

Liturgy of the Word with Children
31st Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C
3 November, 2019
Luke 19:1-10

Catechist Background

The well-loved story of Zacchaeus is this week's gospel, another real-life example to accompany last week's parable featuring a tax collector. As the chief tax collector, Zacchaeus would have been viewed as the chief sinner and traitor by his fellow Jews.

We Say Sorry

Leader: You love all of humanity, Lord have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: You challenge us to do the same, Christ have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: You love us even when we fail, Lord have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Gloria

We Pray (1)

God, help us to praise you by the way we live our lives every day. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel: Luke 19:1-10

Reflecting on the Reading with Children

- Why do you think Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus? Why couldn't he see him?
- What did he do next? What did Jesus do?
- Why were people angry that Jesus invited himself to Zacchaeus' house?
- Ask the children to imagine that they are famous sculptors and have made a beautiful statue that they have worked hard and lovingly to create as a beautiful piece of art. How would they feel if someone came along and smashed it? Or drew all over it?
- Who made Zacchaeus, who was his 'sculptor?' How do you think God felt when everyone was being nasty to him? Do you think it is similar to how you would feel if I smashed up a statue you made?
- Who might be modern-day versions of Zacchaeus—people who have done wrong and are disliked forever and not allowed by 'people in the crowd' to make amends?

Response

We do not know the end of the story—whether the crowd came to agree with Jesus' point of view about Zacchaeus or whether they kept muttering and complaining among themselves. Re-enact the story (with people playing the characters of Jesus, Zacchaeus, and people in the crowd); when you get to the end, ask the children what they would have done next if they were really there.

Today's psalm is a particularly timely reminder of how the crowd and Zacchaeus should respond to God's loving forgiveness. Proclaim it joyfully with the children!

I will bless your name for ever O God my King

1. I will give you glory, O God my King
I will bless your name for ever
I will bless you day after day
And praise your name for ever

2. The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
Slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
Compassionate to all his creatures.

3. All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,
And your friends shall repeat their blessing.
They shall speak of the glory of your reign
And declare your might, O God.

4. The Lord is faithful in all his words
And loving in all his deeds.
The Lord supports all who fall
And raises all who are bowed down.

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, father and creator of all human beings?
- Do you believe in Jesus who came to seek and save the lost?
- Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, still among us today?

We Pray (2)

Again, try to relate the bidding prayers to the reading by saying,
'Jesus talked with Zacchaeus even though he had made some bad decisions in life. We trust that God wants to listen to us as well, and so we now pray...'

Leader: We pray for people whose jobs it is to tell others about Jesus. May they remember that we are all called to follow in Jesus' forgiveness and compassion. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for people who collect taxes and spend them. May they use the money wisely to make the world a better place for all. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for anybody who is travelling this weekend as half-term ends. May they journey safely. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for anyone in our parish who is lonely today. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord, help us to reach out to others through our lives like you reached out to Zacchaeus. We make all our prayers through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

