

Children's liturgy

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)
Sunday 2 October 2016

Preparing the worship space

Colour: green

Props: colouring pencils and pens, paints, brightly coloured paper

Song suggestions:

Christ be our light (883, Laudate)

Here I am, Lord (865, Laudate)

Welcome: Today Jesus tells us how powerful faith is. How, if we have faith we can do anything we want to, even if at first it seems impossible. Let's think some more about this now.

Opening prayer: God of light, help us to see that even with the smallest amount of faith, we can do anything you ask of us. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

First reading (optional): Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4

Psalm: Psalm 94:1-2, 6-9. R. v. 8

Gospel acclamation: *Everyone stands and sings the acclamation together. Choose one that is familiar to your group, for example the Celtic Alleluia.*

Gospel: Luke 17:5-10

Gospel reflection: Today the disciples ask Jesus to give them more faith.

Can you remember what Jesus says?

Jesus says that even if they had faith like a mustard seed they could tell a mulberry tree to move from where it is in the ground and plant itself in the sea.

What do you think Jesus was trying to say here?
How big is a mustard seed? Is it easy to get a tree to move itself into the sea?

A mustard seed is really tiny, smaller than an ant. So Jesus is saying that even if we only have a small amount of faith, together we can do amazing things,

just like a colony of ants. Even if we can't move trees we might be able to make big changes to the world around us.

When we look at the world we can see that it is not very fair. Some people have lots of food. Some people don't have enough. How does this make you feel?

Ruben is eight years old and lives with his family in Bolivia, a country in South America. They live in the Altiplano, an area of Bolivia high up in the Andes Mountains. Ruben and his family live off the food they grow on their land, but in recent years, this has become more and more difficult. The climate is changing and so are the rains – they are very unpredictable, sometimes there can be too much rain, but usually there is not enough. This makes growing food very difficult.

Ruben and his family often went hungry. His dad worried that Ruben was very quiet because he wasn't getting enough food.

What does it feel like when you're hungry? Do you ever behave differently when you're hungry?

Ruben and his dad worked with CAFOD's partner to learn new ways to farm and to build a greenhouse that protects vegetables from the harsh environment.

Ruben and his family now grow tomatoes, lettuce and cucumber in their greenhouse. How do you think Ruben feels now?

Ruben says: "I like the greenhouse a lot. I like that we can all go inside and it's nice and warm and we can pick lettuces. I like lettuce because it tastes good and you can put it with salad and eat it with lots of different things."

The world is now a much brighter place for Ruben.

When we look at the world and all the problems that there are, like poverty, hunger and climate change, it can be hard to know what to do. Even a small problem can feel really big to us when we try to solve it on our own. Yet today's reading gives us hope – that even if we have just a tiny little bit of faith, with God's help, as a group of Christ's followers, we can make real changes to the world around us. We really can help to build a brighter world.

What will you do to help to build a brighter world this week? (See the activity suggestions below for some ideas to help get the children started.)

Intercessions: You may want to ask the children to offer their own prayers or you can use the suggestions below.

We know that everything is possible with faith and God's help, and so we pray together:

We pray for world leaders: that they may act with faith and compassion to make the world a brighter and fairer place for everyone to live. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for Ruben and his family: that they may continue to learn, grow food and build a better future for themselves. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for all people throughout the world who hunger: that they may come to share in the food God gives for us all. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may have the faith and courage to try to build a brighter world so that it becomes a better place for all to live. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer: God of life, give us the courage to try to make a change to our world, no matter how small, and the faith to know that with you all things are possible. Amen.

Activity suggestions: Ask the children to use lots of bright colours to colour in the accompanying optional illustration of a mulberry tree standing in the sea, as a reminder that with faith we can do anything, including making the world a brighter, fairer place. You could also ask the children to write

or draw in the branches and leaves of the tree what they will do in the coming week to help build a brighter world.

Ask the children to make brightly coloured handprints on brightly coloured paper, and to write or draw around them how they will try to build a brighter world this week.

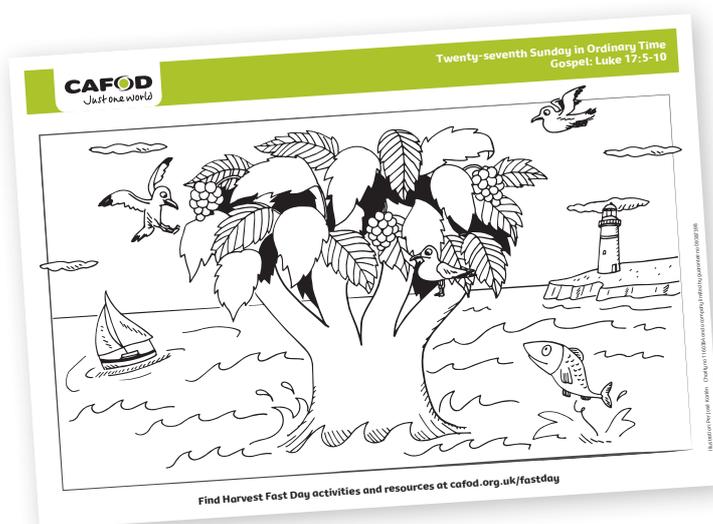
Friday is Harvest Fast Day, a great chance to Brighten Up to build a brighter world. Why not organise a children's liturgy group bright bake sale? Ask the children to bake cakes or biscuits or make rainbow fruit skewers with their families and friends over the next week, decorate them and make them bright. Ask them to bring them to church next week to sell after Mass and raise money for CAFOD.

Ask the children to think about how they can brighten up someone's day. It could be a smile, it could be a small gift, it could be an act of kindness. Ask the children to try to do one thing each day this week to brighten up someone else's day.

Ask the children to write a prayer for all their brothers and sisters throughout the world who do not have enough to eat.

Ask the children to go home and share all that they have heard and thought about today. Ask them to try to do one thing this week to Brighten Up and build a brighter world. If they have written a prayer ask them to say this at home during the week.

For more activities and resources to help children support Harvest Fast Day visit cafod.org.uk/primary



Children's liturgy resources for every Sunday are available from cafod.org.uk/childrensliturgy

Sign up for reflections on each Sunday's gospel, to help you reflect as you prepare for children's liturgy, at cafod.org.uk/prayers