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Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary time.

‘Jesus the prophet’

In the time of Jesus, Nazareth was a little town in the hill country of Galilee. Jesus spent his childhood there living with his parents Mary and Joseph. During a return visit to Nazareth he found that he was not welcome anymore.

GOSPEL Mark 6:1-6

Jesus left and returned to his hometown with his disciples. The next Sabbath he taught in the Jewish

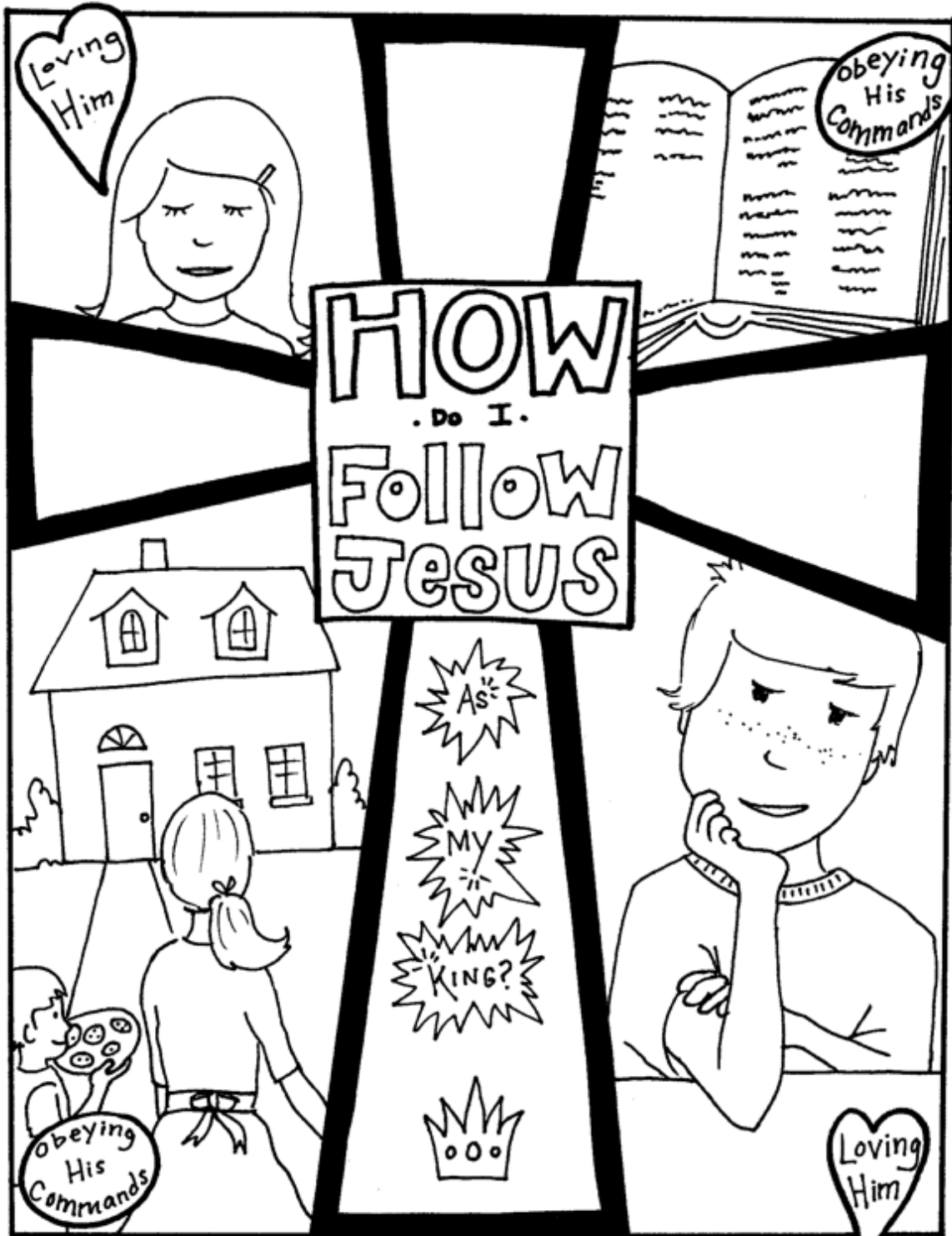
meeting place. Many of the people who heard him were amazed and asked, “How can he do all this? Where did he get such wisdom and the power to work these miracles? Isn’t he the carpenter, the son of Mary? Aren’t James, Joseph, Judas, and Simon his brothers? Don’t his sisters still live here in our town?” The people were very unhappy because of what he was doing. But Jesus said, “Prophets are honoured by everyone, except the people of their hometown and their relatives and their own family.” Jesus could not work any miracles there, except to heal a few sick people by placing his hands on them. He was surprised that the people did not have any faith.

- Have you ever felt misunderstood or shunned or rejected or that someone is making fun of you because you have spoken the truth in a certain situation? Why do you think this happens? How did you deal with this – or who helped you deal with us?
- What is a prophet? (A prophet is someone who listens very deeply to God’s word and is used by God to teach people truthfully about the way God wants them to live) The prophet is often unwelcome among people. Especially among those who think they already know him or her very well. Prophets ruffle our feathers. Make us feel uncomfortable. Needle us.

- How do you feel about people who always remind you of your faults? Think up some words to describe them.
- Two people in today's readings were prophets sent by God to live among his chosen people. Ezekiel and Jesus. Both pointed out to the people where they were moving away from God's plan for them. Both were unpopular with the people. Why do you think this was so? • What is the message for us in this story?
- Who do you think are the prophets in your school/parish/ city/ country today?

LITURGICAL ACTION – Ko te Ritenga Karakia

Sometimes people in a church would love for a child to come up to them and say hi, or maybe offer them the sign of peace. Maybe that could be you, try it.



Mandy Groce '10

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