

Jesus is Our Leader

Every community has leaders. We depend on leaders to guide and lead us to function effectively as a community. Children first experience leaders in their family. These are their parents, grandparents or other significant adults in their lives. These people make decisions for the family based on what is best for the family and within their means.

It is through the family that children learn and grow to understand the role of a leader in helping bond a community together. As they become more connected to the world outside their family unit, they further experience leadership within the school community, the Church community and within their local community.

A good leader leads by example. They do not set tasks for others that they would not do themselves. The role of a leader is to serve others. Jesus, the greatest leader of all, gave us an example of the way to lead others. This leadership is not about glory or fame, but about giving oneself for others through service.

... the Son of Man did not come to be served; he came to serve and to give his life to redeem many people.'

[Mark 10:45][GNT]

Leadership requires respect for others and for others to respect leaders in turn. The fourth commandment highlights this element.

The fourth commandment, 'Respect your father and your mother'...

[Deuteronomy 5:16][GNT] requires honour, affection, and gratitude toward elders and ancestors. Finally, it extends to the duties of pupils to teachers, employees to employers, subordinates to leaders, citizens to their country, and to those who administer or govern it.

[CCC 2199]

Jesus in Mark's Gospel, leads people through his teaching in the Synagogue. But what was different about the way Jesus taught, was that he taught with authority. His words were listened to like no other, and Jesus carried out what he taught as an example to all. In this way, Jesus used his authority not to overpower people in the way of the religious and political leaders of his time, but to empower them.

ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE IN THIS LESSON

Mark 1:21-22 | *Prelude to A Man with an Evil Spirit*

Jesus chose Capernaum as the base for his ministry in Galilee. It was a fishing town on the main trade route from Egypt to Damascus (the Roman 'Via Maris'). It was the last town in Herod's territory on the north western shore of the Sea of Galilee, and so had a customs office and a Roman garrison. Its population at the time of Jesus has been estimated at 15,000 inhabitants, a mixture of Jew and non-Jew.

While Jesus' teaching is in continuity with the Law, his person and the way he teaches introduces something wonderfully new, having 'authority', because it makes profound connections with the 'author of life', God himself, a connection lacking in the teaching of their scribes.

*The Gospel according to Saint Mark. An Introductory Commentary.
Michael Fallon MSC. Chevalier Press. 2009.*

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MAIN TEACHING AND LEARNING POINTS

- God has given us people who are leaders.
- Jesus is our leader.

LIFE EXPERIENCE

Ask children to share what they understand about the role of leaders. The following questions may be useful to stimulate discussion.

- Who has played the game 'Follow the Leader'? What does the leader do?
- Who are the leaders in your family?
- Who are the leaders in your school?
- Who are some of the other leaders you have heard about?

GOD'S WORD

Mark 1:21-22 | Prelude to A Man with an Evil Spirit

Parent: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

Child responds: Glory to you, O Lord. (While saying the words, trace a small cross with the thumb on the forehead, lips and heart.)

Jesus and his disciples came to the town of Capernaum, and on the next Sabbath Jesus went to the synagogue and began to teach. The people who heard him were amazed at the way he taught, for he wasn't like the teachers of the Law; instead, he taught with authority. [GNT]

The Word of the Lord.

Child responds: Thanks be to God.

FOCUS QUESTIONS

Ask your child the following questions to help them reflect on the Scripture.

- Who was travelling with Jesus?
- Where did Jesus and his disciples go on the Sabbath Day?
- What did Jesus do at the synagogue?
- What did the people think of the teachings of Jesus?
- How was Jesus different from the other teachers?
- What do you think Jesus taught the people?
- What do you think this story tell us about Jesus?

THE LORD'S PRAYER – FORMAL PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Begin with the Sign of the Cross.

Our Father, who art in heaven	<i>arms stretched out, head and eyes turned upwards</i>
hallowed be thy name	<i>join hands, bend right knee (genuflect)</i>
thy kingdom come	<i>arms raised head looking up</i>
thy will be done	<i>head lowered in attitude of acceptance</i>
on earth	<i>arms outstretched towards the earth</i>
as it is in heaven.	<i>arms raised above head with finger tips together</i>
Give us this day our daily bread	<i>hands cupped in gesture of receiving</i>
and forgive us our trespasses	<i>strike breast, bend head in attitude of sorrow</i>
as we forgive those	<i>who shake hands with those nearby: smile at one another</i>
trespass against us	<i>and lead us not into temptation form a circle</i>
but deliver us from evil.	<i>hold hands up like a protective fence</i>
Amen.	<i>hands together in prayer gesture.</i>



I Can Be a Leader

List THREE ways that you can be a good leader at home and at school.

I can be a good
leader at HOME by...

1

2

3

Draw one of the ways:

I can be a good
leader at SCHOOL by...

1

2

3

Draw one of the ways: