

Liturgy of the Word with Children
Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C
19 June, 2016
Luke 9:18-24

Catechist Background

In Jesus' day, Jewish people were waiting expectantly for the coming of a messiah (or anointed one, or Christ – the Greek word for 'anointed one') to save them, particularly from the Roman occupation. Just as Moses had saved them from the Egyptians and the hero-king David had conquered the Philistines, they eagerly awaited an earthly saviour who would save them from their enemies and bring prosperity and happiness to their people—God's chosen people—once again. With such expectations forming the backdrop of cultural thought, it is unsurprising that Jesus wants to hush up Peter's (correct) insight that Jesus is the Christ, as he will not be the type of king that the people are expecting, or want. Even the disciples don't really understand what type of Kingdom Jesus is bringing. Rather than winning victories over earthly enemies, he will triumph over death itself. After 2000 years of Christianity, we can sometimes lose sight at what a revolutionary concept this was, how difficult to understand and unpopular it was at the time. When the crowds do hail Jesus as the King of the Jews on Palm Sunday, they totally misunderstand his mission and have turned on him within four days. It is not surprising that Jesus wants to keep his identity a secret for a bit longer, to allow him to establish his earthly ministry at this stage.

Setting the Scene

For the activity below, you will need a 'foot' shape for each child, and writing/drawing materials. Alternatively, you could ask each child to trace around his/her own foot if they are able.

We Say Sorry

Leader: You speak to us your saving Word, Lord have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: You lead us into truth, Christ have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: You open our ears and our hearts, Lord have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Gloria

We Pray (1)

God our Father, we know You are always with us to guide and protect us. Help us to remember that you love us. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel: Luke 9:18-24

Reflecting on the Reading with Children

- Who did the disciples say that some people thought Jesus was? Who did Peter say that Jesus was? Who was right?

- It seems a bit odd to us, but why did Jesus ask the disciples not to tell people who he really was? (You may need to explain to the children the type of king the people were expecting.)
- What does it mean to 'accept the cross?' (Sensitivity should be shown in explaining in an age-appropriate way that this means following Jesus and living the way he wants us to live, even if it is unpopular.)

Response

Give each child a 'foot' shape. Help them to write or draw on it ways that they can live as Jesus.

When the children have finished, make a path on the floor with their 'feet.' You may wish to explain the idea behind the famous 'Footprints Prayer,' about Jesus walking with us and carrying us through difficult times.

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 made the world out of love?
- Do you believe in Jesus Christ, who came to earth and shows us how to live?
- Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who gives us courage to help us act as we should?

We Pray (2)

Again, try to relate the bidding prayers to the reading by saying, 'We know that God hears all our prayers, and so we pray...'

Leader: We pray for all leaders in the Church, that they are only concerned about doing what is right. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for powerful people in the world, that they act to make the world better for others. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for our parish, that we may get better at looking out for each other. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for people in the world who are lonely and have nobody to pray for them. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord, we know you hear us and we know you want what is best for us. We make all our prayers through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

