

## Bible Accent

During Bible times, parents believed children were blessings from God, and a family with many children was considered very blessed.

Boys helped out with the chores or the family business, while girls helped their mothers. After a day of work or school studies (usually only boys received training from teachers), they made time to play with their simple, home-made toys or games.

Stories about children in the Bible include Joseph and his brothers, David's battle with Goliath, the giant, Samuel's call by God, and the birth of Jesus.

Jesus often preached about how much he loved children and how important they were in God's kingdom.

### St. Nicholas of Tolentino

Nicholas of Tolentino was born in 1245 in Italy after his parents prayed that God would bless them with children. His mother promised God that she would bring up her son to serve God throughout his life.

When he heard an inspiring sermon by an Augustinian friar, Nicholas decided to become a member of that order. He was accepted and studied theology in San Ginesio.

He was responsible for the food pantry of the order, which gave daily rations to the poor.

Nicholas was ordained a priest in 1270, and he served at many of the Augustinian friaries and mission sites. Motivated by a strong urging from God, Nicholas returned to his home city, a place that he felt had forgotten God.

Nicholas preached in the streets, ministered to the sick and the dying, and tried to help people resolve their conflicts peacefully. He died in 1305. We honor him on Sept. 10.

# We serve God by serving others

Joe Sarnicola/Contributing writer

Jesus wanted to travel through Galilee with his disciples without any of the people seeing him. He loved to preach and to heal the sick, but there were times when he wanted to talk privately to his disciples. That was not possible if they were followed by large crowds of people. At a stop along the way, in a quiet, secluded area, Jesus told his mystery.

"The Son of Man is to be handed over to men and they will kill him, and three days after his death he will rise."

The 12 disciples remained silent, from Peter, whose faith was strong, to Thomas, who had faith but who often asked questions. They did not understand what Jesus had said, and they were afraid to ask him to explain. They wondered in their own minds about the men who would kill this Son of Man and how he would be alive again after three days. The men were relieved when Jesus said it was time to continue on toward Capernaum.

For this part of the journey, Jesus remained silent while his disciples talked. He could hear what they were talking about, but he did not interrupt their conversations. When the men had arrived at the house where they were going to spend the night in Capernaum, Jesus asked his friends a question.

"What were you arguing about on the way?"

The disciples did not answer Jesus. They did not know if he knew the answer already, but they were afraid to admit what was on their minds. Jesus did know. The disciples had been wondering which of them was the greatest disciple. When Jesus and his friends went to the dining room of the boarding house, there were other travelers there as well, some with children.

A man who recognized Jesus brought his family over to see him.



Linda Jeanne Rivers/Catholic Courier

## Kids' Chronicle

Jesus smiled and put his arm around the shoulders of one of the man's children. Then he said both to his disciples and to those who might have been listening, "If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all, and the servant of all. Whoever receives one child such as this in my name,

receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but the One who sent me."

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Mark 9

## Q&A

1. What were the disciples arguing about?
2. Who did Jesus say would be the servant of all?

## Puzzle

Fill in the blanks with the words that will make the following statements true. Answers on page 8.

NOAH    MOSES    JONATHAN    SHEBA    GOD  
JERICHO    ELI    NINEVEH    SAMSON

1. \_\_\_\_\_ created the heavens and the Earth. (*Genesis 1*)
2. \_\_\_\_\_ built a big boat. (*Genesis 6*)
3. A burning bush spoke to \_\_\_\_\_. (*Exodus 3*)
4. The walls of \_\_\_\_\_ fell down. (*Joshua 6*)
5. \_\_\_\_\_ was a very strong man. (*Judges 13*)
6. Samuel thought \_\_\_\_\_ was calling him. (*1 Samuel 3*)
7. David had a friend named \_\_\_\_\_. (*1 Samuel 20*)
8. The Queen of \_\_\_\_\_ visited Solomon. (*1 Kings 10*)
9. Jonah did not want to go to \_\_\_\_\_. (*Jonah 1*)

## Kids' Club

You can win a \$50 savings bond by writing an essay (100 or fewer words) in response to **What can we do to serve God, even though we are still young?** Send your essay — including name, home address, telephone number, school and grade — to *Catholic Courier*, P.O.

Box 24379, Rochester, NY 14624. Deadline for entries is Sept. 18. The winner will be notified by phone. The winner's essay will be published in an upcoming issue of *Kids' Chronicle*.

Due to the low number of responses to last month's essay question, the editors have opted not to select a winner.

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