

Liturgy of the Word with Children
Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B
15 July 2018
Mark 6:7-13

Catechist Background

The word 'apostle' in Greek means 'one who is sent out,' and in today's gospel reading we witness the first time the twelve were sent out. Rather like trainee teachers, they first learned from Jesus' teaching and from his example. They saw him interact with people who trusted him and those who did not trust him. They were with him as he calmed the sea and healed people.

Setting the Scene

For the activity described below you will need circles of paper with a gift of the Holy Spirit written on each one. You may even be able to illustrate the gifts of the Holy Spirit! There should be at least one for every child, with some left over. Having some spare 'gifts' blank would also be helpful.

We Say Sorry

Leader: You entrust us with your work, Lord have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: You lift us when we struggle, Christ have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: You give us all we need, Lord have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Gloria

We Pray (1)

God, your light guides us in Jesus' ways. Help us to always do what is good and stay away from what is not. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel: Mark 6:7-13

Reflecting on the Reading with Children

- If you were going on a really important trip, what would you want to pack? (Use a large suitcase, if you can, for visual purposes.) Examples might include clothes, different types of footwear, a towel, soap/shampoo, snacks, toys.
- If you had all those things in your suitcase, how quickly do you think you would be able to travel? If you lived in a time before airplanes and cars, would this make a big difference to your journey?
- The words used in today's gospel seem a bit peculiar to us in modern times, with the way we understand illness and minds today. What were the apostles sent to do? What might that mean to us today?

Response

We, like the earliest apostles, are 'sent out' by Jesus, to encourage people to live more generous lives, to heal people's sadnesses, to bring joy to others, and to remind people that Jesus brings freedom from fear. We don't need to have special gadgets or expensive equipment to do that. We need gifts of the Holy Spirit, like love, courage, understanding, good judgement. We can travel quickly with these things, and are available to all of us.

Show the children the selection of 'travel items' on the floor (circles of paper with words/pictures on to symbolise gifts of the Holy Spirit). Allow each child to select one that they think they might like to carry most with them today. Encourage them to see that the 'gift' is a reminder of what they may need for the tasks ahead of them, not the thing itself.

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, creator of the universe and all that is in it?
- Do you believe in Jesus Christ, sent by the Father to redeem the world?
- Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, with us as we go out into the world like the first apostles?

We Pray (2)

Again, try to relate the bidding prayers to the reading by saying, 'You provided for the first apostles and you provide for us, so we bring our concerns to you...'

Leader: We pray for all people sent out to preach God's love. May they remain true to the task they have been entrusted with. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for generosity among all wealthy people of the world to those less fortunate. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for anybody who is ill, that they may know your healing graces. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for anyone we know who is feeling a bit down for any reason today, and we take a moment to think about them in the silence of our hearts... Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord, help us to be true to the mission you have given us, your apostles today. Help us to spread your love everywhere we go. We make all our prayers through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

