

September 2021
Ordinary Time
Proper 22



The Diocesan Sunday School Teacher



Welcome

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Greetings My Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Today our focus is Restoration of Relationships between each other and with God.

We start with the perfect relationship humans had with each other at creation. Males and females shared responsibility for all that God had created.

However, sin entered into us and our perfect relationship became marred. We see that today in our broken relationships, and the disunity in our families that spreads to our wider communities and nation.

Jesus is challenged in today's gospel reading to explain the necessity for legal separation, divorce. But Jesus is clear, that God did not create humans for disunity. Instead, Jesus points to a return to the created state. It is Jesus who makes that possible, as he gives his life to purify humans from sin, and to restore us to God.

We must be prepared to accept the sacrifice that Jesus has made and so become his brothers and sisters.

As we become bound to God through faith in Jesus Christ, may we live out the Kingdom of God in our homes, and be loving and welcoming of all of God's children.

Blessings,
The Sunday School Team



Collect & Readings

Memory Verses: St. Mark 10: 7-9

'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

The Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Saviour; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Genesis 2:18-24

Psalm 8

Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

Mark 10:2-16

The First Lesson (Genesis 2:18-24)

The LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said,

"This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
this one shall be called Woman,
for out of Man this one was taken."

Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

This reading describes the creation of the various living creatures of the earth. It highlights the creation of human beings, the responsibility of the stewardship of creation that was placed on them, and the special love and care that was promised between humans at the beginning of creation.

ACTIVITY:

Creation Bible Story

Video:

(Press and hold the ctrl button and click the link at the same time)

<https://youtu.be/ja1RRyaMQMQ>

Colouring Pages:

<http://www.anglicandioceseja.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Adam-and-Eve-Colouring-Pages-Proper-22.pdf>

BIBLE STUDY: Genesis 2:18-24

God decided that man needed a genuine partner to help him in the Garden of Eden where he had responsibility for the care of God's creation.

God attempted to satisfy man's loneliness by creating the other animals. However, this failed, man was still lonely.

God tried a second time. This time God fashioned a woman from the rib of Man. Man's response was instant joy.

The relationship they had, represents God's desire for marriage and families, where all are united in love.

QUESTIONS:

Who are the members of your family?

How do we show our love for each other in our families?

God created woman to be a partner to man, are they always treated that way?

How can the relationship between man and woman return to what God intended?

Psalm 8

- 1 O LORD our Governor, * how exalted is your Name in all the world!
- 2 Out of the mouths of infants and children * your majesty is praised above the heavens.
- 3 You have set up a stronghold against your adversaries, * to quell the enemy and the avenger.
- 4 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, * the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,
- 5 What is man that you should be mindful of him? * the son of man that you should seek him out?
- 6 You have made him but little lower than the angels; * you adorn him with glory and honor;
- 7 You give him mastery over the works of your hands; * you put all things under his feet:
- 8 All sheep and oxen, * even the wild beasts of the field,
- 9 The birds of the air, the fish of the sea, * and whatsoever walks in the paths of the sea.
- 10 O LORD our Governor, * how exalted is your Name in all the world!



In the Psalm, all of creation glorifies God the creator.

In all the glory of creation, humanity is set apart by God and given responsibility to care for the rest of God's creation.

The Second Lesson (Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12)

Humanity was given the responsibility to care and protect God's creation and to bring all to honour and glorify God. Humanity is yet to be fully successful at this task, however, Jesus puts aside his divinity, power and authority and suffers and dies to restore humanity to God as his sisters and brothers who honour and glorify God.

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word.

When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. But someone has testified somewhere,

"What are human beings that you are mindful of them, or mortals, that you care for them? You have made them for a little while lower than the angels;

you have crowned them with glory and honor, subjecting all things under their feet."

Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you."

ACTIVITY:

Write down some of the ways and persons through whom God speaks to us.

Draw the story that the lesson is sharing:
Perfect creation;
human disobedience;
God sent the Son;
the Son is crucified;
Jesus claims us as brothers and sisters;
humans are restored to God.

BIBLE STUDY: HEBREWS 1:1-4; 2:5-12

God desired to save us. In the past God tried to reach humans through prophets, but now God speaks to us directly through Jesus.

God created the world in the beginning. The Son is present at creation. He is obedient to God's will and acts exactly as God does.

God chose humans to rule the earth, so that all of creation would honour God. But humans were disobedient, we did not honour God. But out of love, God acts to restore us, by sending his Son. Jesus takes off his power and glory, and puts on human form and suffers and dies to save everyone. The humanity that Jesus took on was purified by suffering, and we too are purified of our sins and restored as sisters and brothers of Christ and welcomed as children of God.

QUESTIONS:

When humans were disobedient, did God give up on us? Why should we give others a second and third chance? Is this easy to do?

How can we follow Jesus and be obedient to God's will?



St. Mark 10:2-16

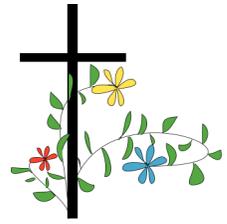
This reading approaches the matter of human relationships from the angle that we are stewards of each other. The breakdown of our relationships is a reflection of our failure to care for each other as promised in the beginning at creation.

Some Pharisees came, and to test Jesus they asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her." But Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

St. Mark 10:2-16 Cont.



BIBLE STUDY: ST. MARK 10:2-16

The Pharisees question Jesus about the legality of divorce. Jesus points to the laws of Moses and explains it was given because of their “hardness of heart”. However, the law is in opposition to God’s original design.

Jesus refers to Genesis, to our creation as male and female, and the ideal relationship of love that joins two persons in marriage.

Jesus is pointing out that society enacts laws to protect the powerless from their abusers when the relationships break down.

However, in the kingdom of God, there is a restoration of God’s way. Our relationships will be restored to what God desires for us; where the weak and powerless will not be harmed, but will be cared for, loved and welcomed and we will all live as one.

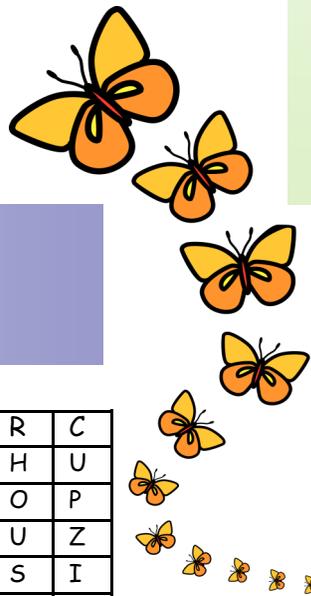
Even children, who were considered unimportant, and powerless will be loved and welcomed in the Kingdom of God, as Jesus demonstrated.

QUESTIONS

What was God’s original design for how humans would live with each other and how we would treat children?

Do we always live up to God’s ideal?

How can we return to caring for each other as God desires?



Activity: Word Search Mark 10: 2-16

S	E	S	O	M	Z	N	O	I	T	A	E	R	C
Q	W	E	R	T	H	H	U	G	S	Z	Q	H	U
D	I	V	O	R	C	E	U	H	B	M	I	O	P
R	I	D	I	C	U	L	O	U	S	L	O	U	Z
I	A	E	R	B	O	R	O	O	D	L	O	S	I
V	O	I	C	E	T	U	Q	R	I	L	Z	E	W
E	H	T	Y	T	R	B	E	A	S	X	Z	Q	R
R	I	G	H	T	E	N	Q	A	C	B	V	X	N
I	N	B	Y	T	R	E	W	F	I	S	D	D	A
E	D	E	T	I	N	U	E	O	P	I	E	R	D
P	E	N	I	D	A	N	D	B	L	A	T	E	B
O	R	Q	W	X	Z	C	U	B	E	W	E	R	L
M	R	E	G	O	L	K	C	O	S	Z	U	D	E
A	V	W	Z	X	C	R	A	T	E	O	I	L	S
L	A	W	O	F	D	S	T	X	B	S	P	I	S
E	V	E	R	Y	T	O	I	L	K	N	I	F	E
C	O	M	M	A	N	D	O	X	Z	Q	B	E	D
B	R	I	G	H	T	N	N	T	O	N	E	R	S
Z	Q	E	P	U	B	T	S	E	W	R	B	U	R
V	Z	C	A	B	Y	T	E	S	G	E	W	W	E
W	E	Q	B	T	X	V	B	T	T	H	I	T	A
L	I	V	E	R	I	N	J	E	Q	F	Z	V	S
P	O	I	N	T	G	O	O	D	E	E	D	Z	O
H	U	S	B	A	N	D	N	E	W	S	S	U	N

Husband	Creation	Disciples	Male	Flesh	Command
Divorce	Reason	Hinder	Law	Tested	Children
United	House	Moses	Wife	Touch	Blessed

We hope you found this newsletter informative and useful.

Please feel free to share it with others.

We extend our thanks to all the persons who assisted in the preparation of this newsletter.

Please send comments to:
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