

FAMILY DEVOTIONS

The week of JUNE 16/17

THE COMPASSION OF JESUS

#1 *Soon afterward, Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went along with him. As he approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out—the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the town was with her. When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, "Don't cry."*

Then he went up and touched the coffin, and those carrying it stood still. He said, "Young man, I say to you, get up!" The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother. They were all filled with awe and praised God. "A great prophet has appeared among us," they said. "God has come to help his people." This news about Jesus spread throughout Judea[a] and the surrounding country. Luke 7:11-17

Take a look at the newspaper on any given day and you see many sad stories. It seems like that is all there is. You often have to go back several pages to find anything with good news. The Bible story above has some very good news in it. Jesus went to a town called Nain and raised a young boy from death to life. He told the mother she would not have to cry any longer. We are told that the news spread throughout Judea. One person told another, who told another, and so on. We have good news to share. We have news that Jesus has died to forgive everyone's sins. He has brought us from death to life eternal. How can you tell this good news to others? Can you name some people who need to hear this good news?

Pray: Thank you Jesus for bringing the Good News that we are forgiven. Help us to tell others about what you have done for them. Amen.

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THE COMPASSION OF JESUS

#2 *One Sabbath Jesus was going through the grainfields, and as his disciples walked along, they began to pick some heads of grain. The Pharisees said to him, "Look, why are they doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?"*

He answered, "Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need? In the days of Abiathar the high priest, he entered the house of God and ate the consecrated bread, which is lawful only for priests to eat. And he also gave some to his companions." Then he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath." Mark 2:23-28

Sometimes it seems there are a lot of rules we have to follow. As a family, think of as many rules as you can in one minute. Even games have rules. Take "Simon Says," for example. The rule is that when told, you do certain things, as long as "Simon Says" is said first. Otherwise, if it is not said, then you shouldn't follow the directions. If possible, play a short game of Simon Says right now.

Jesus knew about rules. Whole books in the Old Testament of the Bible listed rules to follow. However, Jesus didn't always follow them because He knew that people were more important than rules. Our Bible reading describes a time when Jesus broke a rule by picking grain on the Sabbath. He also healed people who were sick on the Sabbath. The rules said, "Don't heal them; that's work." Jesus showed that it is possible to honor God and still work on the Sabbath.

We, too can please God by showing love to others. God's most important rules are to love God above all things, and to love one another. Jesus did that for all people by dying on the cross. Think about who you can show love to today and remember God's most important rules.

Pray: Dear Jesus, you followed the rules perfectly. You are my Savior from sin. Help me to love you always by loving others and keeping you first in my life. Amen.