed a sick woman as soon as she touched it! On Holy Cross Day, we are celebrating Christianity and Jesus's victory over death! [Here](#) is a great coloring sheet of Saint Helena and the cross!

5. What are the fruits of the Holy Spirit? There are twelve fruits of the Holy Spirit and they are perfections that God gives us to help us live Holy lives. (CCC 1830) They are:

- Charity
- Joy
- Peace
- Patience
- Kindness
- Goodness
- Generosity
- Gentleness
- Faithfulness
- Modesty
- Self Control
- Chastity

These fruits are blessings from God that will help us be strong in our faith!

Can you give an example of how to practice one of these?

REVIEW QUESTION: Why do we say the Creed? The Creed means "this I believe." When we say the creed, we are professing all the things we believe as Catholic Christians!

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