

Chapter 16

All Are Welcome

Jesus welcomed the crowds and spoke to them about the kingdom of God.

Luke 9:11

For the Parent:

In chapter 16 your child learned to:

- Retell the parable of the great feast
- List ways he or she does the kingdom actions of caring, forgiving, sharing, and praying
- Name of actions he or she does that welcome everyone to the kingdom of God

Jesus preached the coming of the kingdom of God in no uncertain terms. In *Mark 1:15*, he says: “The kingdom of God is at hand! Repent, and believe in the good news!” Jesus is calling his followers to discover what it takes to bring about God’s kingdom. This “kingdom” is the ideal world that Jesus teaches: a kingdom of peace, justice, love, and hope for everyone. Sinners are welcome. The lowly are welcome. The poor are welcome. The kingdom is sometimes understood as referring to eternal life, or “heaven.” But the message of Jesus also strongly invites his disciples to begin to build God’s kingdom here on earth by changing one’s attitude from selfishness to caring for others.

With Your Child:

1. As a family talk about how each member helps build the kingdom of God in your home.
2. Read about Saint Francis Xavier on the Review and Explore page.