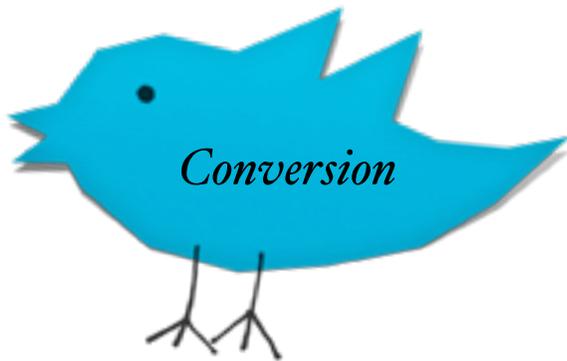




easter



lectionary
reading

Cycle B

Third Sunday of Easter

Lectionary #47

Reading I: Acts of the Apostles 3: 13-15, 17-19

This reading is an excerpt from the second major speech that Saint Peter delivers in the streets of Jerusalem. The focus is on the meaning of Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection. The speech ends with a call for the **conversion** of the listeners. Saint Peter calls for them to *repent, therefore and be converted that your sins might be wiped away*. Saint Peter speaks about what Christ has done for us and asks for a response in the form of a conversion, or a change in our life.

Reading 2: I John 2: 1-5a

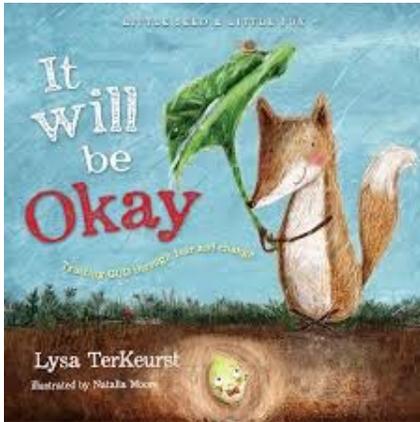
This letter from Saint John continues the theme of **conversion**, for we hear Saint John calling us to live the commandment of love. This commandment involves an ongoing commitment to be loving in our thoughts, words, and deeds. Saint John reminds us that our actions need to reflect our relationship with God. To do otherwise would mean that we are *liars and remain in darkness*. This call to love involves a continuous process of **conversion**.

Gospel: Luke 24: 35-48

This Gospel reading is taken from the final Resurrection appearance in Luke's Gospel. It focuses on the Paschal mystery of the life, suffering, death, and resurrection of Christ as the fulfillment of God's covenant with humanity. We consistently see that in his resurrection appearances, Jesus extends peace to those he encounters. This peace that Jesus offers calls us to be part of the peace process. These words bring comfort but also present a challenge for us to be peacemakers. Being peacemakers involves an ongoing process of **conversion**.



children's
story



It Will be Okay

Written by Lysa TerKeurst

Illustrated by Natalia Moore

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character
education
activity

**Spiritual conversion involves
moving away from sin and
moving towards a life of
goodness and holiness.**

It Will be Okay

Whether we like it or not, growing and maturing requires changing. Change can bring up many fears, and *It Will be Okay* allows children to learn to trust in God, especially during new and unfamiliar situations. Little Seed and Little Fox are facing changes and unfamiliar situations, and in the midst of it all they learn that they don't need to be afraid. As the story goes on, all their challenges and fears begin to go away as an unlikely friendship develops between Little Seed and Little Fox. The story reveals that trust is the most important element needed for change, transformation, and conversion to take place.

Activity: A Little Seed of Your Own

Step One: Provide each student with containers, potting soil, and various seeds so that they can witness the change that occurs when a seed is placed in an environment where it must grow from a seed to a plant.

Step Two: Have the students choose the seed that they would like to plant and invite them to take two seeds to plant in the soil-filled containers. Ask them to take one of the same seeds and glue it to a piece of paper to identify the plant it will eventually be and the date when it was planted.

Step Three: Have the students keep a journal of what they see day after day in the soil. Make sure that they know how much water and sunlight each seed needs. Have them journal on the same piece of paper that they glued the seed on to.

Step Four: Once the seed has begun to grow, invite the students to explain what has happened. Have them relate the changes they saw in their seed to how we are God's seeds in the world and how we will change over time.

The Greek word for conversion is “kairos,” which means a concentrated time given to the conversion process. In many ways, all of life is intended to be a kairos.



case study

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

What could you do today?

Conversion means making a positive change in your life. The change can be large or small, but it is always a process that happens over time. Oftentimes, we are not patient with moving slowly because we want change to occur immediately. After reading the story of Little Seed and Little Fox and completing the experiment of planting a seed, you may begin to realize that change does take place over time.

Think about a positive change that you’d like to make and brainstorm ways that that change might happen. Whenever we want to accomplish something, it is a good idea to use what is known as a “backward plan.” A backward plan involves determining what the end product is and the steps and timeline involved in reaching it. Once you determine the positive change you’d like to make in your life, have an adult help you create your backward plan.

Look Feel Know Act

Take a look at pictures of yourself from when you were first born up until the present day. Place the pictures in age order to show your growth from one stage to another and to see the physical changes that have occurred. After you have placed them in order, look at yourself in the mirror and see where you are physically right here and now.

The spiritual changes are not as obvious because the spirit is not visible, but our spirit does change throughout our lives. Once you have been able to see the physical changes, see if you can identify some of the spiritual changes that have occurred as you’ve grown. You may need an adult to help you with this investigation. For example, you may want to see yourself as someone who always wants to be honest. With the help of an older person who has seen you grow up, you will probably notice how the importance of honesty has developed over time if it has been practiced. Identify one virtue or good thing that you want to focus on and commit yourself to developing it. See it as a seed that needs to be nurtured, watered, and given everything it needs to grow and mature.



closing tool

Change, transformation, and **conversion** can often be frightening to many people, but even more so to children as they leave familiar places and environments. The scripture passages chosen for this Third Sunday of Easter speak to the fact that we are constantly called to change and remind us that God is always with us in that change. The children's story, *It Will be Okay*, provides a great story to help children understand that fear is a natural part of change or **conversion**, but that they will not be alone and that God will see to their needs no matter what.

Pray that you will always trust in God when the opportunity for change comes in your life. Trust that God will be with you no matter how challenging the change may seem to be, for God is with you in all things. Amen.



**Santa Clara
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