

Liturgy of the Word with Children
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C
17 February, 2019
Luke 6:17, 20-26

Catechist Background

Just as in our day, in the first century it was convenient for people who had a prosperous life to think of themselves as blessed by God, and look down on others who had less. Humanity seems to have a tendency to look at outcasts as being less loved by God or less worthy of God's love. Today's gospel reminds us that God loves everybody, particularly those on the outskirts of society. Later on in Luke's gospel, this idea is developed as the rich are portrayed as greedy, not recognising God as the source of their gifts, while the poor are the ones who understand the importance of Jesus' mission.

Setting the Scene

You will need some medium-sized boxes for the activity described below, and a broad felt-tip marker to write on them with.

We Say Sorry

Leader: You call us to your side, Lord have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: You reach out to all who struggle, Christ have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: You lead us to true happiness, Lord have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Gloria

We Pray (1)

God, be with us today and every day, as you have promised to be with those who follow you. Amen.

Gospel Intro

Ask the children to pay attention to anything in this gospel that sounds a little bit peculiar.

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel: Luke 6:17, 20-26

Reflecting on the Reading with Children

- Jesus says some things that seem very topsy-turvy. If you were listing groups of people who were happy, what groups would you have included?
- We don't usually think of people who are poor, hungry, weeping, or hated as happy! Why might Jesus have said those things?

Response

Choose a child to help demonstrate the following illustration. Ask for suggestions of things that we think we need to make us happy. Write them

on the boxes, and ask the volunteer child to hold them. When his/her hands are really very full, ask them to hold a box of 'God's Love.' When we are tightly holding on to other things, holding the God's Love box will be impossible.

[If you do not have boxes, write on pieces of A4 paper but ask the child to hold them so everybody can see what is written on each of them.]

It may be important to stress that the things that make us happy aren't necessarily bad in themselves, but only if they keep us from God.

After that demonstration, allow all of the children to hold, with empty hands, the box of 'God's Love.'

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 us to be happy?
- Do you believe in Jesus Christ, who showed us how to live to be happy?
- Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who helps us to be happy?

We Pray (2)

Again, try to relate the bidding prayers to the reading by saying, 'We trust know that God is concerned about us today just as in long-ago times, and so we pray...'

Leader: We pray for the leaders in our Church, that they may remember to be especially concerned about people who are in need. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for the leaders in our world, that they may especially look after those who are most in need. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for all people who all people who are poor, hungry, sad, or hated. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for everyone we know who is having a sad time. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: God, we know that you are with us when times are easy and when times are difficult. Help us to remember that your love always surrounds us. We make all our prayers through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

