

## 2nd Sunday of Lent (Year B)

### Mark 9:2-10

We know that God sacrificed His only son for our sins and the readings this weekend, particularly the Gospel that tells of the Transfiguration, reinforce our belief that Jesus truly is the Son of God. The Saviour of the world came for **all** of us, meaning that every person is deserving of a life filled with dignity and love. Therefore, when we see inequality, it is our Christian responsibility to support our sisters and brothers in addressing the problem.

### Sharing Scripture

Share with the children the Gospel reading, **Mark 9:2-10**.

The Apostles must have been afraid and confused when they saw Jesus transfigured, or changed, into dazzling white robes. Or, when they saw the prophets Elijah and Moses. Or, even still, when they heard the voice of God announce Jesus as His “beloved Son” (Mk 9:7). Things must have only become worse when Jesus told them that they couldn’t even tell anybody what they had seen or heard!

Thankfully, we don’t have to keep the glory of Jesus a secret. In fact, He asks us to share His love with everyone we meet. That’s why we must remember to do our best to support our sisters and brothers around the world who are living in poverty every day. Sometimes this may involve personal sacrifice, such as spending time praying, using our talents volunteering or donating our treasure through fundraising.

No matter what we are able to do or give, we should always remember that these are but small sacrifices when compared to the sacrifice that Jesus made for us on the cross. With joyful hearts we can follow His example and proclaim; “If God is for us, who can be against us?” (Rom 8:31).

### SCIAF

Remembering that Jesus came for everyone, SCIAF wants to ensure that all people are empowered to live life to the full. That’s why we’re working with our partners at the Sudan Evangelical Mission (SEM) to help improve the lives of children with disabilities. Gulliver Matateo, the Disability Coordinator for SEM, has been helping families to better support their children.

Gulliver told us, “There is a need for inclusive education. There is a need for more awareness in the community. There's a need to provide disability aids. There is a need to improve the lives of people with disabilities so that they can participate in the community.”

*Share with the children the story of ‘John Garang’ (found at the end of this document) to hear a case study from South Sudan.*

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## **Respond**

Lead the children in reflecting on the case study they have just heard. Ask them to think silently about the tiny sacrifices or changes that we can all make to help support one another.

Perhaps they can add one additional prayer each week for the people of South Sudan who are being helped by SCIAF and our partners at SEM? Maybe they can sacrifice one treat each week to show solidarity with children around the world who don't have enough to eat?

Close the liturgy by praying the following prayer together.

**Almighty God,**

**You are truly a loving and caring Father and we are sorry for the times that we have failed to act like your daughters and sons.**

**We thank you for sacrificing your only son, Jesus, for our sake and we ask that you teach us how to make our own small sacrifices each day in order to better love and support our sisters and brothers.**

**May you bless the work that SCIAF and their partners SEM are doing to help disabled children and their families in South Sudan.**

**We ask all this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

**Amen**

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## John Garang



*Photo Credit: Achuo Deng*

John Garang is a father of three disabled children. He and his wife Rina have received support from SEM to care for their son, Shidalah.

John said:

“The support I have received has given me hope. My child is now walking. I’ve been trained on how to care for people with disabilities and I am able to pass on this knowledge to other parents.

I urge people to continue with this good spirit and may God bless them. These children with disabilities have a future ahead of them.

I am very grateful for the help I have received. I have three children who were born with disabilities. I really struggled on my own.”