

Twelfth Sunday of the Year

The Son of God

INTRODUCTION

Sometimes when we are asked a question and feel unsure of the answer, we find it easier to say nothing. Jesus asked his disciples a difficult question, which none of them answered until Peter bravely decided to speak up.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

LIGHT THE CANDLES

Ask the children to repeat:

May the light of Christ's love shine in our lives.

SORRY

All of us make mistakes sometimes and do things which we regret, but God always reaches out a forgiving hand. Let us spend a few moments making our peace with God, and asking for his forgiveness and help to change our hearts and try again.

Sing Sorry Song 5.

GLORIA

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 1:
Share your word with us.

GOSPEL (cf Luke 9:18-21)

Jesus was praying quietly with his disciples when suddenly he asked them, 'Who do people say that I am?'

The disciples answered, 'Some believe you are John the Baptist, some say Elijah and others think that you are a prophet who has come back to life.'

'But tell me, who do you say that I am?' asked Jesus.

Then Peter spoke, 'Master, you are the Son of God.'

Jesus told them not to tell anyone about what they had heard that day.

DISCUSSION

If I asked you 'Who are you?' what would you say?

- perhaps you would tell me your name.
- you might say that you are someone's sister or brother.

What did the disciples say when Jesus asked them, 'Who do people say that I am?'

The disciples told Jesus what other people had said about him, and who he might be. They themselves seemed uncertain and confused. They

all knew that he was the son of Mary and Joseph, an ordinary carpenter and yet they also knew that there was something extraordinary about him.

Which of the disciples spoke when Jesus pressed them for an answer? – Peter was the one who spoke and declared that Jesus was the Son of God.

How did Peter know that Jesus was God's son? – Peter had listened to Jesus preaching, and seen how he taught people to live according to God's love. He had seen Jesus heal the crippled and sick, bring the dead to life and perform many miracles, and these had touched his heart. In this way God had revealed to Peter that Jesus was no ordinary man, but his beloved son.

If someone asked you today, 'Who is Jesus?' what would you say?

- that Jesus is the son of God.
- that Jesus is the light of the world who shows us the way to God, and helps us on our journey to heaven.
- that Jesus is our friend, the Good Shepherd.
- that Jesus is the saviour of the world who saved us from sin so that we could share everlasting life with him in Heaven.

(Encourage the children to share their thoughts and ideas.)

ACTIVITY

Jesus has been described in many different ways.

- Jesus is – the Son of God
- the Good Shepherd
 - the Light of the World
 - the True Vine
 - the Bread of Life
 - King of the Universe.

Help the children to think of any other examples and then write them down on the worksheet. Ask each child to draw a picture of their favourite image of Jesus.

CREED

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, help us to know you
as Peter did,
as a friend,
as a teacher,
and as the only Son of God.