

First Holy Communion Preparation

Please complete **Home Session 4: God speaks to us and nourishes us** through the word of God and **Home Activity 4** (page 13 and 14) as well as **Home sessions 5: Jesus' Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem** and **Home Activity 5** (page 15 and 16) on your Family Activity book by the end of this week.

Home Session 4 God Speaks to Us and Nourishes Us through the Word of God

Background for Parents

As part of their preparation for first Holy Communion your child has been learning about the Word of God from the Bible.

The key messages are:

- We believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God.
- We treat the Bible with respect and reverence.
- The readings from the Bible tell us how God wants us to live our lives.
- The Gospel is especially important because it is the words and actions of Jesus.
- We stand for the Gospel and make the Sign of the Cross on our forehead, lips and heart.

Read this Scripture passage with your child (Luke 15: 3-7).

Jesus told them this parable: 'Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them – what do you do? You leave the ninety-nine sheep in the pasture and go looking for the one that got lost until you find it. When you find it, you are so happy that you put it on your shoulders and carry it back home. Then you call your friends and neighbours together and say to them, "I am so happy I found my lost sheep. Let us celebrate!" In the same way, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine respectable people who do not need to repent.'

What does this parable tell us about how God wants us to live? This story tells us that God wants us to turn to Him when we are in trouble and ask His forgiveness when we have sinned. Do you have another favourite Bible story? What is it? Talk about it together and write about it below.

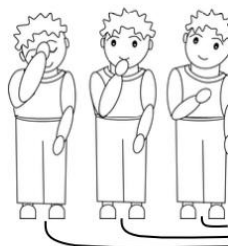
Your child should now complete Home Activity 4

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Home Activity 4 God Speaks to Us and Nourishes Us through the Word of God

The readings at Mass help us learn about God and how we can follow Him in our lives. Before the Gospel reading, I make a small sign of the cross on my:

f _____



on my l _____

and on my h _____

I do these actions to show:



Pope Francis prepares to listen to the Gospel by making the Sign of the Cross on his forehead, his lips and his heart and praying, 'May the Lord be on my mind, on my lips and in my heart.'

Prayer Time - If you have a Bible, place it beside your candle. Light the candle, make the Sign of the Cross on your forehead, lips and heart. Pray together:

May the Lord be on my mind, on my lips and in my heart. Make the Sign of the Cross, give your child a hug and have a snack together.



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Home Session 5 Jesus' Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem

Background for Parents

As part of their preparation for first Holy Communion your child has been learning about the day Jesus entered Jerusalem when the crowds came to meet Him. They were shouting and singing and laying palms on the ground.

The key messages are:

- The crowd greeted Jesus with joy, they had seen His miracles and gave praise and thanks.
- They used the acclamations, 'hosanna!' and 'blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!'
- We pray these same words during the 'Sanctus' (Holy, Holy) at Mass
- Only a few days later the same crowd was shouting, 'Crucify Him!': this was due to the jealousy of the leaders who stirred up hatred in the people.

Read this Scripture passage with your child (Matthew 21: 1-9).

Jesus and His friends went on to Jerusalem by way of Bethphage on the Mount of Olives. Jesus asked two of His disciples to go on ahead and bring back a young donkey which would be waiting for them. 'If anyone asks what you are doing, tell them that I need it and they will not stop you.' The two friends did as Jesus asked. They found the young donkey and brought it to Jesus. They put a cloak on the back of the animal which had never yet been ridden. Then Jesus sat on its back and started to ride towards Jerusalem. A large crowd gathered along the sides of the road. Some people spread their cloaks on the ground for the donkey to walk on. Some cut huge palm branches from the trees and spread those over the road while others waved them. They were all shouting, 'Hosanna!' they cried, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!'



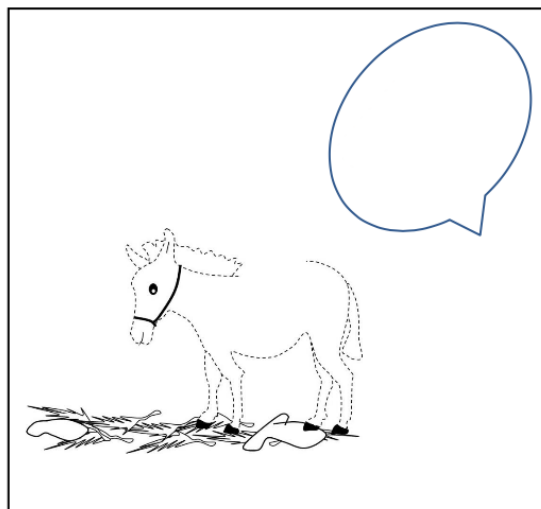
Your child should now complete Home Activity 5

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Home Activity 5

Draw Jesus on the donkey. He is coming towards you.

Write in the speech bubble what you would say to welcome Him.



Prayer Time - Light a candle, make the Sign of the Cross. Talk together about something that has happened in your life that filled you with joy, excitement or happiness; thank God for it and pray a simple prayer: Lord our God we thank you for _____. Then pray the 'Holy, Holy' together (page 33). Make the Sign of the Cross, give your child a hug and have a snack together.



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