

Liturgy of the Word with Children
Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C
3 February, 2019
Luke 4:21-30

Catechist Background

This scene is a microcosm of all that happens in Jesus' public ministry. At first crowds give him their high approval, but as his teachings become more challenging, they turn on him with violence.

Setting the Scene

You will need pre-cut leaf shapes and writing materials for the activity described below.

We Say Sorry

Leader: You speak to us your saving Word, Lord have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: You open our ears and our hearts, Christ have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: You lead us to the fullness of life, Lord have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Gloria

We Pray (1)

Lord our God, help us to love you with all our hearts, and to love others as you love them. Amen.

Gospel Intro

Tell the children that this is a follow-on from last week's gospel—ask what they remember from last week. Here we get to see the crowd's reaction to Jesus' idea of what his job on earth is.

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel: Luke 4: 21-30

Reflecting on the Reading with Children

- Point out that Jesus was speaking in the town where he grew up, to people who had probably known him since he was very small. Why might some of the people listening have difficulty thinking Jesus was the Messiah?
- Some of the people might have hoped he was the Messiah, but a kind of messiah who would kick out the Romans with their heavy taxes and scary soldiers, not a teaching-preaching-healing messiah.
- Some people he was speaking to might have thought he couldn't be the Messiah because they knew him when he was a small child. Would it be very fair if we said, 'I knew Henry when he was younger and he was very wiggly. He will never be able to sit still,' or 'I knew Jen before she could walk, and so there is no way she will ever be able to do gymnastics?'
- Sometimes we don't expect people to change as they grow up either. Some people don't start off by being very sporty, or very honest, or very brave, or very friendly, but they grow and are able to become those things. And we should be happy when they do!

Response

The people who listened to Jesus didn't want to hear what he had to say. Perhaps some of them didn't believe he could be someone special because he grew up among them. In one sense, they didn't want him to be any different from them—and they didn't want to change to become saved by Jesus either. Pass out the leaf shapes to the children. Explain what it means to 'turn over a new leaf.' On one side, invite them to write their own name (or draw a picture of themselves). On the other side, invite them to write the name of someone they would like to give a second chance to (or draw their picture). Ask them to think about how they can reach out in friendship to that person.

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 out of love?
- Do you believe in Jesus Christ, who came into the world to show us love?
- Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who helps us to love God and love others today?

We Pray (2)

Again, try to relate the bidding prayers to the reading by saying, 'We know that God knows very well what it is like to be a human being, and so we pray...'

Leader: We pray for leaders in the Church. May they be true examples of Jesus' teaching. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for leaders in our communities. May they be good role models of how to live and how to treat others. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for all people who feel afraid because they follow Jesus, that they may have the courage to do the right thing. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for us and for all our friends, that we may help each other and help each other to grow. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Dear God, we know you are with us always. Give us the courage to do the right thing in every situation. We make all our prayers through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

