

# THE SUNDAY PAPER

# JUNIOR

Year B

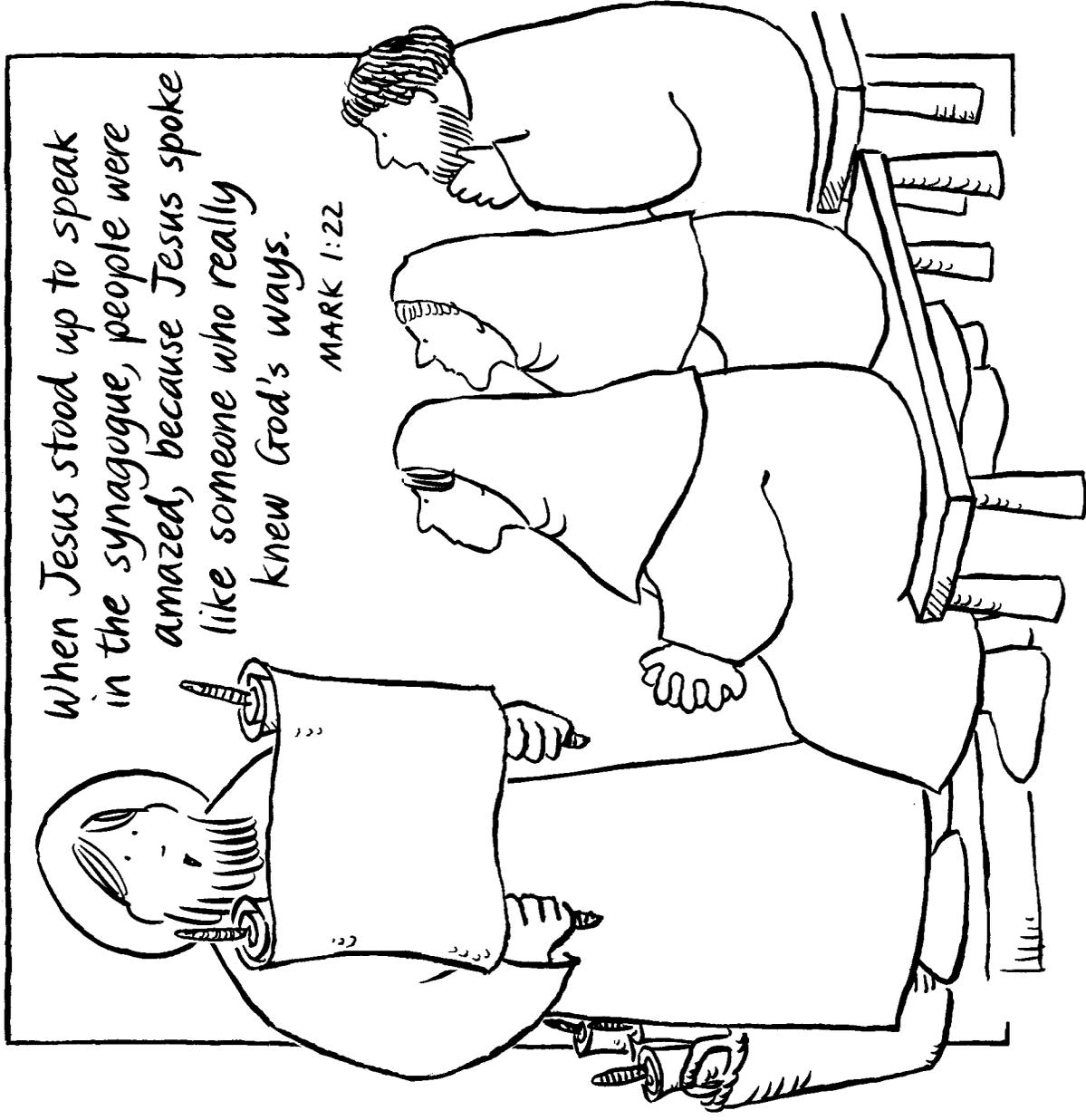
4th SUNDAY

after

EPIPHANY

When Jesus stood up to speak  
in the synagogue, people were  
amazed, because Jesus spoke  
like someone who really  
knew God's ways.

MARK 1:22



## A NOTE TO PARENTS

*“And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes.” (Mark 1:22)*

In each of the three years of our lectionary cycle, we concentrate on one of the three “Synoptic Gospels:” Matthew, Mark, and Luke. “Synoptic” means “seen with the same eye,” and these three Gospels are so called because they follow much the same outline and contain many of the same incidents from the same point of view. In contrast, the Gospel of John is very different, and its special episodes and insights are spread over the three years of our cycle of readings, especially during the season of Lent.

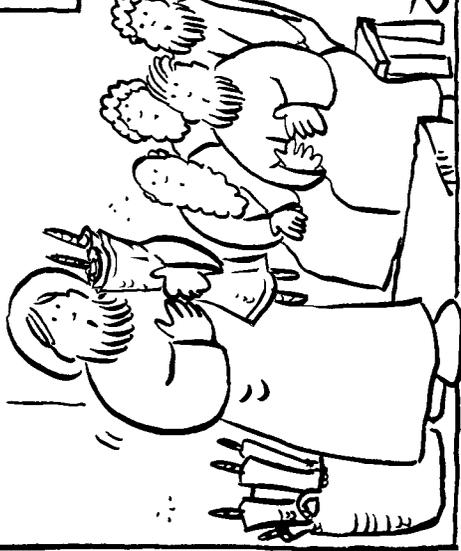
We are now in Year B, or the year of Mark. Mark is the shortest of the Synoptics, with only 16 chapters. But even when the season of Epiphany is quite long, we barely make it out of the first chapter of Mark. Jesus comes forth, is baptized, is tempted in the wilderness, chooses his disciples, and performs a very large number of miracles, three of which are described in detail—all in the space of 45 verses. The chapter moves at a near-breakneck pace: starting with verse 9, when Jesus comes out from Galilee to be baptized, the word “immediately” is used eight times, plus the phrase “at once” in verse 28. Jesus appears among God’s people like a meteor, drawing everyone’s attention, blazing with luminous energy, changing the whole face of the sky. The powers of darkness recognize him and tremble. The people of God know that something great is stirring: they become restless, agitated, excitable. They are *amazed* and *astonished*. *Immediately*, they are faced with a choice: acknowledge Jesus’s Messiahship as coming directly from God, or line themselves up in opposition. Mark makes it clear that we, as we read, must make the same choice.

Read the first chapter of Mark with your child, without a break. Make it sound exciting: by the end, you should be out of breath! Let your child imagine what it would have been like to have this man break into your world. How would you have responded? Would you have believed, and followed him?

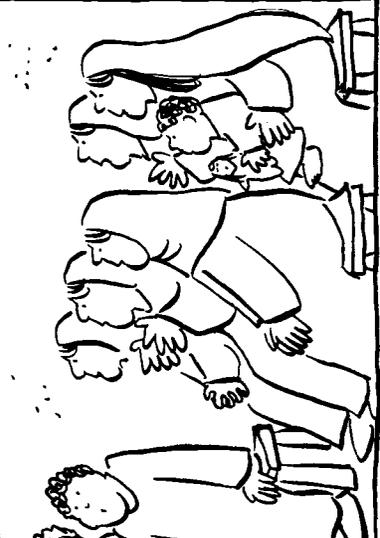
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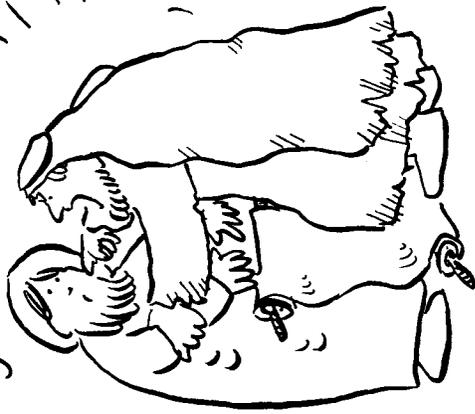
Jesus went to worship God in the synagogue. He stood up to preach.



People were amazed at the way he talked. He seemed to know so much about God!



A man whose mind was sick got up and started to yell at Jesus. / /



Jesus made him be quiet. Then he healed him! People said, "Jesus has God's power!"



People began to believe in Jesus because they could tell he was special. He really knew what God was like. He really loved God. He had God's wonderful power to save and heal people.

When people believed in Jesus, they FOLLOWED him. They tried to be near him, and they tried to be full of God's love, like Jesus.

Today, we are Jesus's followers. Draw yourself, following Jesus. Draw other people who follow him.

