

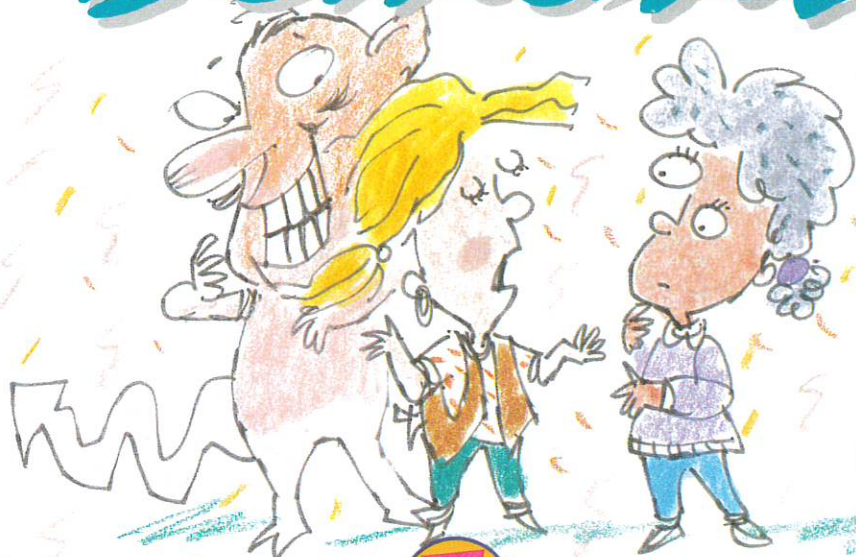
THE GOOD NEWS

WEEKLY
Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)
Mark 1:21-28 • January 31, 2021

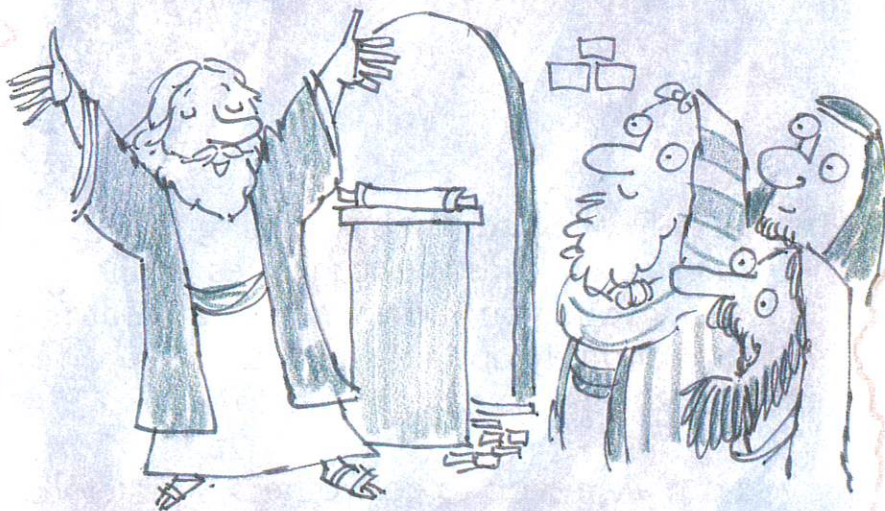
GOSPEL
THEME

Jesus teaches with authority
and acts with power.

TODAY'S Demons



The Power of Jesus Today



It's wonderful to read about the great miracles Jesus performed when he was in the world. But what about our world today? Where is Jesus' power now that he is no longer here to walk along our streets, teach in our churches, or stop by a roadside to cure someone born blind?

All of Jesus' miracles when he was on earth were only a preview of the great things he is doing today.

Before he left his disciples, he made this promise: "The one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son." (See John 14:12-13.)

**JESUS' POWER IS IN
YOUR HANDS! WHAT WILL
YOU DO WITH IT?**

Two years ago, when Lorie was 12 years old, she came very close to killing herself.

Some kids told her about "crack." Crack is a very potent form of cocaine that a lot of kids are using today. Lorie was curious. What could happen if she just tried a little "rock"?

The first time, it scared her. She really didn't know what had happened to her. But it was exciting, too. The next day, Lorie decided to try it again.

It didn't take long for Lorie to become addicted. She sort of knew she was addicted, but she didn't know what to do about it. She felt sick all the time, except when she was using drugs.

Then Tina was in the hospital. Lorie heard she had overdosed. She was getting scared! She prayed for courage. Then she told her teacher, Mrs. Madden, what she had gotten herself involved in.

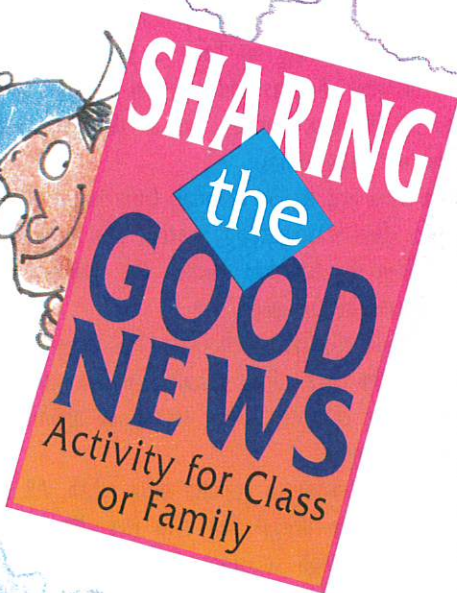
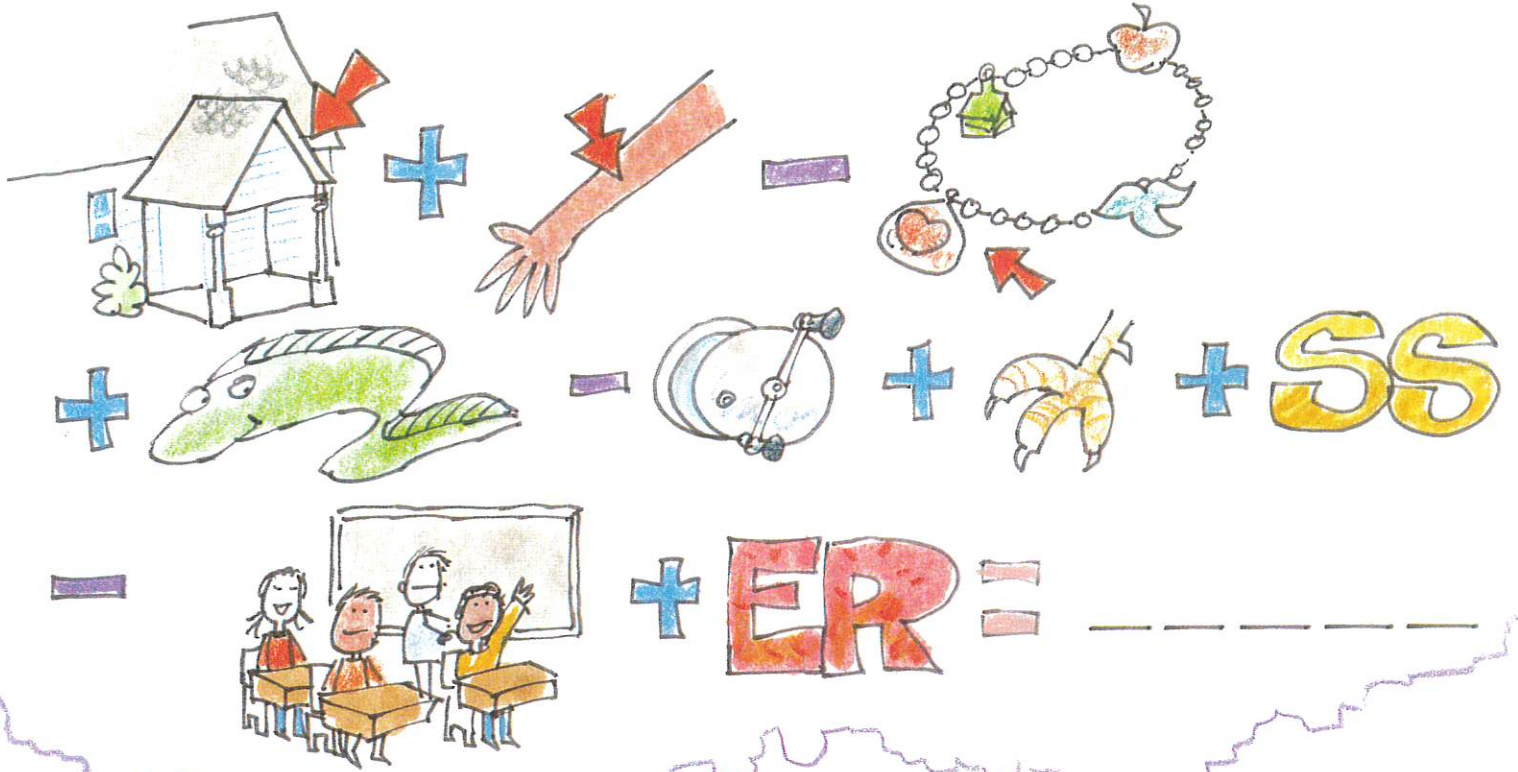
Mrs. Madden prayed with Lorie. She looked up the number of the local drug rehabilitation center, and suggested Lorie call them. They set up an appointment for Lorie to come in.

Lorie didn't want to go into drug rehab. All Lorie wanted was more drugs! She told Mrs. Madden she wasn't strong enough to stop using crack. "Crack is powerful stuff, Lorie," said Mrs. Madden, "but you have a greater power: You have the power of Jesus. All you have to do is use it."

At the drug rehabilitation center, the doctors were amazed that Lorie had voluntarily come in for a cure. They told her a lot of kids would not have had the strength to make that decision. It took Lorie and Jesus and the therapists a whole year to beat the habit, but today Lorie is back in school and doing great!

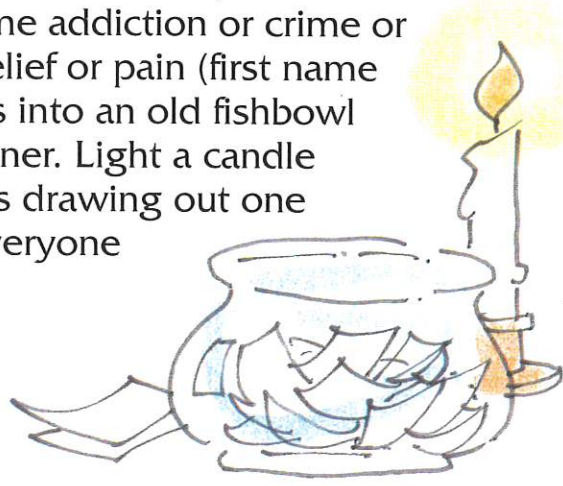
Jesus gives you a gift

Solve the rebus to see the gift that Jesus gives you — as long as you have faith.



The story of Lorie had a happy ending, but countless thousands of such stories end in tragedy. Is there anyone you know who has a great need to believe in and rely upon the power of Jesus today? Is there anything you can do to help?

One thing you can *always* do to help others is pray for them. Everyone jot down the name of one person who needs Jesus' power to overcome addiction or crime or oppression or hostility or disbelief or pain (first name only will do). Drop your names into an old fishbowl or some other attractive container. Light a candle beside the container, take turns drawing out one name (daily or weekly), and everyone join hands and earnestly pray for that person.



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 Answer to "Jesus gives you a gift": PORCH + ARM - CHARM + EEL - REEL + CLAW + SS - CLASS + ER = POWER