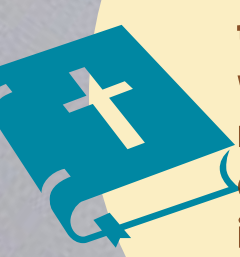


# FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY: MARK 1:29–39



A rhythm is surfacing. Out to teach or to heal – then in to pray and listen. Jesus goes to Simon’s house after the first teaching in the synagogue to find Simon’s mother-in-law ill. He takes her by the hand and helps her up. Right back into the kitchen she goes to cook supper. By evening, the whole town was crowding around – many in need of healing, and most were healed. Jesus gets a little rest and then long before dawn goes inward – to a lonely place to pray. We see the balance in which he lives.

## PRAYER AND ACTION

### The Story

Today we hear a story about Simon’s mother-in-law who was really sick, and everyone was worried about her. Jesus and Simon went to Simon’s house for lunch after they had been in the temple. When Jesus saw that this dear woman was sick, he simply took her by the hand and helped her get up. After Jesus touched her and helped her out of bed, she felt so good, and was so grateful that she went right to the kitchen to prepare Simon’s favorite meal. Later that day, people had heard that Jesus was in Simon’s house and that he had been healing people. So people came to Simon’s house. They brought sick people, people with all kinds of sicknesses and hurts. When they got to Simon’s house, Jesus put His hands on them and they got well. At the end of the day Jesus was really tired and stayed at Simon’s house to rest. He got up very early the next day so he could go off to a quiet place to pray and talk with his father, God. So he could listen to his father, God, and listen to God wanted him to do.

### Reflection Questions:

#### Young Children

I wonder what people thought of Jesus’s healing?

- I wonder why Jesus got up early the next morning to pray?
- I wonder what Jesus prayed about.

#### Older Youth

Can you find the part in the story where Jesus was “doing stuff?”

- How did he find time to pray to God and listen to God?
- What would happen to us if we spent all our energy racing around “doing stuff?”
- What would happen to us if we just sat and prayed all the time?
- Are both (doing and praying) important to Jesus’ ministry? Are both important in our lives?

## ACTIVITIES

### YOUNG CHILDREN

Help the children learn and memorize the Lord’s Prayer

### OLDER YOUTH

Look through the Book of Common Prayer and find a prayer or a few prayers that each child likes. Then, copy the prayer on to paper and illustrate the prayer.