



Kids' **LITURGY**

Dear Parents,

Here are weekly activities, centered around the Sunday liturgy, that children can engage in during our time of remote services. Just click on this page and scroll down to the current Sunday.

May God continue to guide and bless us.

You can reach the Office of Faith Formation at 805/969-4868.

Family Tags

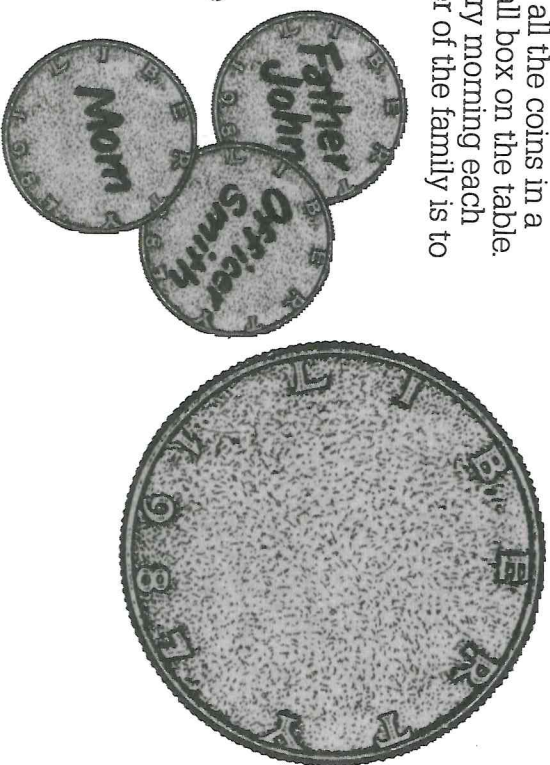
Respect for authority should be an outgrowth of appreciation for what is being done for us by the one in authority. Too often children are made to obey "just because" the person is grown up and "in charge." Here is a family project that will help everyone to become more sensitive to the difficulties of those who lead.



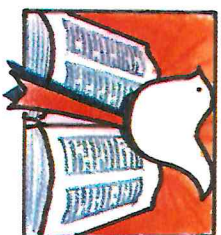
1 Using the pattern on this page, make a number of cardboard or paper "coins."

2 On each coin, write the name of someone who is in charge in your life: doctor, teacher, police officer, mother, father, pastor, and so forth.

3 Place all the coins in a small box on the table. Every morning each member of the family is to draw one coin. The person on your coin will be your special leader for the day.



4 Your job will be to pray for your leader and think of ways you can make his or her work easier or better. Also, see how much you can learn about what your leader does for you. In the evening, the family can discuss what each of you has learned about your leader.



explaining GOD'S
WORD

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) • Matthew 22:15-21 • October 18, 2020



The world is in God's hands



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Loving God and Others

In today's gospel story, Jesus uses a coin to teach a lesson. The people asked if it was right to pay taxes to the government. They wanted to know who is more important, God or the government. Jesus took a coin and asked whose picture was on it. It was Caesar, the Roman leader. Jesus said, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, but give to God what is God's."

Jesus meant that we should obey the laws of our government as long as they are not against the laws of God.

The government makes laws

to protect and help the people.

The schools make laws that help you to learn. The

leaders of your town make laws to keep you safe and

make your community

beautiful. These are good

laws, and God wants us to

obey them.



Try always to obey the laws of your government, school, and community. Be kind and thoughtful to others, and fair and honest in all that you do.

In this way, you will be loving God and loving others too.

Hidden Lawmakers

In the magic square below, there are seven different people who make laws that protect, teach, or guide you. How many can you find? Can you think of any others?

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

Word List

POLICE

TEACHER

PARENT

COACH

PRESIDENT

PRIEST

BISHOP

Family Page

Jesus' command to love our neighbors as ourselves is a challenge to all families. Here are a few ideas that will help your children grow in their understanding of Jesus' commandments:



1 Have a "love God through our neighbor" meeting some day this week. Discuss who your neighbor is and new ways the family can love.

2 Select a love-project that will involve everyone in some way. Some families may prefer an ongoing project like sponsoring a Third World child through one of the international organizations. Others may choose to help someone closer to home.

3 Learn and pray the following prayer together each evening this week.



The Great Commandment Prayer

Dear Jesus, help us to love you by loving others. Remind us when we are impatient with one another, we are impatient with you — and when we are kind to one another, we are kind to you. Help us to keep growing in love until we are truly loving God with our whole hearts. Thank you, Jesus, for showing us how easy it can be. Amen



explaining GOD'S WORD

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) • Matthew 22:34-40 • October 25, 2020



You shall love the Lord your God with your whole heart, with your whole soul, and with all your mind. You shall love your neighbor as yourself.



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The Best Commandments of All

This week, Jesus tells you about the two most important commandments: "Love God with all your heart, and love our neighbor as yourself."

If you love God with all your heart, you will never misuse God's name or put others before God. And if you love your neighbor as yourself, you will not lie or steal or hurt others.

Then Jesus makes it even easier. He says, "Whatever you do for others, you also do for me." Every kind deed you do for

a friend is a kind deed you are doing for God. Whenever you obey your parents, you are really obeying God.

Jesus gives you two great commandments that help you obey the Ten. Then he shows you that by obeying one you obey both. *What a super shortcut to loving God!*



Growing Up in Love

Answer the questions below. Every YES shows you are growing up in love.

- 1 Did you ever pick up your toys and clean your room without being asked?
- 2 Did you ever share a favorite toy with someone who had nothing to play with?
- 3 Did you ever cheer someone up with a card you made all by yourself?
- 4 Did you ever plan a special surprise just to make someone else happy?
- 5 Did you ever make up a special prayer of thanks for all God does for you?

Family Page

This week the Church celebrates All Saints' Day. The following ideas will help you better understand sanctity.

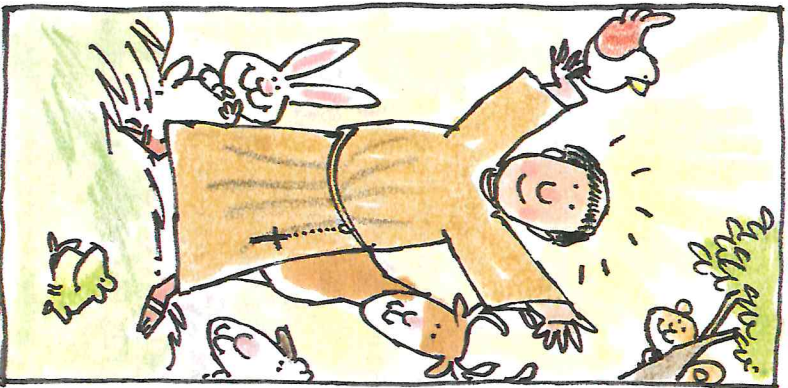
1 Jesus uses the Beatitudes to help us to recognize those who are being led to perfection by faith. Help the children see that they, too, belong to the community of saints.

2 Talk to the children about the canonized saints and how they were chosen as examples for all of us. Help them to discover ways they can imitate the saints in their lives.

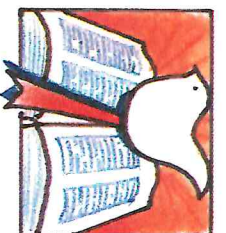
3 As a family, choose a special saint or saints to learn about and follow this week: the patron saint of your parish, your child's name-saint, or one of the children's favorites, such as Francis of Assisi; Saint Therese, the Little Flower; or the children of Fatima.

4 Find as much information as you can about the saint you have chosen. Read or tell the children stories of how your saint learned to love God.

5 Write a prayer, asking your saint to help your family grow in spirituality and sanctity.



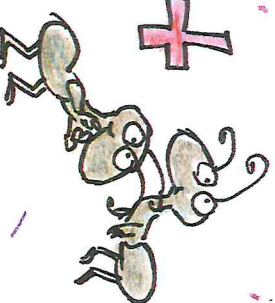
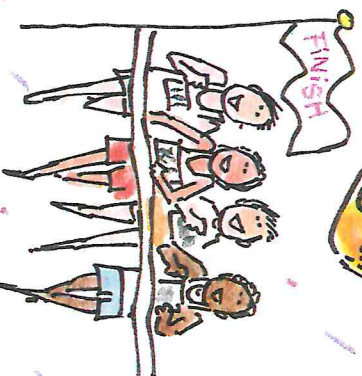
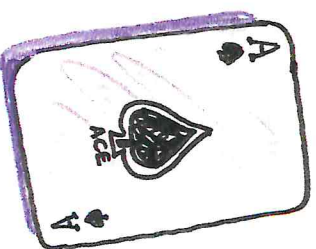
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explaining GOD'S WORD

Solemnity of All Saints (A) • Matthew 5:1-12 • November 1, 2020

Whose Day Is It?



Solve the rebuses to discover whose feast day the Church celebrates this week.



Follow the All Saints' Way

Here is a very nice surprise!

Jesus wants to make a saint of you!

He wants you to be his special friend and to stay by his side in all that you do.

There are saints known only to God and saints whose names we all know.

There are saints in heaven and saints on earth, and they all share a secret from long, long ago.

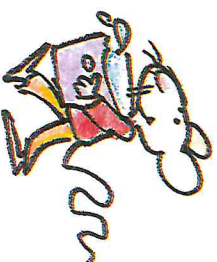
One day when our Lord was in Galilee, teaching the people gathered there, he spoke of the happiness of the saints, who always rejoice in the Father's care.



B E HAPPY! he told them, all you who love God more than the things that you own...(even more than your favorite doll or bear).

B E HAPPY! he told them, all you who are kind and good to your family and friends... (like when you help wash the car).

B E HAPPY! he told them, when you try very hard to do the things that are right...(even when others are being bad).



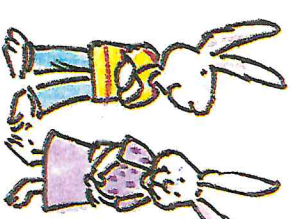
B E HAPPY! he told them, all you who forgive and don't like to argue or fight...(even if someone else gets you mad).

B E HAPPY! he told them, when someone's not nice and makes fun of the good things you do...(like helping the teacher erase the board).

B E HAPPY! GOD LOVES YOU! for you are God's own. God made heaven and earth just for you.

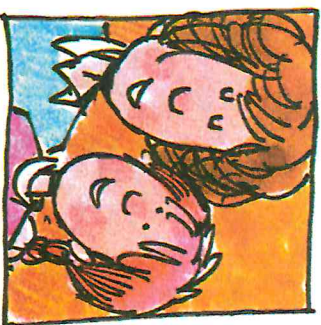
What Jesus taught then, he teaches today! Be happy because God is your Father. He knows when you're sad, he hears when you pray, and he calls you to love one another.

The first of November is ALL SAINTS' DAY, and you have learned the all-saints' way. So go out and celebrate and pray, for this is EVERY Christian's day.

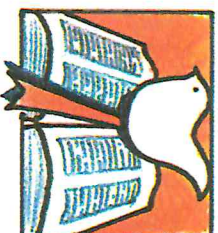


Family Day

Plan a special family day this week. It can be a minitrip with a stop at McDonald's or a "soda pop and popcorn" evening around a game board or a big meal where each member makes something.



- 1** Call a family meeting to plan your special day. First choose a day. Don't make it too soon. Allow time for preparation and anticipation. Have each member talk about his or her ideas for the day.
- 2** Once you have agreed upon the date and how you will spend your family day, make a list of all the things that need to be done in preparation.
- 3** Give each member of the family an assignment from your preparation list.
- 4** Make a big deal out of the preparations, especially those that have been assigned to the younger children. Keep their anticipation alive by talking about what fun it's going to be.
- 5** Write a family prayer to kick off your family day. Thank God for this special day and for the joy of making plans and working together.

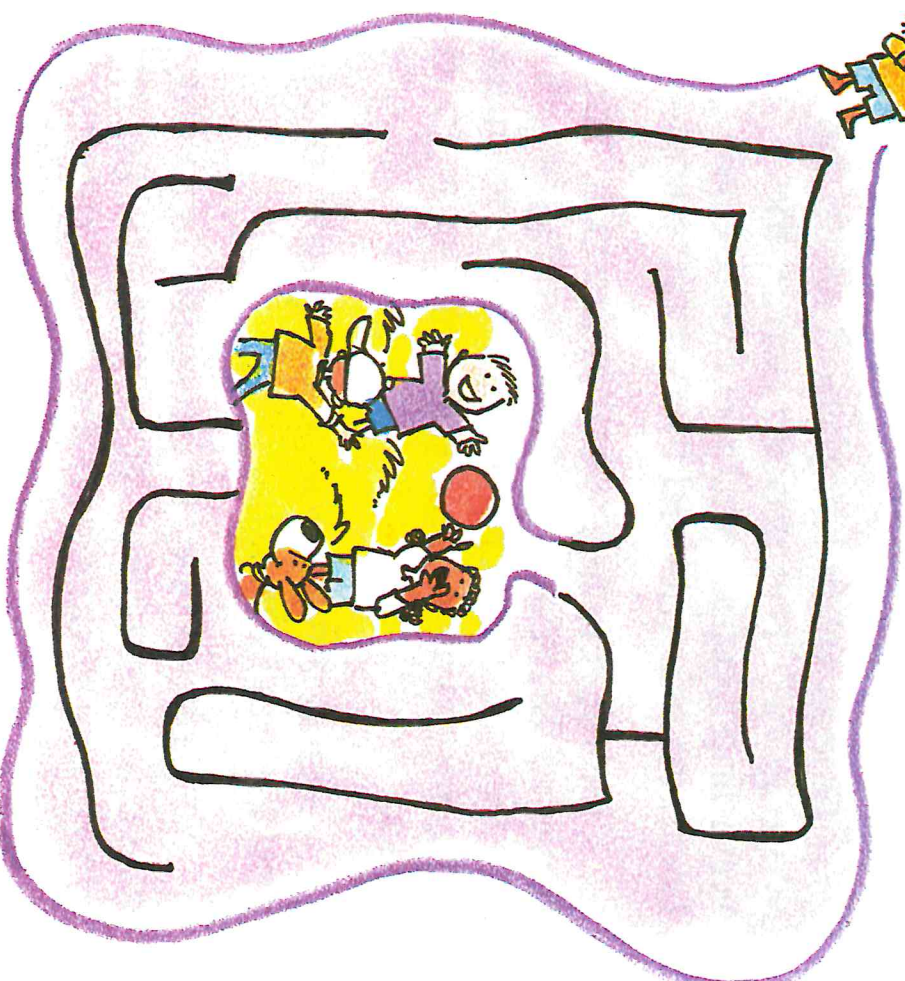


explaining GOD'S WORD

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) • Matthew 25:1-13 • November 8, 2020

Don't Miss Out on the Fun

Jeannie wasn't ready when her friends came to get her this morning. Now she is trying to catch up with them. Can you help her? If she doesn't hurry, she will miss all the fun.



The Bridesmaids Who Missed the Wedding

This is the story of ten bridesmaids who waited for the groom to come. They waited so long, they almost fell asleep. They had to keep their oil lamps lit, for it was getting very dark. Five bridesmaids had brought extra oil for their lamps — they were ready! The other five ran out of oil and had to go out and buy more.

Guess what happened while they were gone? The groom came, the wedding began, and the five foolish bridesmaids missed the whole thing.

Being ready is very important. You have to get ready in the morning or you will be late for school. You have to study hard for your test so you will get a good mark.

Jesus wants you to be ready for him and for his Father.

The best way to be ready is to stay close to Jesus. Say your prayers, go to church, and do good things for others.



Family Eggs

Here is a family game you can play to help each member of the family to identify his or her special gifts and talents.



- 1 Give everyone a piece of paper and ask each one to write his or her name on top.
- 2 Shuffle the papers and pass them around so each member has someone else's name.
- 3 Each member is to write down the three nicest things about the person whose name is on top of his or her paper.
- 4 Now pass the papers back to the people to whom they belong. Each one can read the paper and discover his or her best gifts.
- 5 Now discuss what each of you will do about your special gifts.

This is the week for each member of the family to be all that he or she can be.



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explaining GOD'S WORD

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) • Matthew 25:14-30 • November 15, 2020



Be the Best that You Can Be

God does not want you to bury your talent and never use it.
God wants you to be the very best YOU in all the world.

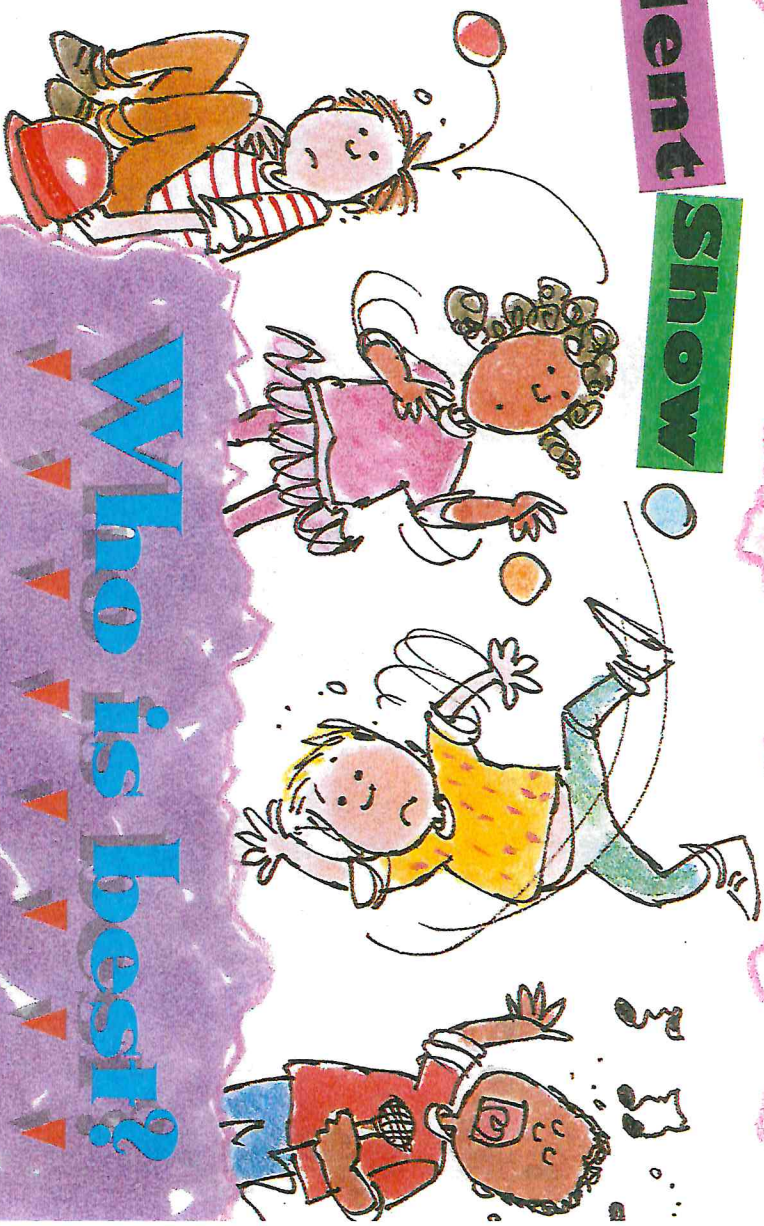
Topsy-Turvy Talent Show

Did you ever see a talent show? There might be a dancer, a singer, a comedian, a juggler, an acrobat, and a musician — all on the same show. Each one does what he or she does best.

But suppose each performer decided to do something else? Suppose the singer tried to turn cartwheels and the dancer began juggling balls in the air? Can you imagine the juggler trying to dance or the comedian trying to sing? What a topsy-turvy talent show that would be!

In this week's gospel story, Jesus explains that God has given each of us special talents. It's up to us to find out what our talents are and to do all we can to make them better.

There is only one thing that God would not like! God does not want you to bury your talent and never use it. God wants you to be the very best YOU in all the world.



Who is best?

Here is a matching game that only you can answer. In the left column, write the names of people you know who best fit the phrase on the right.

1. _____ IS A GREAT COOK.
2. _____ IS VERY GENTLE.
3. _____ IS GOOD AT FIXING THINGS.
4. _____ IS VERY NEAT.
5. _____ MAKES PEOPLE HAPPY.
6. _____ ALWAYS PLAYS FAIR.
7. _____ TELLS THE FUNNIEST JOKES.

Family Page

"Just as you did it for one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it for me."

This message from Jesus is a challenge for us all. How will you serve Jesus this week?



1 Does your parish have a food and clothing collection between now and Christmas? Contribute!

2 Is there a hospital or home for the elderly within visiting distance to your home? Visit!

3 Is there someone in your neighborhood who lives all alone? Invite him or her to share a meal with your family!

Whatever you and your family decide to do, remember that you are serving Christ your King as you are serving others.



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explaining GOD'S WORD

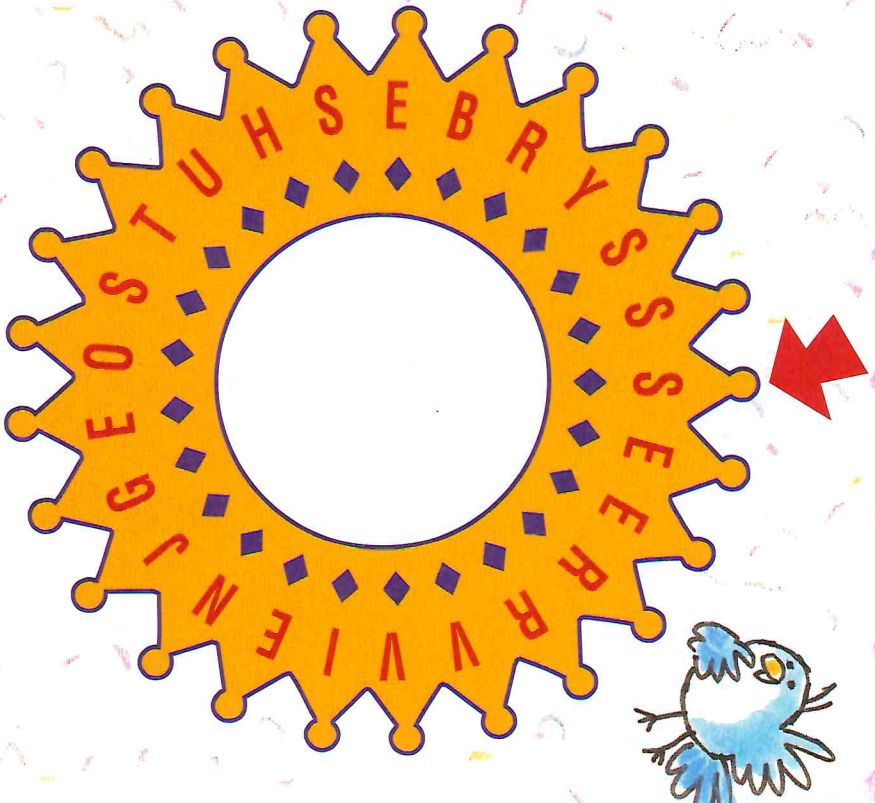
Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe (A) • Matthew 25:31-46 • November 22, 2020

How to Serve Your King!

In today's gospel story, Jesus tells you the best way to serve him.

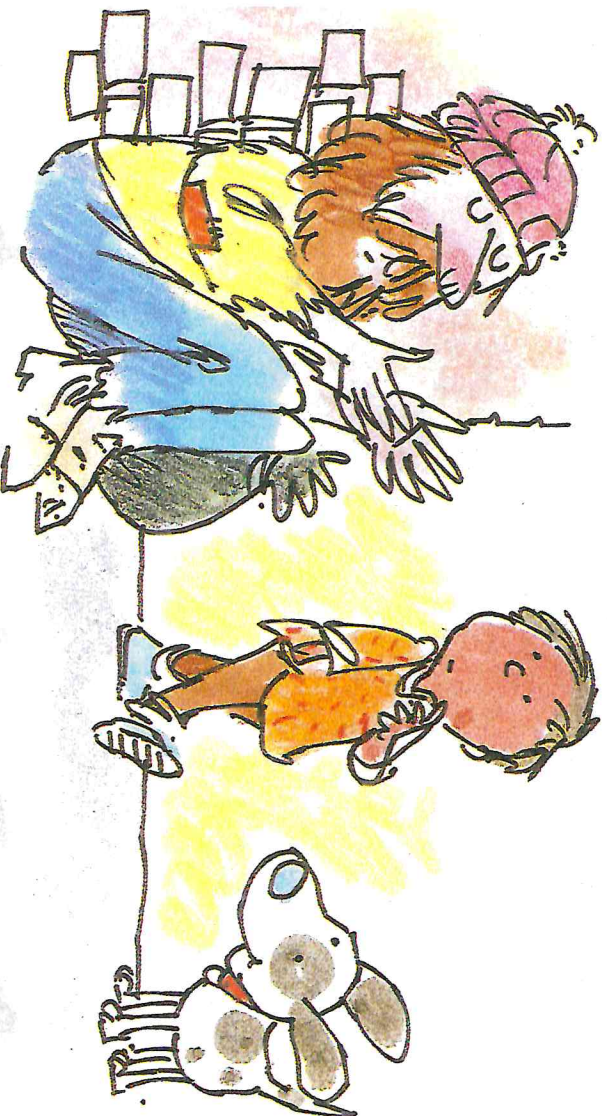
Beginning at the arrow, read every other letter to find the secret of serving

Christ the King.



A King Without a Crown

Try to imagine a king, like the kings in your fairy tales. What does your king look like? He probably has a golden crown and is dressed in royal robes. He probably lives in a fairy-tale castle, surrounded by guards and high walls. He probably dines on all kinds of fancy foods and is greeted by important friends.



Jesus is not that kind of a king.

Sometimes our King dresses in rags, sometimes he is cold and hungry, and sometimes he is very lonely. He doesn't live in a palace with guards and high walls. He lives in the hearts of his people, especially those who need his love the most.

Jesus says, "Whatever you do for my brothers and sisters, you also do for me." That's the secret of Jesus' Kingdom. If you want to serve Jesus, you must learn to serve others.