

good news

Family Connect Newsletter
Week of October 10-16
Preparing for the 21st Sunday after Pentecost

Discover Sunday's Readings

Ecclesiastes 5:10-20

Psalms 119:9-16

Hebrews 4:1-13 (14-16)

Mark 10:23-31

Parent Connect

Thoughts on Mark 10:23-31

The young man had gone sorrowfully away. He rejected the treasure of the kingdom in favor of his earthly treasures. Jesus explains to his disciples, "How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God." The disciples are amazed. Perhaps they thought that since the wealthy have everything else, they would have the kingdom, too. The disciples are even more astonished when Jesus tells them that it's easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom. A camel? The eye of a needle? That's not going to happen! Who can be saved under those conditions? It is impossible for man, Jesus tells us, but it is possible for God. We cannot save ourselves; there is nothing we can use to buy or bargain our way into the kingdom. Only God can save us. Through the gift of his Son, he does the impossible. God has qualified us "to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins" (Colossians 1:12-14).

Peter, always ready with a response, points out that the disciples left everything to follow Jesus. Those who have left everything behind to follow Jesus will receive even more—places to worship, brothers and sisters in Christ, the whole family of God, the fellowship of the saints, a worldwide and eternal kingdom—and along with all of that, the hatred and persecution of the unbelieving world. Many who are first in the eyes of the world, those who trust in their own wealth and importance, will be last in the sight of God. Those who are last in the eyes of the world, the hated and persecuted believers, are by faith in Jesus first in the eyes of God. They will inherit true wealth—the gift of eternal life.

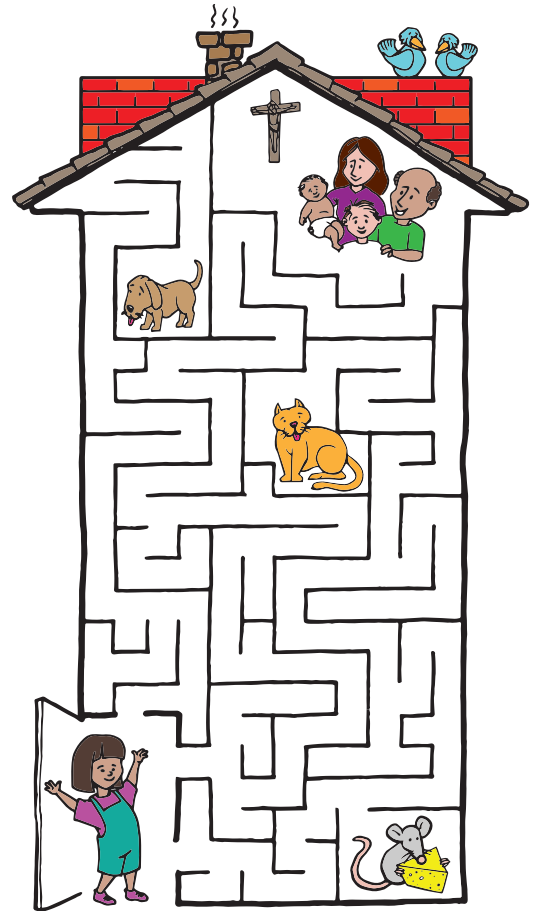
THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

October 11, 1884...Eleanor Roosevelt is born. Eleanor grew up to marry Franklin Delano Roosevelt (a distant cousin), who became the 32nd President of the United States. During his time in office and after his death, Eleanor served as an advocate for the poor and for minorities.

October 13, 54 AD...Nero becomes the Roman Emperor. When fire destroyed much of Rome, Nero was blamed for starting the fire to clear land for his projects. To escape blame, Nero blamed the Christians. Many were arrested and killed. The apostles Peter and Paul were probably killed in Rome during this time of persecution.



A-MAZE-ing



You can serve others right at home!

Write what you will do to serve your family this week.

Let's Talk Around the Table!



- In our nation we are free to worship our Lord and Savior, but Christians in many other nations do not enjoy that freedom. Many are ridiculed, beaten, imprisoned or killed because they believe in Jesus. Search Online sites for information on countries in which Christians are persecuted.
- Pray as a family this week for these believers, asking that God would protect them and keep them strong in faith. Encourage your children to remain faithful to Jesus, even if others make fun of them for their beliefs. "Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer" (Romans 12:12).

Pray Today!

Jesus, thank you for loving me so much that you gave your life as a ransom for mine. Help me to follow you faithfully, even when it is difficult. Amen.