





# FAMILY CONVERSATIONS

Here is a guide to assist your family in talking about the Sunday readings. Keep these cards handy wherever they are most likely to be seen and used before and after church. Examine the readings (or the homily) for images or vocabulary that trigger reactions. What’s important is that you have the chat together. Follow your conversations wherever they might lead.

## KEY TO THE CONVERSATIONS


-  Key Idea: Reflection on a central idea in the readings
-  Take 30 (Seconds): A pause to reflect or pray in silence
-  Share: A time for each family member to share
-  Pray: A suggested moment for prayer


# LENT/EASTER 2010 YEAR C


Take a few moments each week as a family to read, reflect upon, and talk about the Sunday readings. Keep these materials in an easily accessed place, perhaps on your dining room table, in the car, or on your bedside table. Use the following reflections to start a family conversation centered around God’s Word. Encourage family members to share other questions or comments based on the readings. Through these conversations your family is being led by the Holy Spirit to break open God’s Word today.


### First Sunday of Lent February 21, 2010

Dt 26:4-10; Rom 10:8-13; Lk 4:1-13

 TAKE 30 (SECONDS): Reflect or pray in silence.

 SHARE: How does this Gospel reading help spiritually focus our attention on the Lenten season? Let each member of the family name one Lenten practice they will strive to follow. What does each person in the group learn from Jesus’ response to temptation? Share how your Lenten observance will help your family put God first in your life.


 PRAY: (Repeat each phrase after the leader.) Your presence, O Lord, I seek. / Hide not your face from me. / You are my helper. / Lead me in the path of daily conversion.


 KEY IDEA: Through the Lenten season the Word of God will gradually draw us deeper into the central moments of Jesus’ life. Lent is a renewed opportunity to recognize how Jesus’ life, death, and Resurrection provide a pattern for our daily lives. Nowhere is this more concrete than in today’s Gospel reading, which tells us about the temptation of Jesus. Like us, he too was tempted. In so doing, he teaches us that a life centered on God withstands and over-


### Second Sunday of Lent February 28, 2010

Gn 15:5-12, 17-18; Phl 3:17-4:1 or 3:20-4:1; Lk 9:28b-36

 TAKE 30 (SECONDS): Reflect or pray in silence.

 SHARE: How is each family member striving to hear God’s word more attentively this Lenten season? What does daily conversion mean to you—in individually as a family? Who in the community are you called to support as they progress in their journeys of conversion—catechumens, returning Catholics, new members of the parish?


 KEY IDEA: The Gospel account of the Transfiguration conveys both the awe and the fear the disciples must have experienced before the vision of their transfigured Lord. But it is the voice from the clouds that teaches them the meaning of their experience. They are in the presence of the Son of God, who shows them the way of life. The disciples are given a foretaste of the victory of Jesus’ death on the Cross in the glory of his Resurrection, just as we mark this Lenten season in the knowledge of Jesus’ glorious Resurrection. As dis-


 PRAY: (Repeat each phrase after the leader.) “The LORD is my light and my salvation. / The LORD is my life’s refuge, of whom should I be afraid? / Wait for the LORD with courage. / Wait for the LORD” (Ps 27:1a, 1c, 14a, 14c).


### Third Sunday of Lent March 7, 2010

Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15; 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12; Lk 13:1-9

 TAKE 30 (SECONDS): Reflect or pray in silence.

 SHARE: Talk about the beauty and graces of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, and plan for the date and time when your family will receive the sacrament during this Lenten season. Ask each family member to name one concrete way he or she can bring forgiveness, peace, and reconciliation to your family, neighborhood, or community of faith.

 KEY IDEA: Being Christian is about second chances. God’s mercy is greater than human sinfulness. Discouragement and despair are not the last word on the human condition—repentance and conversion are, for they lead us on the healing path of reconciliation with God and neighbor. Lent is the liturgical season that invites us deeper into this reality of faith. Today’s Gospel reminds us that Lent is a time not only for deeper awareness of our weaknesses, failures, and sinfulness. Lenten joy is rooted in the deep-

 PRAY: (Repeat each phrase after the leader.) “Come, let us sing joyfully to the LORD, / let us acclaim the Rock of our salvation. / For He is our God, / and we are the people he shepherds. / Come, let us bow down in worship, / let us kneel before the LORD who made us” (Ps 95:1, 7a, 6).

Easter Sunday  
April 4, 2010

Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Col 3:1-4 or  
1 Cor 5:6b-8; Jn 20:1-9 or Lk 24:1-12

GOSPEL HIGHLIGHT: Jn 20:8—  
“Then the other disciple also went in,  
the one who had arrived at the tomb  
first, and he saw and believed.”

KEY IDEA: The Resurrection of  
our Lord is the central mystery of  
Christian faith. It is also the central  
hope of daily human existence.  
With the Resurrection we can be cer-  
tain that suffering and death is not the  
final word on the human condition. This  
is the deepest source of Christian hope.  
And it is the wellspring of true Christian  
joy. On Easter Sunday God’s Word  
bursts forth in a joyful hymn of praise  
as the Church resounds with Alleluias.  
Our Lenten observance now finds  
its fullest meaning. As the message

of Easter resounds in our minds and  
hearts, the truth of Jesus’ Resurrection  
finds echo in our lives. Christ is risen,  
he is risen indeed! Alleluia!

TAKE 30 (SECONDS): Reflect  
or pray in silence.

SHARE: How has our reflection  
on God’s Word during Lent pre-  
pared us to celebrate the Lord’s  
Resurrection? Name one per-  
sonal hope and one family hope that is  
renewed in light of the event of Easter.  
Have each family member share how  
he or she will continue to reflect on  
the meaning of the Lord’s Resurrection  
throughout the Easter season.

PRAY: (Repeat each phrase after  
the leader.) Alleluia! Alleluia! /  
The Lord is risen as he said. /  
He lives now to lead us to the fullness  
of hope and joy in God. / Alleluia!  
Alleluia!



For us as Christians, the events of Holy  
Week are offered as a pattern for daily  
life. Jesus’ Passion, dying, and rising are  
a pattern for our daily lives as disciples  
of the Lord.

TAKE 30 (SECONDS): Reflect or  
pray in silence.

SHARE: How does God’s Word  
today invite us to enter more fully  
into the mystery of the Cross,  
death, and Resurrection of the  
Lord? To whom are we called to extend  
a forgiving word and thought? Are our  
hearts and minds open to receive the  
forgiveness that Jesus offers to all from  
the Cross? Share how the readings of  
Palm Sunday are a pattern for your  
daily life.

PRAY: (Repeat each phrase  
after the leader.) We adore you,  
O Christ, and we bless you /  
because by your holy Cross / you have  
redeemed the world.

Fourth Sunday of Lent  
March 14, 2010

Lent is a time to return once again to  
God: a time of healing, reconciliation,  
and joy.

TAKE 30 (SECONDS): Reflect  
or pray in silence.

SHARE: Let each member of the  
family share what the parable of  
the Prodigal Son means for his  
or her Lenten journey. Ask each  
member to name one agent of peace,  
reconciliation, and healing in your  
family and community of faith. How  
are you called to be a messenger of  
reconciliation?

PRAY: (Repeat each phrase after  
the leader.) “I will bless the LORD  
at all times; / his praise shall be  
ever in my mouth. / I sought the LORD,  
and he answered me / and delivered  
me from all my fears” (Ps 34:2, 5).

GOSPEL HIGHLIGHT: Lk 15:32—  
“But now we must celebrate and  
rejoice, because your brother was  
dead and has come to life again; he  
was lost and has been found.”  
KEY IDEA: The parable of the  
Prodigal Son reflects the deep-  
est desire of the human heart for  
forgiveness, mercy, and reconciliation.  
We are created for union with God  
and with one another in the family of  
God. Rebellion, alienation, and division  
distort the original unity and community  
that God desires for us. As we ponder  
the alienation of the Prodigal Son and  
the enduring mercy of his father, we  
see our relationship to God reflected.

Fifth Sunday of Lent  
March 21, 2010

GOSPEL HIGHLIGHT: Jn 8:1—  
“Then Jesus said, ‘Neither do I con-  
demn you. Go, and from now on do  
not sin any more.’”

KEY IDEA: It’s never too late to  
begin a Lenten journey, perhaps  
even as the liturgical season  
draws to a close. In today’s  
Gospel, Jesus’ compassion for the  
woman who was condemned and  
near death from stoning is a striking  
reminder of God’s constant mercy.

SHARE: Whom do I tend to  
judge harshly? How am I called  
to concretely imitate Jesus’  
example of compassionate  
mercy? Am I open to receiving the  
forgiveness of God and of others?  
Ask each family member to share  
why the Sacrament of Penance and  
Reconciliation is a powerful means  
offered by the Church by which we  
experience God’s mercy.

PRAY: (Repeat each phrase after  
the leader.) “The LORD has done  
great things for us; we are filled  
with joy. / Those that sow in tears  
shall reap rejoicing. / The LORD has  
done great things for us; we are glad  
indeed” (Ps 126:3, 5).

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