

Family Worship at Home. September 26th 2021
Mark 9:38-50. Stumbling Blocks.

Message: Mark 9:38-50 Stumbling Blocks

(Note: For today's message you will need a large piece of cardboard or some other item behind which you can conceal your hand from the children's view.)

Today I thought we'd play a game. Here are the rules: I'm going to hold up a certain number of fingers and I'd like you to count them and tell me how many I'm holding up. Easy enough? Let's try it. (Hold up fingers in 2-3 combinations allowing children to name how many you've raised.)

OK...let's keep going. (This time use the cardboard to conceal the number of fingers you're holding up.) How many now? Can you tell? Why not?

Oh, is the cardboard a problem? Makes it hard to follow the rules anymore, doesn't? I'm doing my part, but you can't do yours, because I've put a problem – a barrier – in your way.

Do you know that word? A barrier is something that blocks something from happening.

Some barriers are good. On the road you might notice that sometimes there are barriers (walls or cables) between the cars going one direction and the cars going the other. And there are barriers at the zoo aren't there? Dangerous animals are kept in cages or behind glass to block them from getting out or hurting anyone. Can you think of some other sort of barriers?

But sometimes barriers make it hard to follow do what's right. We sometimes call those "stumbling blocks" – because they trip us up and keep us from doing what we're supposed to. These stumbling blocks can keep us away from Jesus.

In today's Gospel story Jesus talks about stumbling blocks. He tells the disciples that if something is getting in your way and keeping you from making good choices you need to get rid of it.

And if you do find a barrier – or a stumbling block – ask God to help you figure out a way to move it aside or get rid of it altogether so that you can get back to doing what's right. To living with Jesus and sharing his love with others. Thankfully the stumbling blocks or barriers between us and Jesus are easily taken away. Even when we stumble or are blocked by a barrier, Jesus is there with his love and forgiveness helping us to get around them. Jesus can turn those stumbling blocks into stepping stones. Let's pray.

Dear God,

Sometimes life's stumbling blocks can get in our way and make it difficult to follow you. Send the Holy Spirit to help us see those stumbling blocks and to move them out of the way or to make them into stepping stones back to you. Amen

Songs: [This is Amazing Grace \(Lyrics\) - Bethel Kids Music - YouTube](#)

[Good Samari-Friend \(Lyric Video\) | Here for the Gold \[Ktunez Praise\] - YouTube](#)

[I am the Way, the Truth and the Life Music Video - YouTube](#)

Activities: Make an obstacle course around your home. At each obstacle have the children think and do something connected to Jesus. Say a prayer, retell their favourite Bible story, sing a favourite worship song, say or act out how they can help someone etc.

Build with blocks: while building together share times when you have stumbled in your walk with God and how Jesus walked beside you and guided you back to him.