

FAITH IN 5

Ordinary Time: Week 13

Ages 3-8

1. In this week's readings (Luke 9: 51-62) Jesus tells us that "discipleship will bring many hardships." **What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus?** It means to be a follower of Jesus. What Jesus is sharing with us is that it is not easy to be His disciple, it will be very hard at times. We are told that we must let go of our "worldly desires" to walk with Jesus. What does this mean? We must put Christ before all else. Jesus wants to be first in our lives! **What are some ways we can remember to put Jesus first throughout the day?** We must always remember to pray and talk to Him! We can pray anytime of day, but especially when we wake up, before we eat, and before we go to sleep at night. We are also putting Christ first when we go to Mass, when we make the sign of the cross, and when we love each other!
2. On June 29th we celebrate two very special saints. Their names are Saint Peter and Saint Paul. **Do you know anything about these two Saints?** We hear their names a lot in the New Testament of the Bible! St Peter, used to be known as Simon. He was one of Jesus's apostles and one of his right hand men. Before Jesus ascended into Heaven, he gave His Church over to Peter, to lead. He became the first pope of the Holy Catholic Church. Saint Paul, used to be known as Saul. He once was not a very nice man who persecuted (or were mean to) Christians. Then one day, Jesus appeared to him and his life changed forever. Saint Paul turned his life over to Jesus and was dedicated to sharing with others who Jesus is and how much He loves us. **What can Saints Peter and Paul teach us?** Through their example, we are reminded that God loves us know matter how many times we have hurt God. God has a plan for each and every one of us. With the Holy Spirit's help, we can turn our lives over to Jesus and help bring others to Christ! **Do you want to lead others to Christ?**
3. **What are the ten commandments?** In the Old Testament of the Bible, we read about how God gave the people of Israel the Ten Commandments. These commandments are rules that God wants us to live by so that everyone is happy and there is peace. In the following weeks, we will discuss each commandment!

In the New Testament, Jesus tells us that the most important commandment is to "love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." (Luke 10:27)

4. **Do you know what God's first commandment is?** The first commandment is "I am the Lord your God, You shall have no other gods except me." **What do you think this means?** It means that there is nothing more important than God- no person or no thing! When we put something before God, we call that thing an idol. In today's world it is easy to make things our "god." It could be your best friend, a favorite tv show, favorite dessert, or maybe a hobby- like swimming or soccer. We have to remember that at the end of the day, none of that stuff is important. This life is only temporary but God is forever! We always want to put Him first in our lives.

5. **What does it mean to be obedient to Jesus?** In this week's gospel reading, Luke describes how the apostles responded to Jesus's words in **obedience**. To be obedient means to acknowledge, understand, and practice what God has asked of us. Luke's gospel reading and Galatians 5 detail how Christians need to open their hearts and minds up for the Holy Spirit to work in and through our lives. We can do this by going to Mass, spending time in prayer, reading the Bible, understanding Church teaching, and practicing the virtues. As we grow closer to Jesus, the Holy Spirit enables us to live out Jesus's plan for our lives and turn against sin.

Review Question: What was the name of Jesus's earthly (or adopted) Father? Saint Joseph

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