

Liturgy of the Word with Children
Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C
21 July, 2019
Luke 10:38-42

Catechist Background

In Luke's Gospel, this week's follows in the gospel directly after last week's. It provides a counterbalance to Jesus' answer to the 'lawyer's' question. Loving other people through our service is important, as in last week's example of the Samaritan; but loving God and listening to God's Word is paramount. Doing good works must be accompanied by spending time with God. (The 'lawyer,' on the other hand, already knew God's Word but did not know how to put it in to practice.)

One point that modern readers may miss is how unusual it would have been for either Mary or Martha, as women, to be listening to Jesus in their world which was strictly segregated by gender. It seems likely that Mary would have been sitting in on the 'men's space,' listening to a charismatic rabbi, while Martha busied herself with the culturally accepted norms of hospitality as given by women. Cultivating a life of prayer is not something for 'other people' or for 'professionals,' but is a central part of the Christian life for each of us.

Setting the Scene

For the activity described below, you will need a banner with the words 'Listen to Jesus' on it, and materials to decorate the banner. Depending on the size of your group, you could use an A1 piece of paper or a large cloth for your banner.

We Say Sorry

Leader: You are our Teacher, Lord have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: You are our Messiah, Christ have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: Leader: You heal us from our sins, Lord have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Gloria

We Pray (1)

Lord, make us always willing and happy to serve you with a loving heart.
Amen.

Gospel Intro

Explain that in Biblical times, there were certain rules about what men could do, what women could do, and what children could do. It wouldn't have been normal for women or children to hang around while the men discussed things, so the scene in this gospel is a little bit unusual.

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel: Luke 10:38-42

Reflecting on the Reading with Children

- What was Mary doing in this gospel reading?
- Why was Martha annoyed with her?
- Why do you think Jesus said that Mary had chosen the better activity?

Response

Sometimes we think that it is more important for other types of people to pray and to know how to listen to God than it is for us to do so. Do only priests need to know how to listen to Jesus? Nuns? Headteachers? Parents? Adults? No, it is important for **all** of us to pray—including children!

Jesus is not with us in the same way that he was in Martha and Mary's house. How can we listen to Jesus in our time? (Answers might include by hearing Bible stories, by thinking about how Jesus wants us to live, by asking our parents or teachers or catechists or priests what they think Jesus teaches us, by trying to be people who act in a kind and loving way.)

Allow the children to decorate a banner with the words 'Listen to Jesus' on it. You might consider processing in with the banner at the offertory.

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 has made everything?
- Do you believe in God the Son, Jesus, who teaches us how to follow God?
- Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit, who helps us to pray?

We Pray (2)

Again, try to relate the bidding prayers to the reading by saying, 'God wants us to spend time talking with him and so we now pray...'

Leader: We pray for leaders in our Church, that they may always grow in understanding of what Jesus asks of us. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for MP's, that they make laws that help all people, but especially those who do not have anyone to help them. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for people who live in parts of the world who have not heard of Jesus. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for people we know who are lonely and want someone to spend time with. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord, we know you listen to us. Help us to listen to you, and do what you ask of us. We make all our prayers through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

