

ALIVE IN CHRIST

GRADE 5

The Seven Sacraments

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Our Sunday Visitor

Proclaim the Kingdom

Let Us Pray

Leader: God of justice, love, and peace, may your Kingdom come.

“Your kingdom, O Lord, is a kingdom for all ages;
your reign is for every generation.”

Based on Psalm 145:13

All: God of signs and wonders, may your Kingdom come.
Amen.

Scripture

[Jesus] went around all of Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and curing every disease and illness among the people. **Matthew 4:23**

What Do You Wonder?

- What signs of the presence of God’s Kingdom did you hear in today’s Scripture?
- What prayer do you know that asks for the coming of God’s Kingdom?

The Power of Stories

How did Jesus teach about the Kingdom of God?

When Jesus told his followers stories of the **Kingdom of God**, wonderful things happened. As they listened to Jesus, people understood better what they had to do to enter God's Kingdom. Many decided to change the way they lived. Then, as they shared Jesus' stories with others, their faith became stronger.

Jesus was a great teacher. He understood that people remember ideas better when they are expressed in an interesting way. That's why Jesus used stories to spread his message and to invite people into God's Reign of justice, love, and peace.

➔ How can retelling Jesus' stories help your faith grow stronger?

Catholic Faith Words

Kingdom of God God's rule of peace, justice, and love that exists in Heaven, but has not yet come in its fullness on Earth



Parables as Examples

Jesus told many stories that are known as parables. A **parable** is a story that makes a comparison by using examples from everyday life to bring to light something that is hidden. Here is one example that Jesus used to show what it means to be open to the Word of God so that you can enter his Kingdom.

Catholic Faith Words

parable a story Jesus used to describe the Kingdom of God, using examples from everyday life

Scripture

The Parable of the Sower

A sower went out to sow. As he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and birds came and ate it. Some seed fell on rocky ground, where it had little soil. It sprang up at once because the soil was not deep; but when the sun rose, the seed was scorched, and it withered for lack of roots. Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it. But other seed fell on rich soil, and produced fruit, as much as a hundredfold. Whoever has ears ought to hear. **Based on Luke 8:5-8**

- ➔ In this parable, who is the sower?
- ➔ What do the seeds represent?

Share Your Faith

Reflect Read about other images for the Kingdom of God in Matthew 13:44-50. Sketch the image you like best.

Share Discuss with a partner why you like the image you chose.



Signs and Wonders

How do we cooperate with God's grace?

Jesus proclaimed the Kingdom of God in many ways. He preached the Good News. He told stories and parables about the Kingdom. He also performed signs and wonders, or **miracles**, as ways of showing that God's Kingdom was being established. These miracles included casting out demons and curing people who were sick.



Underline some of the ways that Jesus proclaimed the Kingdom of God.

Jesus himself was a proclamation of the Kingdom. He welcomed and ate with sinners, showing that forgiveness is part of the Kingdom. He paid attention to children, women, lepers, those from other lands, and others who were often ignored. He showed that everyone is invited into God's Kingdom, which will come in fullness at the end of time when Christ returns in glory.

Jesus announced that the Kingdom of God in this world began in him. Jesus established the seeds of God's Kingdom on Earth, and invites us all to become parts of the Kingdom by following him. However, not everyone lives in the way that God intends. Whenever you cooperate with God's grace by loving, acting justly, or making peace, you cooperate with God as he builds his Kingdom.

The Grace to Change

Jesus Christ is still present in the world today. The Church and her Sacraments keep the words and actions of Jesus present in our lives. The Sacraments give us grace and can change the way in which we relate to God and others.

You can be changed as you gather with the Church community to hear the Word of God and experience the power of the Holy Spirit through the words and actions of the Sacraments. The Scripture readings you hear and the prayers you pray invite you to become a part of God's Kingdom.

You can be changed at Eucharist when, by the power of the Holy Spirit and through the actions of the priest, you are offered the Body and Blood of Christ and a grow closer to him as you receive Holy Communion. When the priest says at the end of Mass, "Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life," he is sending you in the name of Jesus to be a sign of Jesus to the world.

When you have sinned, God calls you to experience **conversion**. With his help, you can change your heart and place your sin before him. In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, you receive God's grace and forgiveness through the ministry of the Church. You are renewed and strengthened to live a moral life that draws you closer to God and into service for his Kingdom.

Catholic Faith Words

miracle an event that cannot be explained by science because it happened by the power of God

conversion the continual process of becoming the people God intends us to be through change and growth. It is a response to God's love and forgiveness.

Connect Your Faith

Keep an Open Heart

Inside the heart, write a few words that tell which story of Jesus has helped you understand his message most clearly.



Our Catholic Life

How can you understand parables?

To understand the message of the parables Jesus told, you need to consider how parables work. Below are some points to look for.

A parable answers a question. A parable may give an answer to a question, such as “Who is my neighbor?” or “How often must I forgive?” The answer to the question is what the parable is intended to teach.



1. Review your favorite parable in the Bible.
2. Answer the questions in the spaces provided.

My Chosen Parable:

- **What question does your chosen parable answer?**

- A parable **compares two things**. Jesus' parables often begin with the words “The kingdom of heaven is like . . .” Parables like this compare two things. **What does your favorite parable compare?**

- A parable **uses examples from everyday life**. The places and people in a parable were familiar to the people listening to Jesus. For example, many parables are about people who work

in fields or on farms. Many people in Jesus' time did such work, and those references are understood by people today, too. **What examples from everyday life can you see in your parable?**

- A parable reveals a hidden truth. Often, a parable has a surprise ending. It reveals a hidden truth. This is the surprise. **What does the parable you selected reveal?**

- A parable **prompts a decision or action**. A parable challenges its listeners to decide or act. “What will you do now?” is the question the parable leaves you to answer. The question is understood rather than stated. **What action or decision is your parable asking you to make?**

People of Faith

April 29

Saint Catherine of Siena, 1347–1380

Saint Catherine of Siena was one of twenty-five children. From the time she was very young, she wanted to serve God by helping to take care of her brothers and sisters. She was so wise about spiritual matters that she became an adviser to many people, including two Popes. Throughout her life, Saint Catherine found strength to face hard things through Holy Communion. She said that each time we receive the Eucharist, it helps to make our faith in Jesus' love grow stronger and allows us to help build God's Kingdom as we love our family and friends more.



Discuss: How can receiving Holy Communion help you love your family and friends?



Learn more about Saint Catherine of Siena at aliveinchrist.osv.com

Live Your Faith

Describe what is happening in the picture. How does the rich soil fortify a growing plant?



Write the name of someone you know who has grown from rich soil. Then tell how this person has been a model of faith for you.



Let Us Pray

Prayer of Intercession

This prayer of intercession is in the form of the Prayer of the Faithful, the prayer we pray in the liturgy, knowing we are dependent upon God for our needs.

Gather and begin with the Sign of the Cross.

Leader: We gather as creatures of our Loving God, dependent upon God for our needs, knowing that God always hears us.

Reader 1: For our Church, that we may share the love, peace, and justice that are signs of God's Kingdom. Let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 2: For leaders in our world, that the peace, love, and justice of God's Kingdom be in their decisions. Let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 3: For those in need, especially the poor, that they may be signs to us of the Kingdom of God. Let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 4: For our parish and our neighborhood, that the compassion of God's Kingdom grows each day. Let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: For what else shall we pray?

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: God, we know you are with us as we continue Jesus' work, helping others to see the love, peace, and justice that are signs of your Kingdom.

All: Amen.



Sing "I Will Sing"

YOUR CHILD LEARNED >>>

This chapter identifies the Kingdom of God as present now and yet to come and describes Jesus' proclamation in his teaching, signs, and wonders.

Scripture



Read **Matthew 4:23** to find out about Jesus proclaiming the Kingdom of God.

Catholics Believe

- God's Kingdom is present and grows in the Church and her Sacraments until God's Reign comes in fullness at the end of time.
- Jesus proclaimed the Kingdom of God through his actions and parables.

To learn more, go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #546–547, 567, 763–769 at usccb.org.

People of Faith

This week, your child learned about Saint Catherine of Siena, a spiritual counselor to two Popes.

CHILDREN AT THIS AGE >>>

How They Understand the Kingdom of God The Kingdom of God is an abstract concept that may be difficult for fifth-graders, who are just beginning to have the capacity to think more figuratively. This is particularly true of the paradoxes we traditionally hold by faith about the Kingdom—that the Kingdom is now and is also yet to be, that it is on Earth and also in Heaven. The parables of the Kingdom are useful for children this age in that they can continue to draw new meanings from these stories over time as they are ready.



CONSIDER THIS >>>

Did your parents ever say to you, "Do as I say, not as I do"?

For Jesus, there was no difference between what he said and what he did. His words and actions were one, and both made God's Kingdom present. As Catholics, we understand that "the proclamation of the Kingdom of God was fundamental to Jesus' preaching. The Kingdom of God is his presence among human beings calling them to a new way of life as individuals and as a community. It is the Good News that results in love, justice, and mercy for the whole world. The Kingdom is realized partially on earth and permanently in heaven" (*USCCA*, p. 79).

LET'S TALK >>>

- Ask your child to explain how Jesus made God's Kingdom present.
- Read together a favorite parable about the Kingdom of God.

LET'S PRAY >>>



Saint Catherine, may we find our strength in Jesus like you did. Amen.



For a multimedia glossary of Catholic Faith Words, Sunday readings, seasonal and Saint resources, and chapter activities go to aliveinchrist.osv.com.

Chapter 8 Review

A Work with Words Complete each sentence with the correct term from the Word Bank.

Word Bank

conversion miracles
Kingdom of God parables
proclamation

1. Jesus worked _____ to help us see the presence of the Kingdom of God.
2. _____ are stories that make comparisons in order to teach something.
3. _____ is the continual process of change and growth and becoming the people God intends us to be.
4. Jesus himself was a _____ of the Kingdom.
5. The _____ is God's reign of justice, love, and peace.

B Check Understanding Fill in the circle next to the correct response.

6. Events that have no scientific explanation because they happened by God's power are called _____.
 parables
 miracles
 Sacraments
7. Through his stories and actions, Jesus invited people into the _____.
 Temple
 Kingdom of God
 desert
8. The _____ of the Church pass on the words and actions of Jesus and point to the Kingdom of God.
 prophets
 Sacraments
 rulers
9. Telling a story is one way to _____.
 love God
 make friends
 teach
10. Jesus did all of these to tell about the Reign of God except _____.
 tell parables
 work miracles
 fast

