

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A

What does it mean to live in the light? What does it mean to be blind, and now able to see. This week we think about the ways that we are blind to Christ's light and we seek to have our eyes opened and to live in the light.

A question to ask your children during Lent is, am I closer to the light now than when Lent began? What has happened to my Lenten resolves? What can I do for the next three weeks?

Sin is darkness and this is contrasted with the brightness of life in Christ. Encourage your children to think about the things in their lives that they need to work on in order to bring themselves closer to Jesus.

The First Reading and Gospel is attached at the end of this document.

### **Preparing to hear the Gospel**

#### **Introductory remarks**

Tell the children they are going to hear a story about a man who was blind from birth. Ask them to listen to what Jesus did. What did Jesus tell the man to do? What happened to the man?

#### **Read the Gospel to your children**

### **Questions to ask the children following the Gospel**

What did Jesus do? (He put mud on the blind man's eyes.)

What did he tell the man to do? (Go and wash in the water.)

What happened to the man? (He could see.)

How did people react when they saw that the man could see? (They didn't believe it.)

What did the man come to believe about Jesus? (That he was the one sent by God.)

Jesus can heal us from the evil that blinds us. We can be washed clean and see, just like the man. Then we too can say we believe that Jesus is the Promised One.

Ask the children to think about the things in their lives that keep them in darkness. (You might give them some suggestions.) Give them a minute to think about what they can work on during these last few weeks of Lent.

### **Prayers**

We Pray that we will be healed of all that blinds us to God's love. Lord Hear Us

We Pray for those who suffer from blindness or other disabilities. Lord Hear Us

We Pray that we will reflect Jesus' light to those around us. Lord Hear Us

**Activity**

As we hear Jesus say in the Gospel "I am the light of the world" we want the children to take this message with them.

The children can make candlesticks to remind them that Jesus is the light of the world but also that they have a light in them that they need to shine too.

Attached is the candle template for you to print out at home.

Ask the children to colour in the candle and attach it to a paddle pop stick.  
They may wish to add some glitter to the flame!



## FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT



FIRST READING: *Ephesians 5:8-14*

*This is a reading from Paul's letter to the Christians living in Ephesus.*

**B**rothers and sisters,

There was a time when you were darkness,  
but now you are light in the Lord.  
Live as children of the light.  
When we live in the light,  
we do what is good and right and honest.  
Try to learn what pleases the Lord.  
Never take part in things that are evil or done in secret.  
Instead, let everything be seen in the open.  
Everything done in the light is seen as it really is.  
That is why it is said,

“Wake up, you who sleep;  
rise up from the dead,  
and Christ will give you light.”

*The Word of the Lord.*

RESPONSE: *Psalm 36*

You are the light, the fountain of life.

*Verses:*

*Leader:* 1. Your love is true and sets us free.  
2. You give us light that lets us see.

*(Everyone repeat Verse and Response after Leader.)*



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

“I am the light in darkness, you will have life in me.”

<sup>##</sup>After Gospel, repeat Acclamation.)

”

GOSPEL: *John 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38.*

*This is a reading from the Gospel of John.*

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man who had been born blind. And he said to his disciples,

“While it is day, I must do the work of the One who sent me.  
When night comes, no one can work.  
While I am here, I am the light of the world.”

Then Jesus spat on the ground, made some mud, and put it on the man’s eyes, and said to him,

“Go and wash in the pool of Siloam.”

So the man went and washed his eyes, and when he came back, he was able to see. His neighbors and the people who had always seen him begging began to ask,

“Isn’t this the man who used to sit and beg?”

Some said it was; others said it wasn’t but was someone who looked like him. The man himself said,

“Yes, I am the same man.”

Some of the people took the man who had been born blind to the Pharisees because it was on the Sabbath that Jesus had healed him. The Pharisees asked him how he was able to see if he was born blind. He told them,

“A man called Jesus put mud on my eyes. I washed it off, and now I can see.”

*(Continued on next page.)*

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

---

The Pharisees said,

“The one who did this cannot be a man of God,  
because he works on the Sabbath.”

Others said,

“But if he is a sinner, how can he do these miracles?”

The man who had been healed said,

“I don’t know if he’s a sinner or not.  
But I do know that I was blind, and now I can see.”

[And they began to argue about it.

So they asked the man,

“Since it was your eyes that he healed,  
what do you have to say about him?”

The man answered,

“He is a prophet.”

Because the man said this, they threw him out of the temple.  
Jesus went and found the man and asked him,

“Do you believe in the Son of God?”

He said,

“Tell me who he is so that I can believe in him.”

Jesus said,

“I am the Son of God.”

The man said,

“Yes, Lord, I do believe!”

And he knelt down to worship him.]

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

[ ] Reader may omit text that appears in brackets.

