


	<b>Jesus announces the kingdom</b>	
<b>Presence of God</b>	Considering how God looks at me.	
<b>History</b> Mark 1, 14 – 15	<sup>14</sup> After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the gospel from God saying, <sup>15</sup> 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the gospel.'	
<b>Petition</b>	<i>Lord, may I know you more clearly, love you more deeply and follow you more nearly!</i>	
<b>Contemplation</b>	<b>v 14 Jesus begins his ministry</b> <i>After Jesus left home in Nazareth, he was baptized and the Spirit led him to the wilderness. Then Jesus began his ministry and walked throughout the country. He was not afraid; he was full of the Holy Spirit and his Father's love. Imagine the places where he preached (silence)... imagine who were listening to him, how they felt, why they paid attention to his words, what they felt in their hearts after listening to him (silence)... Why did Jesus speak to the people? What for? (silence)... Imagine who within your family would go and listen to Jesus preaching.</i>	<b>Meanwhile, John was in jail because he had not turned a blind eye to evil deeds; on the contrary, when someone did something wrong, he told him so that he could rectify his behavior and welcome Jesus, the Messiah. Thus, he told the king that he was misbehaving ... and the king did not like that and sent him to jail... and ended up killing him. It is at that point that Jesus began his ministry.</b>
	<b>v 15 The Kingdom of God is close at hand</b> <i>According to the history, what did Jesus tell the people? "The time is fulfilled"... What does this mean? (that it was no longer necessary to wait for the Messiah because he was already there; the Jews are still waiting for the Messiah because they didn't recognize Jesus as such). "The kingdom is close at hand", if we translated this better, we should say that it is next to us, touching us, very close! Really at hand. Imagine that Jesus is standing next to you and tells you "the kingdom is at hand" What does he mean?... What is the Kingdom of God?</i>	
	<b>The Kingdom of God</b> <i>Taking into account what the kids say, make it clear that the Kingdom of God is not a place with a castle, a king, etc., but a way to live your relationship with God and the others, a way by which God shows to us, through the people, the way he loves us. Wherever there is love, God is always present. When he is the king of our lives, we do things out of love, like he does. So, with every act of love, we evidence that God rules our lives, we let God be our king. Then, we can discover signs of the kingdom in our own lives and in the others. For example, this morning somebody woke you up and made you breakfast; that person must love you and that is because she lets God be the king of her heart. Try to remember the signs of the Kingdom of God that you have come across today, since you wake up until now. Remember when you felt loved, cared for. Remember a gesture of affection you had towards another person.</i>	<b>We cannot see God, but we believe in Him by our faith. We can see him in our daily life, though, in the miracle of life, the people who love us, the Providence and the opportunities ... they are all signs of the kingdom.</b>
	<b>Repent and believe the gospel</b> <i>The kingdom is not imposed by force, we are invited to live in it. That is the reason why Jesus tells us to repent, which means to take a different direction, to stop being aggressive, unkind, suspicious, selfish, self-centered and lazy. When we change direction, we "repent", and let God be the king of our lives; and when that happens, we feel love and do good. Imagine you let God rule and lead your life. What would your life be like, then?</i>	<b>The Kingdom of God is not regarded as an object but as a living style, God's living style, by which we love and devote our lives to others. Being God's children, we must live in tune with the Son, who let God take full command of his life. Thus, God rules in the life of each person who is inspired by the Spirit, who is Love.</b>

**Colloquy**

*Let's sit on the carpet, on the promised land, near Jesus, to hear him in the silence of our hearts.*  
*Jesus taught us to ask his Father "thy kingdom come".*  
*Close our eyes and imagine the Father hugging you; and repeat many times very slowly in your heart "thy kingdom come".*

