

## Twelfth Sunday of the Year

### The Son of God

#### INTRODUCTION

Sometimes when we are asked a question and feel unsure of the answer, we find it easier to say nothing. Jesus asked his disciples a difficult question, which none of them answered until Peter bravely decided to speak up.

#### SIGN OF THE CROSS

#### LIGHT THE CANDLES

Ask the children to repeat:

May the light of Christ's love shine in our lives.

#### SORRY

All of us make mistakes sometimes and do things which we regret, but God always reaches out a forgiving hand. Let us spend a few moments making our peace with God, and ask for his forgiveness and help to change our hearts and try again. Sing Sorry Song 5.

#### GLORIA

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 1.

#### GOSPEL (LUKE 9:18-21)

Jesus was praying quietly with his disciples when suddenly he asked them, "Who do people say that I am?" The disciples answered, "Some believe you are John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others think that you are a prophet who has come back to life."

"But tell me, who do you say that I am?" asked Jesus. Then Peter spoke, "Master, you are the Son of God." Jesus told them not to tell anyone about what they had heard that day.

#### DISCUSSION

If people asked you, "Who are you?" what would you say? Perhaps you would tell them your name, or you might say that you are someone's sister or brother.

What did the disciples say when Jesus asked them, "Who do people say that I am?" The disci-

ples told Jesus what other people had said about him and who he might be. They themselves seemed uncertain and confused. They all knew that he was the son of Mary and Joseph, an ordinary carpenter; yet they also knew that there was something extraordinary about him.

Peter was the one who first spoke and declared that Jesus was the Son of God. How did Peter know that Jesus was God's son? Peter had listened to Jesus preach, and seen how he taught people to live according to God's love.

He had seen Jesus heal the crippled and sick, bring the dead to life, and perform many miracles; and these had touched his heart. In this way God had revealed to Peter that Jesus was no ordinary man but his beloved son.

If someone asked you today, "Who is Jesus?" what would you say?

—Jesus is the son of God.

—Jesus is the light of the world, who shows us the way to God, and helps us on our journey to heaven.

—Jesus is our friend, the Good Shepherd.

—Jesus is the savior of the world, who saved us from sin so that we could share everlasting life with him in heaven.

(Encourage the children to share their thoughts and ideas.)

#### ACTIVITY

Jesus has been described in many different ways:

- the Son of God;
- the Good Shepherd;
- the Light of the World;
- the True Vine;
- the Bread of Life;
- King of the Universe.

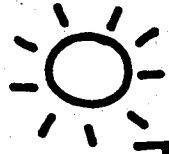
Help the children to think of any other examples and then write them down on the worksheet. Ask each child to draw a picture of their favorite image of Jesus.

#### CREED

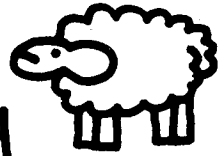
#### CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, help us to know you as Peter did:  
as a friend, as a teacher,  
and as the only Son of God.

# JESUS IS:



The Son of God



The Good Shepherd



The Light of the world



The true vine



The Bread of Life



King of the Universe

