

**Liturgy of the Word with Children**  
**11<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A**  
**18 June 2023**  
**Matthew 9:36-10:8**

### **Catechist Background**

Today we go back to Matthew's Gospel as we return to Ordinary Time. We hear how Jesus shows his love and care for the people. He shows his love by healing the sick and teaching the crowds about the love of God. Jesus wants his followers to continue his loving work on earth. So calls and names the disciples and instructs them as to the work he has called them to do.

### **Setting the Scene**

Tell the children that having celebrated Easter, Pentecost, Trinity Sunday and Corpus Christi, in the next weeks we are going to hear more about the work of Jesus and his disciples. This passage of the Gospel comes when Jesus is preparing the twelve disciples for the task, the mission, he is sending them out to do.

As you gather, remind the children that we are in Ordinary Time; ask if they have noticed any changes in the church (for instance, the colour of the vestments the priest is wearing, or the decorations in the church) and draw attention to the cloth you have at your focal point.

### **We Say Sorry**

Leader: You cover us with your protection, Lord have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: You entrust us with your work, Christ have mercy.

**All: Christ, have mercy.**

Leader: You give us all we need, Lord have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

### **Gloria**

### **We Pray (1)**

God, your light guides us in Jesus' ways. Help us to always do what is good and stay away from what is not. Amen.

### **Gospel Acclamation**

**Gospel:** Matthew 9:36-10:8

### **Reflecting on the Reading with Children**

- Why did Jesus feel sorry for the people?
- How are the people like sheep without a shepherd?
- What does Jesus want his friends that we call apostles to do?
- How does Jesus show his love and care for people?
- How does Jesus want his followers to show love for others?
- How does the Church help those who are sick, poor, or in need?

### **Response**

Ask the children about times when they have all worked together to get the job done. It is easier to wash up the dishes when someone else helps. Do you think it is fair to have to do all the work around the house while other members do nothing?

In the story today it is a bit like that. Jesus tells the story about people who don't care about others. They are only concerned about themselves. Jesus says there are many people who have a need to know God and deep down want to, but they don't know how to go about it. Jesus says it would good if there were more people prepared to share his Good News about the fact that God loves them and wants to help them.

What about you?

- When was the last time you helped Jesus?
- When was the last time you did a nice thing for someone to make their world seem a much better place?
- Was that sharing the Good News?
- What might you do this week to help others, to show God's love and act with compassion?

### **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?
- Do you believe in God the Son, Jesus, who came to call people to God?
- Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit, who inspires people today to follow Jesus?

### **We Pray (2)**

Again, try to relate the bidding prayers to the reading by saying, 'The first disciples trusted in your care and we know we can trust in your care too, so we bring our concerns to you...'

Leader: for the Church: that we may continue the work of your son Jesus, Lord in your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: for the spirit of love in our hearts, that we will become more loving with our families and with our friends, Lord in your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: for a deeper understanding of the many ways in which God is with us, Lord in your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: for all those who are suffering from illness, that they may be healed, Lord in your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: for all those who have died; and we think of their loved ones, who miss them, Lord in your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Lord, help us to be true to the mission you have given us, your apostles today. Help us to spread your love everywhere we go. We make all our prayers through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

