

JESUS SETS US FREE TO LOVE

VISUAL AIDS

- > Pictures of people sitting at table, especially families, or children at a party.
- > Party place names.

WELCOME AND PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL

Say/sing together:

Alleluia, alleluia!
Jesus came to serve,
to give his life for us.
Alleluia!

A reading from the Good News given to us by Mark.
Glorify to you, Lord.

James and John came to Jesus and said
 'Master, we want to ask you a favour.'
 'What is it?' Jesus asked.
 'Allow us to sit with you in glory, one on your right, one on your left.'

DISCUSSION

- Who came to ask Jesus a favour?
- What was the favour they wanted?
- How did Jesus reply?
- How did Jesus' other friends feel about all this?
- What did Jesus say to them?

What must we do to be a follower of Jesus?

SHARING

Encourage the children to talk about times when they squabble over where to sit, e.g. in the car, at table, in class, etc.

How are places arranged at parties?

What happens when important people are invited to dinner? At official banquets?

Explain how the guest sits with the host; the custom of sitting at the Captain's table on a ship. Is it really important where we sit, and who we sit next to? Are these things worth squabbling about?

Today's Gospel story is about a squabble.

'You don't know what you're asking' said Jesus. 'Can you drink the cup that I must drink? Or be baptised with the baptism I must face?'
 'Yes we can', they said.
 'Very well, you shall. But the seats on my right and my left aren't mine to give. They have already been set aside for those they belong to.'

Jesus' other friends were annoyed by what John and James had asked for.

Jesus called everyone together and said,
 'Don't be like the greedy people of the world. Real greatness comes from serving others. This is what I came to do, to serve others, and to give my life to set them free.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

ACTIVITIES

- > Have the children act out the Gospel, with the children taking part in the dialogue.
- > Have the children write a letter to Jesus, or draw a picture, in which they say/show what they want to be freed from in order to follow him, e.g. to be free of temper; fighting; meanness; squabbling; etc.
- > Have the children say what they will do instead, freed from these things.