

Liturgy of the Word with Children
Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year C
19 May 2019
John 13:31-35

Catechist Background

Chronologically, today's gospel passage comes from the last night Jesus was with his disciples before he was crucified.

John's gospel is divided into the 'Book of Signs,' and the 'Book of Glory;' this passage comes near the beginning of the Book of Glory, and glory and love are major themes in it.

Setting the Scene

For the activity described below, you will need a paper foot shape for each person, and drawing materials.

We Say Sorry

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

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: You call us to serve one another, Christ have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

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

All: Lord, have mercy.

Gloria

We Pray (1)

God, our Father, we know we are your children. Help us to enjoy the happiness that your love surrounds us with.

Amen.

Gospel Intro

Tell the children that this gospel is part of Jesus' last night with his friends. He told them all sorts of things on that night to help them after he was gone, because he knew his time on earth was nearly up.

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel John 13:31-35

Reflecting on the Reading with Children

- When Jesus asked his friends—and us—to love one another, what did he mean?
- How do we show that we love each other today—not mushy romantic love, but the kind of love that Jesus was talking about?

Response

Give a shape of a foot to each child and have them draw something that they can do to love other people as Jesus loves us. If they need some ideas, ask them to think

about what they could do to show Jesus' love to their parents...to their siblings...to children at school...

Allow each child to come up in turn and put their footprint around the cross, so it looks like a path. Point out that doing all of the things they have drawn on the feet will be following in Jesus' footsteps. Remind children that in last week's gospel, we were reminded that we were sheep who should follow Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

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, Alleluia, Alleluia!'

- Do you believe in God the Father, full of Glory?
- Do you believe in Jesus Christ, son of God, sent to love us?
- Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, sent to help us to love others?

We Pray (2)

Again, try to relate the bidding prayers to the reading by saying, 'Lord, we want to follow Jesus' example of loving others, and so we pray...'

Leader: We pray for priests and bishops, that they may be true examples of Christ's love. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for politicians and leaders, that they may make rules and laws that make it easier for people to love each other. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for anybody who sick, and especially for those who are very ill. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for anyone we know who is feeling a bit sad or lonely. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord, help us to follow your commandment to love one another as you have loved us, and to let that love show. We might even be the answer to somebody else's prayer! We make all our prayers through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

