

Fourth Sunday after Resurrection

Lectionary Title 22: **Knowing God through the Risen Christ**

Nursery/Kindergarten/Younger Elementary Levels

Listen to this poem.

“God Is for Us”

God is for me. God is for you.

God is for us for God loves us.

Act out this poem.

God (Point fingers upward)

is for me (Point fingers to self).

God (Point fingers upward)

is for you (Point fingers to others).

God (Point fingers upward)

is for us (Hands stretched out).

For God (*Pointing fingers upward*)

loves us (*Crossed hands on chest*).

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Listen to the dialog.

Narrator: At dinner on a Friday evening, Esther shares something to the family.

Esther: My friend Ria and her family will go to the beach on Sunday.

Elyse: Why?

Esther: They will celebrate Ria's birthday.

Elyse: Mother, Father, can we also go out on a Sunday?

Parents: Yes, we can go out. But not on a Sunday.

Esther and Elyse: Why not on a Sunday?

Father: We go to our church on Sunday to worship God.

Mother: We do lots of things there. I teach children. Your Dad sings in the choir.

Esther: Oh, yes, I also play the violin.

Elyse: I play with my friends in Sunday school.

Esther and Elyse: Why do we do that?

Mother: We show appreciation to God for God's love for us and the blessings God has given us.

Father: God gave his son Jesus to save us by dying on the cross.

Esther: My teacher says that Jesus died but he rose from the dead. He lives and continues to help us.

Elyse: If not on a Sunday, can we go on a Saturday?

Parents: Yes, of course.

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Middle Elementary /Older Elementary Levels

Look for the meaning of the following words using the dictionary.

1. begotten
2. image of the invisible God
3. the firstborn of all creation
4. visible and invisible things
5. created through him
6. created for him
7. before all things
8. all things hold together

Tell what you can do to others to express your appreciation to God.

1. Jesus loved the poor.
Your response:

2. Jesus healed the sick.
Your response:

3. Jesus fed the hungry.
Your response:

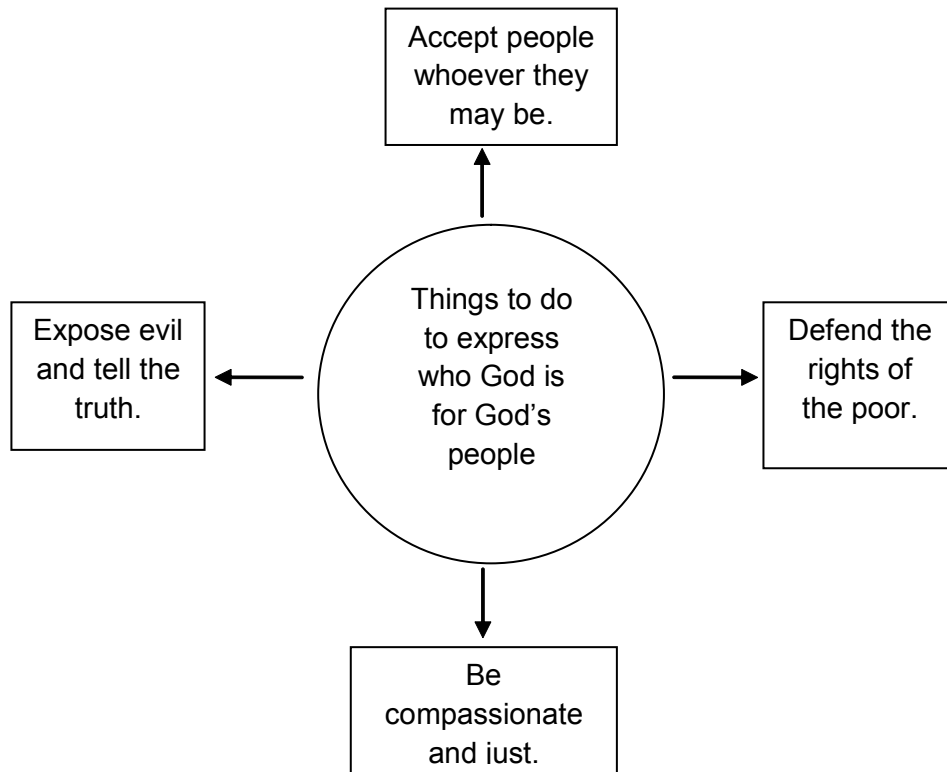
4. Jesus pardoned the sinners.
Your response:

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 Youth Level

Complete this table.

What I Know	What I Want to Know	What I Learned

Use this sample to express your thoughts about who God is for God's people.



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Adult Level

Share your thoughts about how Paul described Christ's supremacy over God's people and the whole creation to contradict the teaching of the false teachers in Colossae.

1. *Christ in relation to God.* Paul describes Christ as "the image of the invisible God" (v.15). This image is not related to his physical appearance but his character and nature. When Adam and Eve were created, they had the image of God (God's character and nature). However, when they committed a grave mistake against God, their whole image was marred with sin. There is only one whose character and nature of God can resolve humanity's fall. Only Christ who is the image of the invisible God can reveal God's glory and save human beings from the certainty of death. Jesus Christ came to us to fulfill God's purpose for His glory and the salvation of humanity. The truth of God's descent for our salvation puts Christian theology's feet back on the ground rather than its head. This reversal of role is not new but actually based on the classical doctrine of the incarnation, which says that God came down from glory in order that we may be raised to glory. In other words, God became that we might become.
2. *Christ in relation to creation.* To contradict the false teachers, Paul discussed another attribute of Christ as "the firstborn of all creation" (v.15). What Paul meant was that Jesus was not created, In fact, he added, "All things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together." (vv.16-17). His being firstborn means supremacy over everything created. According to the apostolic testimony, Jesus Christ is the fullest expression of who God is for us.

Answer the questions orally.

1. The false teachers in Colossae seemed to teach that Jesus is not enough for humankind's salvation, to which Paul assures the Colossians of the sufficiency of Christ as God's image and only begotten son.
 - a. Why do people fashion God after our own thoughts and desires?
 - b. How can our knowledge of Jesus Christ keep our view of God in check?
2. Paul emphasizes the authority and dominion of Christ over all "thrones and principalities" in heaven and on earth.
 - a. How can this knowledge sustain us in our life's journey?
 - b. How can the certainty of Christ's supremacy bring peace in our hearts and enable us to exult Christ always?
3. What areas in life can you completely surrender to Christ?
4. What areas in life can you not completely surrender to Christ?