

# The Junior Observer

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A Good News Story

## Strive to Enter the Narrow Gate to Salvation

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(Illustration/Linda Jeanne Rivers)

### Bible Trivia

For how long was the woman crippled before Jesus cured her? (Hint: Luke 13:11)

Answer: 18 years.

One day, Jesus was teaching in a synagogue on the Sabbath.

After He cured a crippled woman, He talked to the people about the kingdom of God.

He used two parables to describe the kingdom. One parable compared the kingdom to a mustard seed, and the other compared the kingdom to yeast used to leaven dough.

After teaching in the synagogue, Jesus continued to travel toward Jerusalem. He taught the people as He passed through towns and villages along the way.

“Lord, will only a few people be saved?” one person Jesus encountered wanted to know.

Jesus gave the person advice and a warning.

“Strive to enter through the narrow gate,” He answered, “for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough.”

Jesus then described a conversation

between people standing outside of a house and the master of the house who had arisen to lock the door from inside.

“Then will you stand outside knocking and saying, ‘Lord, open the door for us,’” Jesus said.

However, He continued, the master of the house will reply, “I do not know where you are from.”

The people outside the house will attempt to jog the master’s memory.

“We ate and drank in your company and you taught in our streets,” Jesus said the people will remind the master of the house.

But the master still will not remember them.

“I do not know where you are from,” Jesus said the master will respond. “Depart from me, all you evildoers!”

The people outside of the house will become very upset at the master’s reply, Jesus noted.

“And there will be wailing and grinding of teeth when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the Kingdom of God and you yourselves cast out,” he said. “And people will come from the east and the west and from the north and the south and will recline at table in the Kingdom of God.”

“For behold,” Jesus continued, “some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.”

## Q&A

To which city was Jesus traveling?

What did the people outside the locked house want?

Read more about it in Luke 13

### Pet Blessing at Sycamore School Shows A ‘Heart’ For God’s Creatures

SYCAMORE—Oct. 4, the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, often includes the popular tradition of pet blessings. For St. Francis’ feast day this year, Father F. William Etheredge, parish pastor, blessed the “pets” — illustrated with photos glued to hearts—of St. Mary School’s preschool students.



(Photo/Sue Croke)



(Photo/Sue Croke)

### St. Mary Pre-K Gives Thanks for Police Officers

SYCAMORE—St. Mary School’s preschool students thanked members of the Sycamore Police Department with plenty of treats to celebrate National Thank a Police Officer Day in September.



(Photo/Carol Norman)

### Elgin Students Study Virtues Through Saints

ELGIN—To teach its students to grow in virtue, St. Mary School began the three-year Virtues in Practice program from the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia of Nashville, Tenn. The program is set up so that a whole school — from preschool through eighth grade — studies the same virtue by focusing on saintly role models each month. Students who complete the cycle will learn about 27 virtues from 81 saints. During September, St. Mary students learned about the virtue of faith and studied the lives of St. Martha, St. Jerome, and St. Augustine. Pictured is first-grade student Ryan Rangel cultivating his faith by reading the Bible.