

Kids' Chronicle

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Jesus tells us to put others first

By Joe Sarnicola

Jesus was talking to his disciples in a secluded area beyond the shores of Lake Galilee. "Listen carefully to what I have to say, because it is very important."

The disciples looked at each other, wondering what Jesus was going to tell them.

Jesus continued. "Very soon the Son of Man will be captured by men who will see to it that he is sentenced to death. They will use their legal authority to see that the sentence is carried out quickly. This will happen as I say, but after three days the Son of Man will come back to life."

The disciples were both frightened and surprised by what Jesus had said. They whispered to each other because they were not sure if Jesus had told another parable, or if he had spoken about himself. Not one of them asked Jesus to explain what he meant.

Jesus stood and led his disciples out of their hiding place toward Capernaum, an important city on Lake Galilee. Along the way some of the men were arguing with each other.

"What is the matter?" Jesus asked.

The disciples were silent because they were ashamed to tell Jesus the answer. But Jesus knew that they were wondering which one of them was the most important disciple.

"Let us stop at that clearing up ahead," Jesus said. When they had reached the field, Jesus instructed his disciples to sit down. "The follower of mine who wants me to consider him the most important must see himself as the least important, and must be willing to be a servant to all people."



Illustration by Kathy Welsh

"That seems a very hard thing to do," said James.

"You must strive to have the faith and innocence of a child. Whoever accepts one of them, accepts me and the one who sent me."

John said, "My Lord, a man was casting out devils in your name. We told him to stop, because he was not one of us."

"Do not prevent such people from what they are doing. Those who do not oppose us support us. If anyone gives you so much as a drink of water because you are a Christian, my father will see it and reward that person."

People who had been walking along the road recognized Jesus and quickly spread the news that he was there. A crowd soon gathered around him and his disciples. Some families brought their children forward to be blessed by Jesus, but the disciples would not let them through. When Jesus saw what was happening, he said, "Bring the children to me."

The disciples let the children run up

to Jesus and hug him. Then Jesus said to everyone, "The kingdom of God will be filled with children. No one will enter into that kingdom unless they have the faith of a child."

Later, as Jesus sent the crowd away and was preparing to continue his journey, a wealthy man stopped him and asked, "How can I get eternal life? I have obeyed the law since I was young."

Jesus told him, "Give all of your possessions to the poor and follow me, and eternal life will be yours." The rich man left with a sad face. He owned property and livestock and had a lot of money and was not willing to part with those things.

"Those who are in first place now will come last later," Jesus said, "and those who are last now will be in first place in the kingdom of God."

Read more about it: Mark 9 & 10

1. What did Jesus say that frightened his disciples?
2. Why did the rich man become unhappy?

Bible Trivia

How old was Jesus when he spoke with the Jewish teachers? (Luke 2)

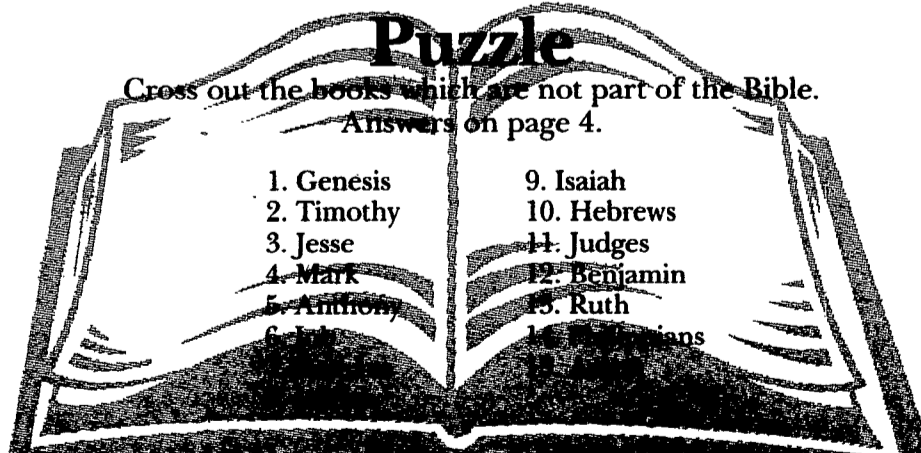
Send answers to: *Catholic Courier Bible Trivia*, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y., 14624. Please include your name, address and school name.

All entries must be received by October 13, 1994. A winner will be selected at random from all the correct entries submitted. The winner will be notified by mail and receive a gift.

Last month's winner was Jonathan Harmon of Brooks Hill School in Fairport. He knew John the Baptist was "the voice of someone shouting in the desert."

Puzzle

Cross out the books which are not part of the Bible. Answers on page 4.



Bible Accent

Children are very important to God. The baby Moses was rescued by Pharaoh's own daughter who saw to it that he was raised in the palace. He grew up to become the leader of the Israelites.

When Samuel was a young boy, God called him during the night. He became a wise priest and anointed both Saul and David as the first and second kings of Israel.

David was only a boy when, wearing no armor and carrying no weapons except for his slingshot, he faced Goliath in battle. The giant fell dead with David's first shot.

John the Baptist was called by God to be "the voice crying out in the wilderness" before he had even been born. His birth was announced by an angel to his father and he grew up to be the man who baptized Jesus.

And, of course, the most important child in the Bible is Jesus, who was born of humble parents in a stable surrounded by farm animals. He is the son of God and the savior of all people.

Saint Jerome

Saint Jerome attended school in Rome, where he excelled in languages and religious studies. He later travelled to Greece for further study, but became very sick. He continued to study and wrote several books even as he was recovering.

After being ordained as a monk by Pope Damasus, he settled in Rome to serve as the pope's secretary. While in this position, he wrote a Latin translation of the Bible which was pronounced the official version by the Council of Trent.

Jerome died in Bethlehem at the age of 78 in the year 420. He is the patron saint of religious scholars, and we honor him on September 30.

Correction

The answer key for the August 25 "Bible characters" puzzle reversed the answers for Saul and David. Saul was the "First king of Israel," while David "Wrote many psalms." In addition, Stephen is the correct spelling of the name of the "First martyr."

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