

Liturgy of the Word with Children
Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C
5 June 2016
Luke 7:11-17

Catechist Background

Jesus' reputation as a serious miracle worker and prophet like Elijah is confirmed in today's gospel reading. Widows were a particularly vulnerable group in ancient society, with no husband to provide for them or ensure their safety or protect their honour. Women without sons to provide for them were particularly at risk of poverty and exploitation. In healing this widow's son, Jesus shows great compassion for her. He shows himself to be firmly on the side of the oppressed. While it is the son who is raised, it is the mother who is restored to life in the wider sense of the word.

Touching the man would have been most unusual in Jesus' culture; people who touched dead bodies were seen as ritually unclean and unable to participate in public worship or temple duties. This is because 'death' and 'sin' were linked concepts in the first century. By asking the man to 'rise up,' he foreshadows the Easter resurrection and our own rising with him.

Setting the Scene

Remind the children that many years ago, when Jesus was walking around like you and me, life was very different. Besides not having cars or electricity, people had very different ways of living. For instance, women couldn't really have jobs or provide for themselves like men could. If a woman's husband died, and if she didn't have any responsible sons who were able to look after, she was in a very difficult situation. Hopefully she would have some other relatives she could go and live with, but this didn't always happen.

We Say Sorry

Leader: You save us from death, Lord have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: You save us from sin, Christ have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: You bring us back to life, Lord have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Gloria

We Pray (1)

God, you are the source of everything that is good. Send us your Spirit to teach us your ways, and to help us be peaceful people. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel: Luke 7:11-17

Reflecting on the Reading with Children

- Who are the main people in this gospel story? How do you think each of them are feeling? (You may wish to make a tableau with the children as the characters are named.)
- What does Jesus do? How do you think each of the characters are feeling now?

Response

Jesus healed the son in this story and brought him back to life, but the son is not the only one who was affected. His mother and everyone who knew and loved him was also healed in some way. We ALL have things in our lives that trouble us, that Jesus wants to heal us from, so we can 'Rise up' and praise him.

Invite each person in turn to lie down on the floor and hear the words, '[Name], rise up!' The last person to have been 'healed' will say the words of Jesus for the next person.

If your group is very large, you may need to do this in smaller groups.

We Believe

Relating to the creed what you have shared with the children, ask this series of questions and invite the children to reply, 'I do.'

- Do you believe in God the Father who has created us to love everybody?
- Do you believe in God the Son who came to earth, died, rose and ascended to heaven to show us the way to God?
- Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit who breathes real life into us?

We Pray (2)

Again, try to relate the bidding prayers to the reading by saying, 'Jesus is on the side of those who need him and so we now pray...'

Leader: We pray for the leaders in the Church, that they may always speak out for those who are vulnerable. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for world leaders and politicians, that their actions may protect those who are poor or oppressed in any way. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for all those who are sad about the death of someone they love. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for anyone we know who is feeling lonely for any reason. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord, help us to be like you and care for others in need around us. Help us also to trust that you will always be there to look out for us. We make all our prayers through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

