

October 2021

A 15th Century proverb suggested that 'children should be seen and not heard' – a viewpoint shared by many societies since. But Jesus' attitude is very different. In the week commencing 4th October, children heard how Jesus went beyond just welcoming children to Him: He held them up as an example of open heartedness that everyone could learn from! This newsletter shares some of the content children have experienced in school and suggests ways for you to engage with them about it. We hope and pray that through reading and sharing, you will be inspired by the open heartedness of your own child!

People vs. Things

Have you seen one of these before?



Next generation fidget spinners, these fiddle toys have been trending in 2021. Perhaps your child has even pestered you for one!

But, like fidget spinners, these 'pop its' will go out of fashion: once loved toys left forgotten.

However, these trends go to show how quickly and easily we can become attached to *things*, as we talked about with children in school during the week commencing 11th October.

We showed them the film 'Grandad's Treasure', which you can watch below:

www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-newsletter

Through discussion following the film, children learned that **our possessions can sometimes get in the way of us loving others.**

This is essence of what Jesus said to His disciples in the Gospel this week. Have a read here:

A rich young man ran up to Jesus, knelt down and asked, "Good master, what must I do to go to heaven?"

Jesus said to him, "You know the commandments: You must not kill; You must not steal; You must not lie; You must not cheat; Honour your father and mother."

The man said to him, "Master, I have kept these ever since I was child."

Jesus looked steadily at him and loved him, and He said, "Go and sell everything you own and give the money to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come and follow me."

But the man's face fell at these words and he went away sad, for he was very rich.

Jesus said to His disciples, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the Kingdom of God!"

The disciples were astonished at what Jesus said. They replied, "In that case, who can be saved?"

Jesus gazed at them and said, "For men, it is impossible, but not for God: because everything is possible for God."

Paraphrased from Mark 10: 17 – 30

In the Gospel that children heard, a rich young man was asking Jesus about how to get to heaven. The rich young man was very prepared to follow the Ten Commandments, like about not killing, stealing, lying, or cheating, and honouring his father and mother. But he was really sad when Jesus told him to sell everything he owned and give money to the poor.

A bit like the Grandad in the film was too busy with his trainset to play with his friends, children learned that the rich young man was so attached to his riches – his things – that it held him back from loving others the way Jesus called him to.

Jesus said that if the rich young man sold what he had and gave to the poor, then he would have treasure in heaven. Children were reassured that they don't need to sell everything they have in order to get to heaven(!), but through this Gospel passage, Jesus highlights that treasure in heaven is so much more important than what we consider to be treasure on earth.

Children heard how Jesus wants us to love Him and love people, not things!

In a society where adults and children alike are often glued to their screens, that might seem impossible. The disciples, although their temptations weren't to digital screens, had similar concerns! But Jesus offers them, and us, this reassurance: "For humans, it is impossible, but not for God: because **everything is possible for God.**"

- *Why not discuss with your child if there are any specific things they (or you!) own that they love too much and could get in the way of them loving God or others.*
- *As we approach half term, and pause from school and regular routines, why not consider how you might show love to your household without **things** getting in the way.*

The Impossible Made Possible

“Nothing is impossible for God.”
Paraphrased from Mark 10: 17 – 30

Drawing inspiration from Jesus’ life, the daily prayers from the week commencing 11th October helped children to focus on how everyday difficulties can be overcome if we allow Jesus to help us.

We shared daily, fictional scenarios to help children see how this can work in practice. Why not read them with your child again:

I was in the swimming pool and I was scared of the water. I didn’t want to get my face wet. I started to panic, learning to swim was impossible!

But then I said to myself, *“Nothing is impossible for God.”*

I remembered that Jesus walked on the water. And I tried again.

The water didn’t seem so scary as I imagined Jesus walking towards me.

I asked for help and the teacher passed me a float to get me started!



When things seem impossible, Jesus makes them possible!
When we are scared, He comforts us.
When we think we can’t do it, He gives us the strength to carry on.
When we need help, He provides.

My mum told me again to put my dirty socks in the laundry bag, but I didn’t feel like doing it.

I knew it would make more work for her, but I didn’t want to help, I wanted to play my video games! It had been a long day at school and helping felt impossible!

But I said to myself, *“Nothing is impossible for God.”*

I remembered how Jesus healed the sick, cured the lame and gave sight to the blind.

Sometimes Jesus was tired and bothered by the crowds, but He always made time to help others.

I decided that I wanted to do my bit to help too. I put my dirty socks in the laundry bag, and tidied up my toys in the living room too.



When things seem impossible, Jesus makes them possible!
When we want to put ourselves first, He reminds us to think of others.
When we're not in the mood, He inspires us.
When we hadn't planned it, He shows us opportunities to help.

I was so angry when my little brother scribbled on the book I was reading. I wanted to hit him!

I knew I shouldn't, but I really, really wanted to. It felt impossible not to!

But I said to myself, "*Nothing is impossible for God.*"

I remembered that God loves me no matter what I do. He loves me even when I'm naughty.

Then I calmed down. Because if God can love me when I'm naughty, then I should love my little brother when he's naughty. And my little brother probably didn't even mean to scribble on my book.

I got some big paper out and me and my brother drew a picture together.



When things seem impossible, Jesus makes them possible!
When we're angry, He shows us a different perspective.
When we are want to lash out, He shows us the path of peace.
When we want to punish others, He shows us how to work together.

- *Why not consider with your child where it might be helpful to remind yourselves that 'nothing is impossible for God'?*

Prayer

October is the month of the Rosary. Of course, we can pray the Rosary at any time, but given that the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary is celebrated annually on October 7, it's the month in the church calendar where praying the Rosary is particularly highlighted. As we approach half term, and pause from school and regular routines, perhaps you and your household might like to take the opportunity to pray the Rosary together.

If you don't have a Rosary at home, children can count on their fingers, or even make one of their own!

Below you can find the prayers which make up a decade of the Rosary, but if you want to explore praying the Rosary further, check out our special Rosary resources [here](#). These were originally intended for use in the classroom, but we are sharing them with you and your family now to help you if you wish to dig more deeply into the mysteries of the Rosary. We hope you will be blessed!

Our Father x 1

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name;
Thy kingdom come;
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, Amen.

Hail Mary x 10

Hail Mary, full of grace.
The Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou amongst women,
And blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners,
Now and at the hour of our death.
Amen

Glory Be x 1

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.

Date for your Diary!

You might not know, but Ten Ten, in addition to providing **Collective Worship** resources in schools, is also the leading provider of RSHE resources to Catholic schools in England and Wales.

“What is RSHE?” you may well ask! Well, on Thursday 3rd February at 7pm you can attend our webinar to find out all about Relationships, Sex and Health Education, the changes to the curriculum regarding this, and what it means for Catholic schools and parents of children in these schools.

This instructive and inspiring webinar puts the dignity of the human person at the heart of the discussion and is open to parents of children in all Catholic schools, not just those subscribing to our RSHE programme **Life to the Full**.

Find out more and book your place [here](#).