

# ALL IN THE FAMILY

## TENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### CYCLE B

Genesis 3:9–15  
2 Corinthians 4:13–5:1  
Mark 3:20–35

### GATHERING

*(A table in the gathering place is covered with a bright cloth. An open bible, an unlit candle, a kaleidoscope, and a small basket rest on the table. As people arrive, the facilitator invites each person to write his/her name on a piece of paper and put it in the basket.)*

For those who have eyes to see, God's world is so rich and varied and colorful. *(The session begins with some sharing about how people were themselves good bread for the world this week.)*

### OPENING PRAYER

*(The facilitator calls the group to silence and lights the candle. He/she prays, "Lord, help us to see how rich and varied is your world." The kaleidoscope is passed from member to member. After each has had a chance to look into the kaleidoscope, the community joins in singing, "I Say Yes, My Lord". The song may be found on the Internet. After the song, the group pauses for several minutes of quiet reflection.)*

## Focus Question

Mention a time when you had to confront evil.

## SCRIPTURE SHARING AND REFLECTION

*(The scriptures are proclaimed aloud with a pause between readings.)*

### Commentary

Our experiences of Easter and Pentecost strengthen us for our day-to-day struggle with the evil in ourselves and in our world. We read this week of the confrontation with evil and we learn again that grace is even more powerful.

God will not take our freedom from us. God will not force us because he loves us. However dark it may be, God is with us in our suffering. The passion of Jesus goes on today wherever there is suffering. We can endure pain, depression, unemployment, evil, because our God is with us. To do battle with evil is to live the Christian message each day.

We are Jesus' family. "Whoever does the will of God is brother and sister and mother to me." Our family of faith is our strength and hope. Jesus shows how close a bond is forged between himself and those who do God's will. We need to rely on the Holy Spirit who dwells within and directs our actions. Let us not lose heart. God's grace is at work renewing our inner being day by day. God's work may be unseen but it will last forever.

## FAITH SHARING AND INTEGRATION

*(The community pauses in silence for several minutes to ponder the scriptures and the questions which follow.)*

1. How do these scriptures affirm you? How do these scriptures challenge you?
2. What in your life needs direction from the Holy Spirit at this time?

3. How is this small Christian community like a *faith family* for you?
4. When has your family or small Christian community helped or gotten in the way of your doing God's will?

## RESPONSE IN ACTION

Suggestions:

1. Help your young brothers and sisters in Jesus' family by volunteering in a Parish Bible School this summer. Give of your time; donate craft items or snacks.
2. Make an added effort to provide a reassuring presence to a family member, friend, or colleague this week.
3. Set aside twenty minutes some day this week for reflection and prayer. Be consciously aware that you are not just an individual, but a person who is related and bound to all people and all creation.

## SENDING FORTH AND CLOSING PRAYER

*(The facilitator invites prayers of praise, thanksgiving or petition. To each members respond, "Lord, hear our prayer." When these prayers are completed, the facilitator passes the basket around the group and invites each one to take the name of someone in the group to remember in prayer this coming week. Members then pause to pray for the person whose name he/she drew. The facilitator, or someone who volunteers, then offers some closing words of prayer.)*

*(Members exchange a sign of peace.)*