

We Learn from the Bible



Prayer

God, in the Bible you teach us about your love for us and how to grow as followers of Jesus. Help us to always listen to the words of the Bible so we may grow in faith. Amen.



Circle some of the good acts that you will do today to help God's Word grow in your heart.

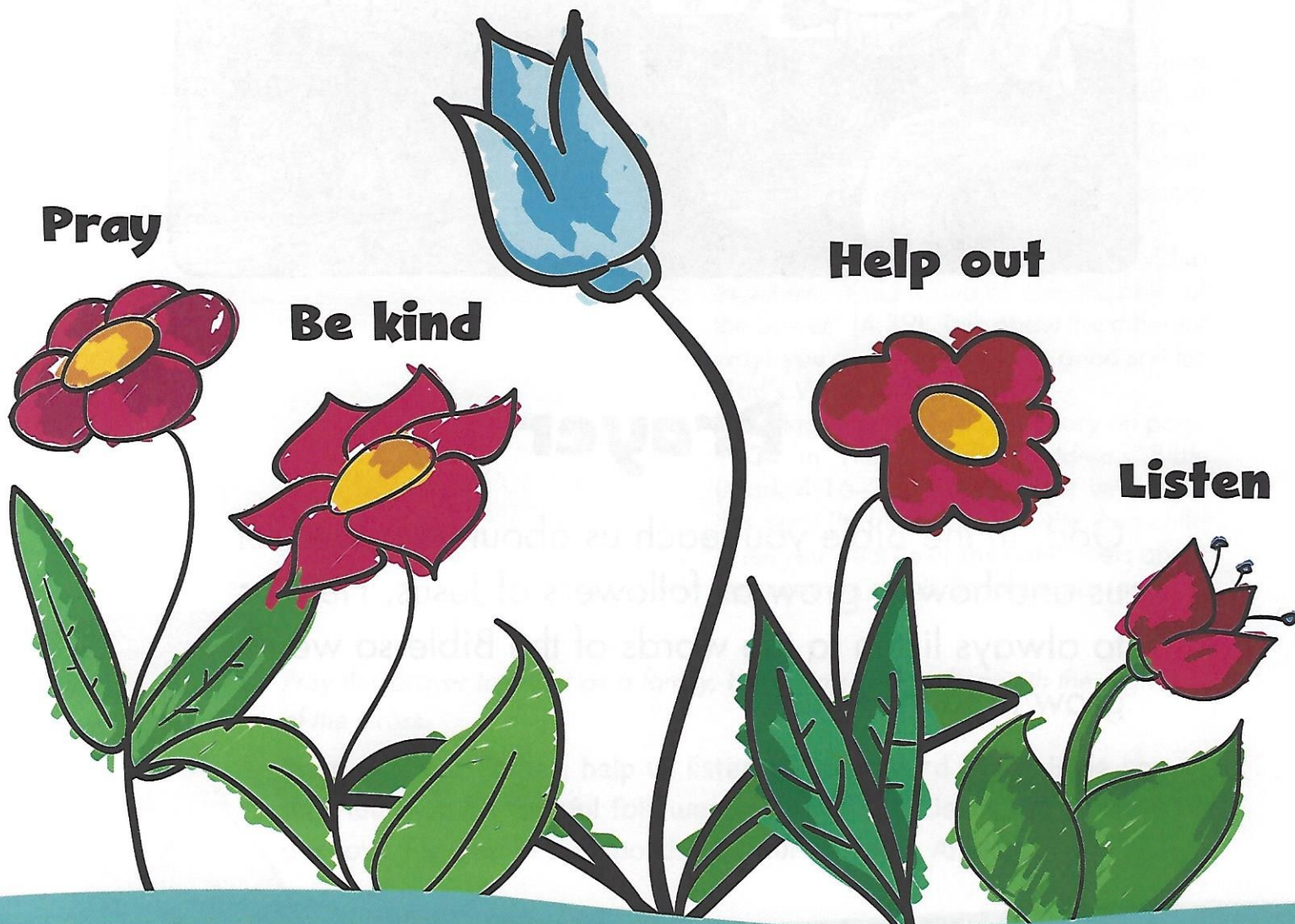
Say "I love you"


Pray

Be kind

Help out

Listen





Color the letters that are marked with an X. What do they spell? Never forget where we hear God's Word!

H K W Y I U T X

O H B S K U I U

P L B_x I_x B_x L_x E_x N

Y H J A S J B C

A X M L T Y D I

Family Page

Background Focus

The Parable of the Sower (Mark 4:1–9) presents one of those uncomfortable challenges that Jesus often issues. It is a message that, perhaps, brings forth the difference between hearing and listening.

Hearing the Good News is easy. It simply involves paying attention to the words that are being said. It may even involve agreement with what is being said. Listening, on the other hand, seems to imply something deeper. Not only does it include the act of hearing, but also some real sense of reflection and integration into one's life.

This chapter focuses on the importance of listening to God's Word and taking care that our hearts are "good soil" on which the seed that is God's Word can be rooted. As we listen to God's Word in the Mass, it is good for all of us to challenge ourselves to see if we are just hearing the readings or if we are really listening.

Family Strategies

With the multitude of family and work responsibilities and the allure of technology, it has become increasingly easy to become distracted when communicating. Practicing good communication skills as a family will help children develop the ability to express themselves clearly and also to become engaged listeners—skills helpful in all areas of life, including faith.

Family Activities

- Go on a listening walk together where you don't speak, but just listen to all of the sounds around you. After some time, stop to compare the different sounds you noticed, and talk about how important listening is.
- View the following YouTube video together: "Kidz Church: The Parable of the Sower" (4:39). Talk about the different ways you as a family can be good soil for God's Word to take root.
- Read together the Featured Story on page 1534 in *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Mark 4:16–20) or the longer version of this story (Mark 4:1–20). Invite your child to tell you what he or she remembers about the meaning of this Scripture passage.

Pray It!

Pray this prayer together as a family, beginning and ending with the Sign of the Cross.

Dear God our Father, help us listen to your Word in the Bible so that we may be faithful followers of your Son, Jesus, and show our love for you in our words and our actions. Amen.