

## **Children's liturgy – Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)**

### **Preparation of the worship space**

Colour: green

Props: Shoebox, coloured paper, pens and pencils

### **Song suggestions**

Let there be love shared among us (358, Celebration Hymnal for Everyone)

**Welcome:** Today we hear about a woman who did something very special. And we think about how we can share from what we have, no matter how little that is.

**Opening prayer:** Generous God, help us to share what we have, even when it is not much, so that all people may have enough. Amen.

**First reading (optional):** 1 Kings 17:10-16

**Psalm:** Psalm 145:7-10 r. 2

**Gospel acclamation:** everyone stands and sings the acclamation together. Suggestions include: 'Halle, halle, halle' (Caribbean) from 'Sing With the World', Alison Adam & John Bell; 'Alleluia' (Zimbabwe), Abraham Maraire Publications, WCC & GIA; 'Celtic Alleluia' (traditional); 'Alleluia! Raise the Gospel' from 'Go Before Us', Bernadette Farrell, OCP Publications.

**Gospel:** Mark 12:38-44

**Gospel reflection:** What do you remember from today's reading?

Jesus was watching people putting money in the collection box at the synagogue. He saw some rich people putting in lots of money. Then he saw a widow who was poor, putting in two small coins, the same as a penny.

What did Jesus say to the disciples about the woman?

Jesus said that she had put in more than all the other people together. The woman had only given two small coins and the others had given lots of money, so why did Jesus say she had given more?

The woman gave everything she had. While the people who had lots of money just gave a little bit of what they had left over.

Which do you think Jesus would like us to be like, the poor widow or the rich people? Why?

Jesus wants us to be generous and to share all that we have with others. Jesus asks us to give what we have to help others, as the widow does.

Jesus also shows us in this reading, that everyone has something that they can give, even if at first it does not look like they do.

We can give money, but we can also give other things too. Can you think what else we can give and share with others?

We can give our time – by listening to others, by being there for them when they are sad or worried – and we can give our talents. For example you could sing a song, or paint a picture, or make someone laugh.

Can you think of something that you could give and share with others?

Guti lives in Uganda. Her school is a long way from her village so she lives at the school. For a long time their school had no water because the pump was broken. Guti would have to walk to the river with other students to collect water. Often the water made them ill and it was too dirty for the students to use for washing.

With CAFOD's help, the pump was repaired and the school was able to have clean water for drinking and for keeping themselves clean. Instead of having to walk to the river, Guti is now able to use her time teaching the younger students in her school.

Because she has been given the gift of clean water she has been able to give others the gift of her time and talents.

What do you think the world would be like if everyone shared what they had?

What will you give to share with others in the coming week?

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

We are called to be generous and share what we have with each other, and so we pray together:

We pray for world leaders: that they may be generous and fair, so that all their people have enough to live free from poverty. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for all members of our global family: that we may see that all people have something important to give, no matter how small it seems at first. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, families and friends: that we may be as generous as possible, and give of what we have, to share with others. Lord, in your mercy...

**Closing prayer:** God of light, we know that all people have something that they can give to share with others. Show us what we can give and help us to be generous as we share with others. Amen.

### **Activity suggestions**

Ask the children to colour in the accompanying illustration and to draw in the collection box what they will give to share in the coming week.

Make a collection box out of a shoebox with a slit in the lid. Give the children coin-shaped pieces of paper and ask them to write or draw on them what they will give or share with others in the coming week. When they have done this ask them to come forward and put their "coins" in the collection box like the widow in the gospel story.

Ask the children to go home and tell their family all that they have heard and thought about today. Ask them to try to be as generous as possible in the coming week and to give what they can to share with others.