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## Early Connections

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## Early Connections

### Abstract

In lieu of an abstract, below is the essay's first paragraph.

"I have had a painting of Jesus in my room since I was a child. In the painting, Jesus is at the outside of a door. But the door does not have a handle to let Him in. I remember asking my mom why there was no handle and she said because the person inside has to let Jesus in."



*From Our Guest Essayists*

## **Early Connections**

I have had a painting of Jesus in my room since I was a child. In the painting, Jesus is at the outside of a door. But the door does not have a handle to let Him in. I remember asking my mom why there was no handle and she said because the person inside has to let Jesus in.

That was the first profound moment that I can remember.

I still have this painting in my room and my kids see it all the time. Since my kids are three and four years old, I keep it on the floor leaning against the wall so it is at eye level for them. They always say “Hi Jesus” as they walk by it and sometimes will stop and kiss the painting.

My son Gianluca is the four year old and he has started to ask more questions about Jesus. When I take him to church and he sees Jesus on the cross, he gets upsets and wants to know why people did that to Him.

During Christmas, we watched some of the old movies about Jesus and Gianluca broke out in huge tears when they were nailing Him to the cross. He cried, “Why? Why would they do that daddy?” I told him He died for our sins, but it wasn’t much consolation at the time. It was heartbreaking but touching for Luisa (my wife) and me to watch him cry like that.

I have purchased some child bible stories for him and we read those too. But I find the most compelling way for Gianluca to learn about Jesus is to pray to Him and ask for His help.

A few months ago, Gianluca was a bad boy in school. I asked him why and he said he did not know why he acted like that. I asked him to pray to Jesus with me so that Jesus could help Gianluca to be a good boy the next day. He agreed and we had a nice prayer.

The next day, the teacher once again told us that he was a bad boy in school. I asked Gianluca what happened this time. He took a deep breath and sighed, “Well, I guess Jesus decided to not help me today.”

The nerve! He blamed it on Jesus! I actually was laughing inside and thought it was a rather cute excuse; then we had a talk about how it wasn't Jesus' fault.

Melania is my daughter and she just turned three. I am looking forward to her young connections with Jesus too. She is a little angel but has some “bad girl” tendencies as well, so I am sure we'll be soon praying together for Jesus' help too.

I thank God and Jesus daily for my wonderful life and incredible family. We all are blessed and appreciate every day.

At the end of the day my kids are sweet, loving kids with big hearts laced with only a touch of mischievous tendencies. I don't know where they got it from. All I know is that my parents have a sneaking smile of sweet revenge every time they see Gianluca and Melania acting mischievously. Have they mentioned something about payback?

**David Mammano**