

**Liturgy of the Word with Children**  
**10<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B**  
**10<sup>th</sup> June 2018**  
**Mark 4:26-34**

### **Catechist Background**

Having entered Ordinary Time two weeks ago with two special feasts, Trinity Sunday and Corpus Christi, we now return to the green of Ordinary Time, which we have not seen since before Lent.

(See General Introduction to Ordinary Time: [www.rcdow.org.uk/faith/catechesis/childrens-liturgy/](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/faith/catechesis/childrens-liturgy/) )

Before Lent we heard the early part of Mark's gospel telling of Jesus' teaching with authority, healing and forgiving sins, and also, his power over evil spirits (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday). Here he returns home to find that his family, perhaps because of the message he is preaching, think he is 'out of his mind'. The Children's Lectionary omits this and moves into the attack on Jesus by the scribes, who, as they cannot deny his power over evil spirits, attribute his power to Beelzebul, prince of devils. This, perhaps, stands in direct contrast to, and accentuates, the importance of those listen to him and try to follow his teaching. His family arrive and, looking for him and he turns to those who are listening to him as his family, saying that anyone who does the will of God is his family. Notice that Jesus does not deny his relationship with his family but emphasises the deeper relationship, that of total commitment to God.

### **Setting the Scene**

It might be most fruitful today to focus on the idea of family, our biological families and God's family. God's love is beyond biological ties. Spiritually we are all bound together as members of God's great family, as close to Jesus as his own family. What marks us out as members of God's family is the family likeness of doing God's will – living the loving way.

For the activity you will need a large smiley face for each child and a collection of slips of paper with one quality which shows a way to be like Jesus. i.e. 'I am like Jesus when I am.... (kind, gentle, loving, forgiving, helpful, generous, peaceful, sharing, honest, friendly, prayerful)

### **We Say Sorry**

Leader: Lord Jesus, You call all to follow you, Lord have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: You draw us into your family, Christ have mercy.

**All: Christ, have mercy.**

Leader: You lead us to the Father, Lord have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

### **Gloria**

#### **We Pray (1)**

Loving God, help us to know what it means to follow Jesus and to live as you want us to live. Amen.

### **Gospel Acclamation**

**Gospel:** Mark 4:26-34

### Reflecting on the Reading with Children

- Who does Jesus say are his family as well as his mother and brothers?
- Think of your own family. Who is a brother? Who is a sister? Who has cousins? Who has an uncle? Who has a Grandma?
- We often have likenesses to other members of our families, family likenesses. Talk about the way we might share a family likeness: do we look a bit like other people in our family, perhaps the same colour eyes, the same shape nose, the same curly hair or how we walk or laugh. Sometimes we are like other people in our family in liking to be quiet or noisy, being good at sport or enjoying music....
- In the Gospel we heard how Jesus family are those who listen to him, people like us. When we live in God's love and try to do what God wants us to do we belong to one huge family, sharing one heavenly Father and are all brothers and sisters of Jesus.
- What are the family likenesses of being part of this big family? (being kind, helping people, listening, making people laugh, being generous, listening to God, praying etc. etc.)

### Response

Give each of the children a large smiley face. Display the slips of paper showing ways to be like Jesus. Have duplicates or triplicates of each as some will opt for the same quality as others, emphasising family likeness. The children might suggest others. Ask the children to choose one way in which they think they are like Jesus and stick it on to the sheet, or, if you wish to display responses, attach faces and responses onto a display board or large sheet of paper.

Together we are the family of God, living as God wants us to, as brothers and sisters of Jesus.

### 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 the world and is watching over us with love?
- Do you believe in Jesus, God the Son, who is our brother?
- Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit, who helps us to listen and learn?

### We Pray (2)

Again, try to relate the bidding prayers to the reading by saying, 'Lord, we want your Kingdom to come, and so we now pray...'

Leader: We pray for all of us in your Church, that we may always care for our brothers and sisters in Christ. Lord in your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray that God's family may grow and touch all people everywhere in the world. We especially pray for people living in places where there is lots of fighting.

Lord in your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for all the people of our parish. May we all reach out to each other as brothers and sisters. Lord in your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: We take a moment to remember anyone we know who is especially in need of our prayers today. Lord in your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Lord, help us always show, by being like Jesus, that we are the family of God. We make all our prayers through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

