

# Encountering the Word

with Jeff Cavins

## Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

Isaiah 66:10–14c • Galatians 6:14–18 • Luke 10:1–12, 17–20 or 10:1–9

### The Kingdom Is Now

In this week's Gospel from Luke 10, we witness Jesus sending out his disciples to proclaim the Kingdom of God. Just as Moses appointed seventy elders to lead the Israelites, Jesus, the new Moses, appoints seventy disciples to go out and carry his message to the world. This mission reveals an important truth: the Kingdom of God is not just a distant concept—it is near, available, and active in our lives today.

Jesus sends his disciples out as “lambs among wolves” (Luke 10:3), warning them that their mission won't be easy. Yet he equips them with specific instructions: heal the sick, announce that the Kingdom of God has come near, and bring God's mercy and justice into people's lives. This message is a powerful reminder that we, too, are called to be ambassadors of Christ's kingdom. When we know Scripture and God's will, we can confidently proclaim his plan to others.

The disciples returned from their mission filled with joy, excited by the authority they wielded over evil forces. But Jesus gently reminds them that their greatest joy should not be in their power but in the knowledge that their names are written in heaven. This is the true heart of the mission—not just to bring healing or confront evil, but to lead souls to eternal life with God.

As followers of the Kingdom of God on earth, we have an important responsibility. Hate and evil have always been around, and so it is now. In Scripture, the opposite of good has many names, including wolves, demons, and serpents. For us “lambs” to crush the serpents and oust the wolves and demons, we must be courageous and spread the Good News that the kingdom is at hand now.



### Live the Gospel

Jeff Cavins says, “Jesus sends his disciples into the world with this simple and powerful message: ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’ This week, find ways to bring the reality of God's kingdom to those around you. Whether through acts of mercy, sharing the Gospel, or offering forgiveness, your words and actions can make the presence of God known. Take a moment to ask yourself: ‘How can I proclaim the kingdom of God in my daily life?’”

### Dive Deeper

Scan this code to watch:



Or go to

<https://media.ascensionpress.com/video/fourteenth-sunday-in-ordinary-time-c/>

## Ponder and Pray

» If you feel like a “lamb among wolves,” how can you trust more deeply in God’s protection and guidance?

» Where may God be calling you to step out and proclaim his kingdom, even in the face of wolflike resistance?

» Does knowing that “all that God is, is available to you” through Jesus shape your reliance on him in your struggles and challenges? How can you live more boldly in that truth?

## Make It Your Own

You and others in your household may use this space to write anything about today’s Mass. It might be your view of Jeff Cavins’ reflection, your priest’s homily, your answers to the questions on this page—anything to help you and your household get the most out of today’s Mass.

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**The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest.**

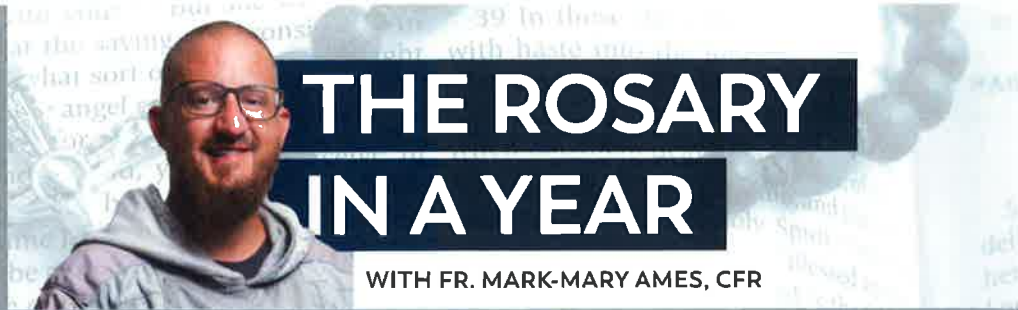
**—Luke 10:2**

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Jeff Cavins is the author of *The Bible Timeline: The Story of Salvation* and the creator of the video series *Sundays with Ascension*, from which this reflection was adapted.

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Week 27



# THE ROSARY IN A YEAR

WITH FR. MARK-MARY AMES, CFR

## PHASE 3: MEDITATING ON THE MYSTERIES

The Glorious Mysteries in Scripture

### THE ASCENSION



Mosaic of the Ascension of the Lord,  
St. Barnabas Church (London, England)

Commanding his disciples to spread the Gospel and to baptize, Jesus ascends into heaven forty days after his Resurrection, returning to the Father.

**Fruit of this mystery: We pray for a heart ready for heaven.**

**Scripture: Luke 24:50–53**

*Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. While he blessed them, he parted from them, and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple blessing God.*





## Week Twenty-Seven

Days 183–189



**Divided Kingdom** Narrative: 2 Kings 17 | Supplemental: Micah 5–7; Psalm 140

**Exile** Narrative: 2 Kings 18–23 | Supplemental: 2 Chronicles 29–34; Psalms 141, 143–145; Proverbs 7 and 8:1–21

## THEY REJECTED GOD AND ARE EXILED



The Walls of Samaria Breached  
by Assyrian Soldiers

Israel's sins now culminate in its destruction by the Assyrian Empire as the "Divided Kingdom" period in *The Bible in a Year* transitions to the period of "Exile." Moreover, Judah's fate will not be far off when it falls to the Babylonians. The Bible emphasizes that all the Jewish people's fate is connected directly to their rejection of God in favor of serving idols and sin. The same elements were factors in the cycle of sin and redemption throughout Judges. As always, hope in God's mercy and redemption will be present after punishment.

- 2 Kings 17 presents the fall of the northern kingdom of Israel, when the ten tribes are exiled by the Assyrians. That some Israelites remain (and others eventually return) and mix with Gentiles means that the ten tribes of the north become largely indistinguishable as a new group distinct from the two tribes of Judah. These people will become the Samaritans in the Gospels.
- Judah and Benjamin will be exiled into Babylon, but they will return and resettle the land distinct from Gentiles.
- Hezekiah's story in 2 Kings and 2 Chronicles teaches us that our history does not determine our future. Hezekiah's father was Ahaz, one of the worst kings of Judah, but Hezekiah is one of the best kings.
- While Hezekiah does not condemn Ahaz in 2 Kings or 2 Chronicles, his actions undo all his father's bad actions.
- Though he is a great king overall, Hezekiah becomes prideful in his last years.
- The books of Samuel, Kings, and Chronicles contain stories of leaders and important people in the king's house. Others in those times also are called to be faithful, regardless of what the kings do.
- The prophecy of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem is found in Micah 5: "But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah ... from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel" (Micah 5:2). Micah is telling the people that they will be scattered, but from Bethlehem in Judah will come a ruler who will bring them back.

## Dive Deeper

Today, prayerfully reflect on these two questions:  
In what ways is the Lord calling me to give him my whole heart in worship? How can I get rid of the idols in my life and love God more fully?



### THE BRONZE SERPENT

This image shows the bronze serpent God commanded Moses to construct. (See Numbers 21.)

By the time of the events of 2 Kings 18, however, the people were worshipping it. Consequently, King Hezekiah broke it into pieces.

## Bible Answers

### What is the remnant?

In Scripture, *remnant* refers to a small number of people who remain, usually after a devastating event. In the Old Testament, it is used for those who stayed in the Promised Land after its conquest.

In 930 BC, the united kingdom David established was divided. Eventually, due to infidelity to the Lord, both kingdoms would be conquered and exiled by foreign nations. In 722 BC, the Assyrians destroyed Israel, carrying away many people to other countries. A remnant was left behind. They would struggle to survive and continue to practice their faith. In 587 BC, the Babylonians destroyed Jerusalem, taking the educated and useful to Babylon. The remnant faced challenges, as the Temple and its sacrificial system had been destroyed.



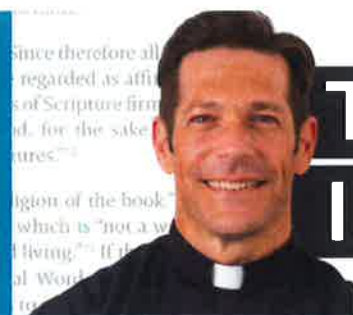
Scan the QR code to listen to the *Bible in a Year* podcast on the Ascension app, to get exclusive content, and to access transcripts for every episode. Download the reading plan at <https://media.ascensionpress.com/category/ascension-podcasts/bibleinayear/>

*The Bible in a Year* is a daily podcast, produced by Ascension and hosted by Fr. Mike Schmitz, where we read the whole Bible following *The Great Adventure* Bible-study program created by Jeff Cavins. This bulletin was adapted from *The Bible in a Year Companion* books that complement the podcast.



## Week 27

Paragraphs 1341–1383



# THE CATECHISM IN A YEAR

WITH FR. MIKE SCHMITZ

## How We Worship PART TWO: THE CELEBRATION OF THE CHRISTIAN MYSTERY

### THE EUCHARISTIC SACRIFICE

**T**he heart of religion is worship, and the heart of worship is sacrifice. As Catholics, we believe Jesus' words that the Eucharist is his true Body and Blood. The Mass allows us to participate fully by actively offering the Sacrifice of the Eucharist and by joining our lives to Christ's sacrifice. The Eucharist is an extraordinary gift that enables us to be in God's presence and worship him. St. John Paul II emphasized the "great need for Eucharistic worship" because "Jesus awaits us in this sacrament of love" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1380).

#### Keep in Mind

- Discipleship has four essential elements: following apostolic Church teaching, caring for others, praying, and participating in the Eucharist (see Acts 2:42).
- Jesus instituted the Eucharist, making clear how God desires to be worshiped.
- Jesus is present in the Eucharist—Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity—and as the great High Priest.
- To receive the Eucharist, we must be in union with the Church and have faith in Jesus' Real Presence. This requirement protects us from the condemnation of receiving the Eucharist unworthily.
- God's inclusive love invites every person to be fully united to his Catholic Church.
- The ministerial priesthood in apostolic succession is necessary for a valid Eucharist.
- The Eucharistic altar is a place of sacrifice and banquet, representing worship and communion with the Body and Blood of Christ.
- The word Eucharist can be used as a noun (the Body and Blood of Christ) and as a verb (the action of Jesus' sacrifice offered to the Father).



#### Dive Deeper

Through the words of Consecration offered by the priest, bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ (see CCC 1375).

At Mass, we participate in the sacrifice on Calvary. At Mass, imagine yourself at the foot of the Cross with Our Lady and St. John. Pray to unite yourself with Jesus on the Cross.

- The Eucharist is “a sacrifice because it *re-presents* (makes present) the sacrifice of the cross” (CCC 1366).
- The Eucharistic Sacrifice serves two essential purposes: glorifying the Father and sanctifying and saving the world.
- Through transubstantiation, the “accidents” (sensory characteristics) of bread and wine remain the same, but the substance changes so that Jesus is truly present.
- The Eucharistic Sacrifice joins together the Body of Christ: Mary, the saints, and all Catholics in heaven and on earth.
- Our active participation in the Mass contributes to God’s glorification and the world’s sanctification.
- We bow before the Eucharist to recognize Jesus’ divine presence.
- Eucharistic Adoration holds great power to transform us, even if the transformation is not tangible.

Use the space below to reflect on this week's content.

## Take It to Prayer

God our Father, you have given us your own Son so we can have life and have it to the fullest. We know that his sacrifice has changed our lives because it gave us access to you. Help us to participate in the Mass with our whole heart, as if it's our first Mass, our last Mass, and our only Mass. We pray this through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.



The best place to listen along is the Ascension app. Scan the QR code to get exclusive bonus content and transcripts for every episode.

*The Catechism in a Year* is a daily podcast produced by Ascension and hosted by Fr. Mike Schmitz. It helps us understand what it means to be Catholic by reading the entire *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and allowing those truths to shape our lives. This bulletin was adapted from the books that complement the podcast: *The Catechism in a Year Companions* by Petros Willey, Fr. Mike Schmitz, and Matthew Doeing.





# JESUS LOVES US, THIS WE KNOW



Isaiah 66:10–14c • Galatians 6:14–18 • Luke 10:1–12, 17–20 or 10:1–9

## Family Car Talk

*"The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few,"* says Our Lord in today's Gospel. On your way home from Mass today, discuss the questions with your family.



**What do you think Jesus means by "abundant harvest"?**



**How do you think God is asking you to serve him?**



**Ask the people in the car to say one talent they think another person in the car has. Don't stop until one talent has been revealed for everyone.**



## WHERE ARE ST. PAUL'S WORDS?

**Instructions:** In today's second reading, St. Paul writes, *"May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ."* Find words from the reading in this word search.

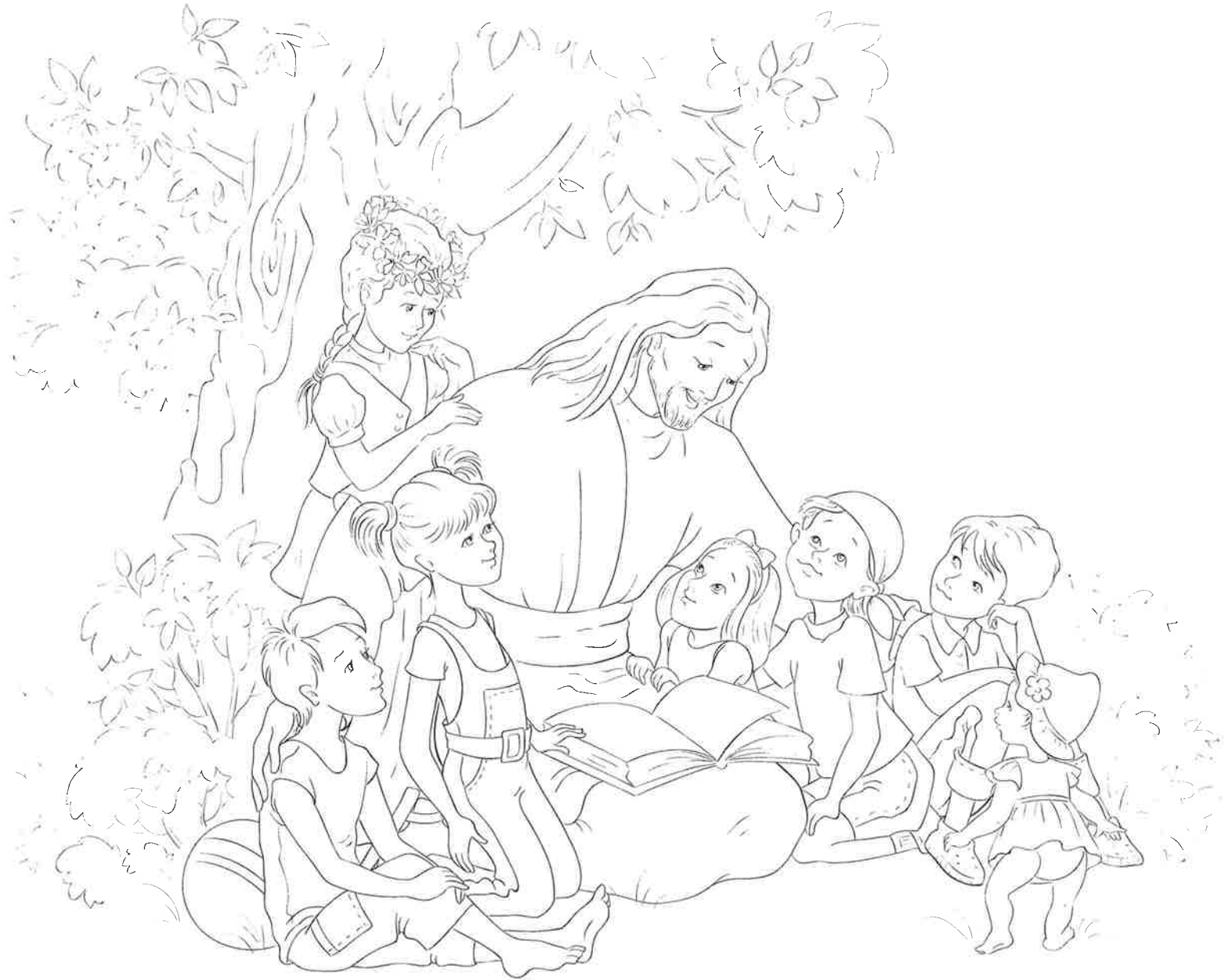
CREATION CROSS  
PEACE MERCY  
GRACE JESUS

A E Z I D I Z M S X  
N M C G A V Y S Z A  
G D C R P Z W C A V  
X V R A E A W R J Y  
H G O C A M E E E L  
J W S E C E P A S R  
X G S N E R H T U J  
Y B L E E C Z I S U  
F N C A L Y B O T C  
F Y J K P Q K N G Q



## LET THE CHILDREN COME TO ME

**Instructions:** *"As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you,"* says God the Father in today's first reading. Color the drawing, and remember that Jesus is always waiting to care for us in the way that our parents care for us.





# Sunday Q&A

Your Faith in Focus

## BODY TALK WITH YOUR KIDS

**I know there are important conversations that I need to have with my children about relationships, love, understanding, and what it means to be a boy or a girl. How do I get started? When do I start?**

**Y**ou might have had a talk with your parents during middle school that answered questions about developing bodies—and perhaps the whole big picture of life and love. Hopefully, it was more like an ongoing dialogue that helped you navigate your questions in a free, honest, and clear way. Even if this wasn't your experience, it's probably what you want for your children. Here are some thoughts from Aimee MacIver based on St. John Paul II's *Theology of the Body*. To learn more about this topic, you can find many resources from Ascension.

### “The Talk”

The talk shouldn't be a “talk,” singular. Rather, the topic should unfold over time. That's a HUGE premise of JPII's *Theology of the Body*. The *Theology of the Body* is often believed to be a chastity program, but it's much more about anthropology—who are we as male and female and what our bodies reveal about what we are made for. The facts about our bodies should flow from a prior foundation about the body-and-soul relationship, what the body is for, and more.

Most teachers of the *Theology of the Body* (me included) prefer using correct terminology and avoiding cute or confusing nicknames or euphemisms for private parts. This helps foster respect and wonder for the body instead of the shame that can be implied by avoiding direct talk about the body. If we can't even say the names of these parts, does that mean they are bad or shameful? It's truly amazing how God has made our male and female bodies with such differences! What an awesome gift! What a great God who gave us such wonderful bodies that can do so many things and, most especially, that can show love!

I have found that being honest but broad is a good tactic when talking with children about the body because there's no need to give more details than necessary. Kids are often satisfied with broad truth. Being broad gives information without burdensome or confusing details but also allows for follow-up questions.

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*“I have found that being honest but broad is a good tactic when talking with children about the body.”*

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Children are not always ready for the full answer to a question. Start by just answering the basic question that was asked, and allow them to guide the discussion with any follow-up questions that they have. If the discussion goes deeper than you or they are prepared for, it's OK to tell your children that's all they need to know for now and that you will give them more information when they are a little older.



## Ponder and Pray

- How did my parents guide me through the big questions I had about love, life, and my developing body? What was helpful? What do I wish happened a bit differently?
- How do I want to have those conversations with the next generation?



## Make It Your Own

Anticipate some important topics that you want to be sure to pass on to your children, and take some time to work on how and when you would like to communicate them. To start, list 10 things you want to absolutely be sure to communicate to your children about life, love, and the human body.

### Dive Deeper

Parents only: To read Aimee McIver's full article, scan the code or visit the URL: <https://media.ascensionpress.com/2019/11/18/the-talk-where-to-start-as-a-parent/>

