Year B - 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Mark 1:29-39

Jesus healed many who were suffering from diseases.



As soon as Jesus left the meeting place with James and John,
they went home with Simon and Andrew.
When they got there,
Jesus was told that Simon's mother-in-law
was sick in bed with fever.
Jesus went to her.
He took hold of her hand and helped her up.
The fever left her, and she served them a meal.

That evening after sunset,
all who were sick or had demons in them were brought to Jesus.
In fact, the whole town gathered around the door of the house.
Jesus healed all kinds of terrible diseases
and forced out a lot of demons.
But the demons knew who he was,
and he did not let them speak.

Very early the next morning Jesus got up and went to a place
where he could be alone and pray.
Simon and the others started looking for him.
And when they found him, they said,
"Everyone is looking for you!"
Jesus replied, "We must go to the nearby towns,
so that I can tell the good news to those people.
This is why I have come."

Then Jesus went to Jewish meeting places
everywhere in Galilee,
where he preached and forced out demons.

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Mark 1:29-39

Jesus preached, healed and prayed

Introduction

- There are three separate stories in today's gospel reading.
- verses 29-31: Jesus heals Peter's mother-in-law
- verses 32-34: the whole town brings the sick to Jesus
- verses 35-39: Jesus goes off to pray, then insists on moving on.
- There are lots of hands in action in today's reading. Jesus reaches out his hand to heal Peter's mother-in-law. She reaches out her hand to Jesus to get his help and then uses her hands to feed Jesus and the disciples and to welcome her neighbours who are bringing the sick to her door. Jesus heals them by laying his hands on them. Jesus holds his hands in prayer.

Message

- Jesus loves all people with a love so great that he died for us. Throughout his life, Jesus showed this love by curing the sick and making time to share his love with other.
- Today's gospel completes a picture of Jesus' ministry: preaching, curing the sick, driving out demons, and then moving on to continue his work in another place.
- Jesus' compassion and healing of the sick is a sign of the Kingdom of God. The Church continues this through the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.
- We also see the importance of daily prayer in Jesus' life - he rose early in the morning, moved away from the crowds, and went to a deserted place to pray. We believe that in his prayers Jesus found guidance and direction from God. We also bring our decision-making to God in prayer, asking for his guidance and direction in our lives.

Discussion

- Begin by checking with the children if there are any words or phrases that they don't understand., e.g. mother-in-law, demons.
- Also check if there are any words or phrases that stood out for them
- I wonder what this story tells us about Jesus
- Jesus healed people, I wonder what we can do to help people
- I wonder what you can do to show someone who is sick or lonely that you care.

