

Liturgy of the Word with Children
Seventh Sunday of Easter, Year C
2 June 2019
John 17:20-26

Catechist Background

This week we continue Jesus' discourse at the table of the Last Supper, at the very end of its last chapter. The following chapter moves straight into Jesus' arrest in the garden. The whole of Chapter 17 is a prayer of Jesus. Having assured the disciples of the promise of the Holy Spirit (last week's Gospel), Jesus now prays to his Father for the disciples, and all who believe in him, praying that all will be united, that they may love as Jesus is loved by the Father, and know that the Father loves them. Through Jesus we are united with one another and with God, our Father.

We celebrated the Feast of the Ascension on Thursday and our children may have celebrated the feast in school or in the parish (We cannot assume that all have done so). Thus we hear the Gospel in the light of the Ascension, when Jesus told the disciples that they would be his witnesses, proclaiming the Good news to all the world.

Setting the Scene

Tell the children that we are coming to the end of the Easter season, that this is the last Sunday. Remind them of Jesus' Ascension into heaven, celebrated on Thursday, emphasising that he is no longer with the disciples physically. Today we are going to hear of Jesus care and concern, his prayer for them. Our fifty days of Easter will end next Sunday with the Feast of Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit.

You might have a large picture of the Last Supper to remind the children of the context in which Jesus prays.

For the activity below you will need pack of paper chain strips and felt tips.

We Say Sorry

Leader: Lord Jesus, you lead us to the Father, Lord have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: You teach us to be one with you, Christ have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: You fill us with joy, Lord have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Gloria

We Pray (1)

God, help us to show the joy in our lives that comes from this Easter season, Alleluia.

Amen.

Gospel Intro

Last week we listened to what Jesus wanted to say to his friends when he knew he did not have much time left with them. This week we hear Jesus' prayer to his Father. Ask the children to put themselves in the place of the

disciples at the table of the Last Supper, and to imagine, with the help of the picture, if you have it, what it was like to listen to Jesus as he prayed.

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel John 17:20-26

Reflecting on the Reading with Children

- Did you hear who Jesus prayed for in his prayer?
- What did Jesus pray for?
- What do you think it means to be united?
- What might we be able to do better if we are united with each other?
- What can we do better when we are united with Jesus
- How can we show that we are united with each other and with Jesus and that we are his disciples?
- How can we show that we love each other just as the Father loves us/ I'm sure we've talked about this lots of times before!

Response

Give each child a paper strip and ask them to decorate it, and, if they can, write their name on it. When all are finished make a paper chain. Talk about the beauty of the chain, with its colours and names and show how it might hold them together even when they cannot touch each other. Bring it into the church and display it if possible.

Prepare the children for the Feast of Pentecost next week. You might invite them to wear something red to symbolise the Holy Spirit, just as our paper chain symbolises our unity.

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 who loves us?
- Do you believe in Jesus Christ, who wants us to be one?
- Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who guides us and inspires us

We Pray (2)

Again, try to relate the bidding prayers to the reading by saying, 'Jesus calls us to be united with God and with each other, and so we pray...'

Leader: We pray for all Christians that they may work to be united in love for each other. Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for leaders of countries, that they may work together for peace in the world. Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for people who suffer in any way, that they may know the care of others. Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for our friends, that they may know that we love them and that they may know that God loves them. Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord, help us to show our care for each other just as you care for us.
We make all our prayers through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

