

Liturgy of the Word with Children
Second Sunday of Lent, Year A
8 March 2020
Matthew 17:1-9

Catechist Background

Moses and Elijah represent the Law and the Prophets, the two major sections of the Hebrew Scriptures. They also each had a forty-day period marking the beginning of their ministries. Chronologically, in the scriptures, this story follows shortly after Jesus' announcement of his passion and death; it is a preview of his resurrection to come and told his disciples that they must follow in his ways. Having seen the glory of the Transfiguration may have been a great comfort to them in the ensuing trials.

Setting the Scene

For the activity described below, you will need A4 pieces of paper with the letters 'E,' 'I,' 'L,' 'N,' 'S,' and 'T,' one printed on each piece of paper.

Remind the children that we are in the season of Lent in the Church year, and that Lent can be a good time to unclutter our lives to be able to listen to God more clearly. Ask what they remember from last week's gospel.

We Say Sorry

You come to us in light, Lord have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

You bring us out of the shadows, Christ have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

You send us to share your love, Lord have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

We Pray (1)

God, help us to listen to your word so that we may see your glory. Amen.

Gospel Intro

Remind the children that last week we heard about Jesus in some difficult circumstances, being tested by the devil. This week, we hear about a very different situation.

It may be helpful to briefly tell the children that Moses and Elijah were two major figures from the Old Testament who were very important to the Jewish people.

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel Matthew 17:1-9

Reflecting on the Reading with Children

- What would you think if while we were sitting here, my clothes suddenly became all sparkly and two sparkly people from the scriptures were here with us?
- What did the voice from the cloud say? Who do you think the voice was?
- How do we listen to Jesus?

- Why do you think Jesus told his disciples not to tell anyone about what they had seen? [Try to guide the children to see that they would not fully understand the importance of this experience until after Jesus' death and resurrection.]

Response

Have six children volunteer to hold the letters in a scrambled order. All the children can then try to unscramble them into a word. They should be able to make both the word 'LISTEN' and also 'SILENT.' Ask what helps us to listen to God. Although sometimes we can tune in to God in the midst of busyness, sometimes it is helpful to have a bit of silence to help get rid of distractions. (You could hold up the remote control that you showed last week, and discuss how you have—or have not—all been able to shut off some distractions in the first week of Lent.) Being mindful of the children's capacity for silent stillness, and being careful to draw the quiet time to an end before fidgeting takes hold, tell the children that you will all take a few moments now to try and listen to God in the silence of your hearts.

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 all good things?
- Do you believe in God the Son, Jesus Christ, who we try to listen to in our lives?
- Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit, who helps us to listen to God in our lives?

We Pray (2)

Again, try to relate the bidding prayers to the reading by saying, 'You were with the apostles long ago and you are with us now, and so we pray...'

We pray for the Church, that we will listen to you in big ways and in small ways. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

We pray for the world, especially for places near where Jesus walked where there is fighting today. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

We pray for anybody who does not have the ability to see the wonderful things you have made. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

We pray for anybody we know who is sad or hurt or missing someone they love. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

God, help us to listen and to hear and to understand how we should show your love to the world. We make all our prayers through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

