

Liturgy of the Word with Children
33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C
13 November 2016
Luke 21:5-19

Catechist Background

As we draw through autumn and towards the end of the Church's year, the readings continue to remind us of the end of the world. In the popular first century Jewish mind, the destruction of Herod's Temple in 70AD was envisaged as a cataclysmic event, as was the destruction of Solomon's temple centuries earlier. By the time Luke wrote his gospel, the Temple had been destroyed and the centre of Jewish worship had been removed once again. Indeed, all of the things that Jesus prophesies in Luke's gospel had happened—wars, earthquakes, famines and persecution. These events had probably triggered some to believe the end of the world was imminent and to abandon their worldly pursuits, as Paul, in the second reading, felt compelled to tell people that if they abandoned working they should not feel entitled to eat.

Setting the Scene

For the activity below, you will need string (or yarn) and small pieces of card with holes punched in one end so you can tie the string through them during the 'Response.' The cards may be pre-prepared with a happy face on one side and a sad face on the other and the words 'Jesus is with me,' or you can have the children decorate them during the liturgy.

We Say Sorry

Leader: You have created us as your children, Lord have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: You are present among us in each other, Christ have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: You are the giver of all good gifts, Lord have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Gloria

We Pray (1)

God of all that is good, help us to serve you, because that is what will make us happy. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel: Luke 21:5-19

Reflecting on the Reading with Children

- Why does Jesus talk about such frightening things in this story? (It may be helpful for the children to understand that this story was written down when things were really very difficult for Christians, and the gospel was not meant to scare them but to remind them that Jesus was with them even in difficult times.)
- How do you think you would feel if you were in an earthquake or a war or a famine? In scary times in our lives, is it easy to remember that Jesus is with us? Is it important to remember that Jesus is with us? How would we feel in an

earthquake or a war or a famine if we could hold on to remembering that Jesus is with us? How can we feel in the scary times in our lives if we remember Jesus is with us—even if those times aren't as scary as an earthquake?

Response

There is a saying that fish don't notice the water. That is because they are surrounded by it! We often don't notice that we are surrounded by air, and it is also sometimes easy to forget that we are surrounded by God's love when we are busy concentrating on other things. But even when we have lots of things going on in our lives, God can work through us to shine love on the world—even if those things are difficult. Some people used to say that they would tie a piece of string around their finger to help them remember something. Give the children each a piece of string and a card to tie around their finger that Jesus is always with them, in good times and in bad.

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 created the world to be a good place?
- Do you believe in Jesus, God the Son, who is with us in all situations?
- Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit, who helps us every moment of our lives?

We Pray (2)

Again, try to relate the bidding prayers to the reading by saying, 'You have promised to be with us always and so we now pray...'

Leader: We pray for leaders of the Church, especially in places where it is dangerous to follow Jesus. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for world leaders, that they may allow Christians in their countries to worship freely. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for people in the world today who are suffering because of wars and earthquakes, food shortages and diseases. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: In this month of November, we remember especially those who have died. We pray for people in our parish family who have died in the last year. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord, you told your followers that you would be with them and that you would help them to do the right thing in all circumstances. We ask for your help to be like your early followers in doing what is right. We make all our prayers through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

