



build. plant. grow.
the word this week



lent



Wisdom



lectionary
 reading

Cycle A

4th Sunday of Lent

Lectionary # 31

Reading 1: 1Samuel 16:1b,6-7,10-13

The **wisdom** of God is, as the scriptures proclaim, *loftier* than the wisdom of humanity. God sees very differently than we do and that certainly is illustrated in this story about David being chosen as the one who would be anointed. As the story begins, Samuel is called by God to seek out one of the sons of Jesse of Bethlehem to be king. Upon seeing the stature and strength of Jesse's son Eliab, Samuel thought that he would certainly be the one God had chosen to be anointed king. God chooses David, the youngest, to be the anointed and as the passage concludes we hear *from that day on, the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David*. One of those gifts of the Spirit is **wisdom**.

Reading 2: Ephesians 5: 8 -14

True **wisdom** allows us to discern between that which is good and that which is evil. Saint Paul uses the images of darkness and light in his letter to the Ephesians. In essence Saint Paul say, live what you believe. Darkness means sin and he reminds the Ephesians that they have left the dark behind. Certainly the possibility of sinning always exists, so it is essential to be careful in choosing who you associate with. Paul's exhortation to the Ephesians and to us is that we are to choose wisely who we associate with. In essence we are advised to seek out the **wise** and to learn from them.

Gospel: John 9: 1 - 41

Time and again the gospel of John will use the images of light and darkness, and blindness and sight to envelope the **wisdom** of God that is in the person of Jesus Christ. In the story of the Man born Blind, the individual evolves from one stage of faith to another, from darkness and ignorance to wisdom and light. Watch the evolution of the names the man gives to Jesus...the man called Jesus, prophet, man from God, Lord.



children's story

Leo Tolstoy



**The Children Wiser
than the Elders**

The Children Wiser Than the Elders

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Translated by Robert Nisbet Bain Bain

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**character
education**
activity

**Wisdom is a virtue bestowed
by God in order that human
beings might make right
decisions in conducting their
lives.**

The Children Wiser than the Elders

The Children Wiser than the Elders is a short story by Leo Tolstoy. Here is great opportunity to expose children to some classic literature that is ageless. Its form is that of a parable, as it is pronouncedly didactic. The plot opens with the scene of two little girls who are dressed in their Easter outfits playing in a puddle. Eventually the girls become a little enthusiastic in the water play and eventually one of the little girl's dresses is soiled terribly. This eventually results in an argument among the girl's relatives. As those who should know better continue their arguing, the girls make up and move on with their lives enjoying one another. The **wisdom** of love and cheerfulness of the little girls contrasts with the embittered arguments the adults continue to have over a material object.

Activity

Advanced preparation: Items needed: three medium sized paper bags, a few small plastic bugs, enough small prizes (pencils, erasers, stickers etc.) for the number of students in the class. Decorate one bag beautifully and place the little plastics bugs inside it. Make the next bag look ugly but put in some of the small prizes and leave the third bag plain but fill it with candies.

Step One: Have the children look at all three bags (but not the inside). Take a show of hands to indicate which bag the majority of the class wishes to choose. Choose volunteers to reach into the bag that most voted for, then the second and then the third

Step Two: Ask the children what happened regarding their choices. It gives them an opportunity to know that in making decisions we might go with what looks best, but that is not always the best choice. This activity provides an opportunity to speak of seeking **wisdom** from God in the choices we make. The activity becomes a way in which to illustrate the first reading from 1 Samuel.

Wisdom entails entering into prayer with God in order to make the correct decisions in one's life. To seek God's counsel in all things is to be a wise person.



case study

**Look.
Feel.
Know.
Act.**

What could you do today?

Can you recall an unwise decision that you have made recently? Maybe it was a decision that made you or someone else unhappy or angry? If so, take some time to pray and to think of how you may have done something differently so that there would have been a better outcome. This opportunity will provide you with a guideline for making future decisions about the words you will use or the actions you will enter into. The guideline would be that each person enter into prayer and seek God's wisdom and will in each situation. Make a commitment to yourself that you will give yourself a "time out" before saying or doing something so that in the "time out" you will seek God's **wisdom**.

Look Feel Know Act

You have learned from the three readings selected for this Sunday, that it is God's **wisdom** that is important as a guiding light for our lives. As you have seen this to be true in the readings, where else can you see evidence of God's **wisdom** as being so very different than the wisdom of men and women? Look around and see the world that God created and then look at some of the ways people have used God's creation **unwisely**. The air and water, the fish and the animals of the earth, plants and trees, all of them are gifts from God. How will you act **wisely** towards these wonders of God's creation in your daily life? What can you do in your family, at school and in your community to be a good steward (caretaker) of these things? How can you help others to see the importance of making **wise** decisions regarding these gifts from God, most especially the people that God made in his image and likeness?

In *The Children Wiser than the Elders* we can learn the lesson that true **wisdom** comes when we focus on the importance of relationships and being in right relationship with one another. This lesson in **wisdom** is ancient for it is spoken of in the law and the prophets of the Old Testament. Jesus speaks of it when asked by someone, *Which is the greatest of the Laws?* To which Jesus responds with the Shema Israel, *Hear, O Israel that the Lord your God is one and you shall love the Lord your God, with all of your heart, with all of your soul, with all of your mind and with all of your strength and you shall love your neighbor as yourself.*

Wisdom finds its greatest home in the right relationship that people have with God and with one another. It is great **wisdom** to hold fast to the importance of our relationship with God and with our neighbor.



closing
tool

Pray that the gift of wisdom that God gives to you will grow stronger with each passing day and that you will always seek God's will and wisdom in your life. Amen



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