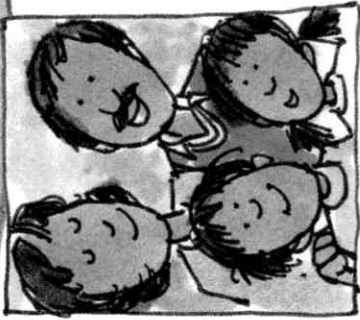


Family Page



This is such a highly competitive world. Even as early as first and second grade, your children are thinking in terms of winners and losers. This can inspire them to do good work in school and at sports, but it can also leave them with frustration and damaged egos.

This week's gospel message sets the record straight. In God's eyes, everyone can be a winner. God doesn't care if you are the fastest or the smartest or the prettiest. God will choose winners and losers, not according to our physical or scholastic attributes but according to what we do with those attributes and how we grow in our love for others. Set aside this whole week to celebrate how each person in your family is seen as a winner by the rest of the family.

Paste the Number One button on the front of this bulletin onto cardboard or heavy paper and cut it out. Tape a small safety pin to the back of the button.

Think about ways in which each member of your family is Number One according to God's standards.

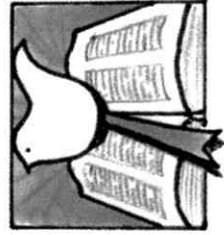
Choose a different member to wear the button each day. For the whole day, that person

is to be treated as the Number One member of the family. He or she can choose the menu for dinner or select a game to play in the evening.

Together the family can write a letter of appreciation pointing out all the best things about Number One and present it at dinner so that Number One will know why he or she was chosen.



Mom is #1 today because she always...

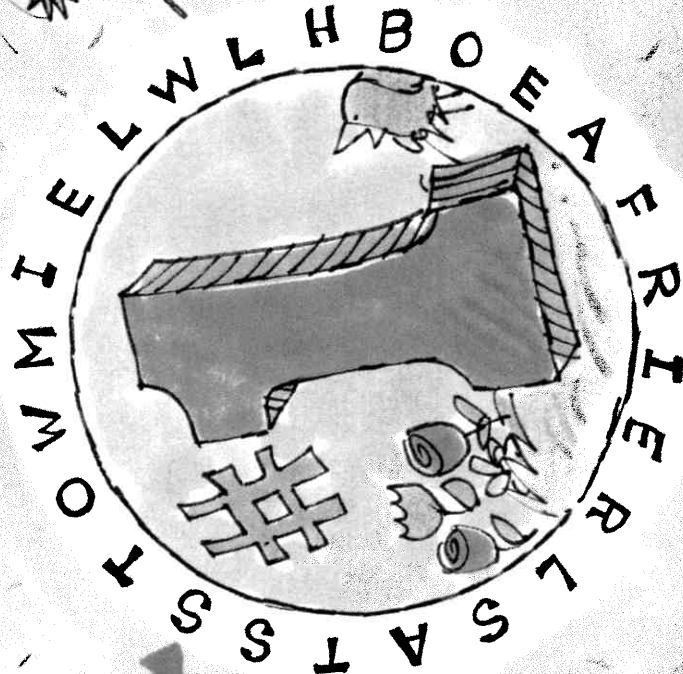


explaining GOD'S WORD

August 26, 2007 ■ Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time ■ Luke 13:22-30

Who's the Winner?

Start at the arrow and read every other letter to see what Jesus says about winners and losers in this week's gospel story.



The Winner!

Laurie was in the second grade. She was a very fast runner.

Ginny was in the second grade too. She walked on crutches and had a very hard time. Laurie and Ginny were friends.

There was going to be a race for the second-grade class. All Laurie's friends just knew Laurie would win.

On the day of the race, Laurie didn't pay any attention to anyone else in the race. All she wanted to do was win.

"ON YOUR MARK," yelled Mr. Brown. "GET SET...GO!" Laurie took off like a rocket.

It was a long, hard race, but Laurie felt good. The wind blew her hair and her friends cheered her on.

Laurie sped across the finish line. Everyone hugged her and said, "Laurie's number one!"

They watched the other runners come across the line. "Look!" shouted someone.

There was Ginny, coming along, way, way back, all alone, crutches, big smile, and all.

The class waited five, ten, fifteen minutes. Ginny kept coming. All the other runners had finished the race. But no one left the playground until Ginny came across the line. What cheering and clapping, what surprise and joy they felt.

Truly Ginny was NUMBER ONE!



A BIGGER WINNER

The story of Ginny will help you to understand how God chooses winners. Here is a race game you can play. You need a coin, two buttons, and a friend to play it with you. Flip the coin and GO! Heads, you move two spaces. Tails, you move one.

