

Liturgy of the Word with Children
29th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B
21 October 2018
Mark 10:35-45 (Shorter version, mark 10:42-45)

Catechist Background

Despite repeated explanations to the contrary, the disciples still don't grasp that Jesus is a suffering Messiah, not destined to be an earthly king as they hoped. Whereas the values of world they (and we) inhabit are based on power and domination, the values of the Kingdom of God are based on servanthood. While James and John initiate the question about being given places of priority in the Kingdom, it is clear from the others' indignation that they are only jealous that in their ambition, they could have been granted the places before the others even asked. It is interesting to note that at Jesus' crucifixion, the places granted on his right and his left were granted to thieves. The words 'cup' and 'baptism' refer to Jesus crucifixion and martyrdom. Traditionally, James is understood to have died a martyr's execution early on; John's fate is more ambiguous. Some sources also have him martyred early; others have him beaten, jailed, and exiled to Patmos from where he wrote the fourth gospel.

Setting the Scene

For the activity described below you will need a fancy cup/glass with a small crucifix inside.

We Say Sorry

Leader: Lord Jesus, you act with fairness and justice, Lord have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: You reach out the strong and the weak, Christ have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: You will lead us to God's Kingdom, Lord have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Gloria

We Pray (1)

God, strengthen us with joy as we follow in Jesus' footsteps. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel: Mark 10:35-45 (Shorter version Mark 10:42-45)

Reflecting on the Reading with Children

- How do we become important in God's eyes, according to today's gospel?
- What ways can we serve those around us, today, in the year 2012?
- What did Jesus mean by 'the cup' that he must drink? And 'the baptism' that he must undergo (remembering that Jesus was already baptised in water by John the Baptist)?

Response

Last week, we heard about the Kingdom of God being more wonderful and important than anything else we could possibly want. This week we hear that the cost of following Jesus can be sometimes be quite high. We need to remember both together, that following Jesus can be difficult, but that the Kingdom of God is worth any price.

Pass around a fancy cup/glass with a small crucifix in the bottom of it. As the glass comes to each person, encourage him/her to pray, 'God, help me to serve others like you.'

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 a peaceable place?
- Do you believe in God the Son, Jesus, who came as a suffering servant to save everyone?
- Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit, accompanying us today and encouraging us to act as Jesus would?

We Pray (2)

Again, try to relate the bidding prayers to the reading by saying, 'Jesus, you came as a servant to all and so we now pray...'

Leader: We pray for Christians all over the world, that we may be true disciples of you in our service to others. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for leaders of countries, especially where they have not been chosen fairly by the people, that they may use their power to act with justice and fairness. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for people who are suffering because of their faith. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for our local parish community, that we act as a true reflection of Jesus' love toward each other. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord, help us to make a difference in your world by serving the needs of others. We make all our prayers through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

