

Liturgy of the Word with Children
13th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A
02 July 2023
Matthew 10:37-42

Catechist Background

This passage is a continuation of last week's where Jesus is preparing the disciples for their ministry. The conditions of discipleship outlined in Matthew's Gospel may appear tough but they do emphasise that commitment to do anything important with one's whole heart has consequences. Choosing life with Christ affects every relationship we have. For many who made this commitment in Matthew's time their choice brought division to their family.

Matthew also talks about hospitality, welcome, to those who follow Jesus, in welcoming them we welcome Jesus himself.

We have many opportunities in our daily life to reach out to others, to be a welcoming presence and a sign of God's love.

Setting the Scene

Remind the children of last week's Gospel when Jesus told the disciples he was sending out how much God loves us, even the least.

Today we will hear how the work they do will be hard but Jesus gives them encouragement to help them to face it with joy.

If you have one readily available you might use a Welcome Mat.

We Say Sorry

Leader: You came to teach us how to live, Lord have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: You welcome all who come to you, Christ have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

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

All: Lord, have mercy.

Gloria

We Pray (1)

Dear Lord, you promise to help people who try to do what is right. Help us to live as you want us to do. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel: Matthew 10:37-42

Reflecting on the Reading with Children

Ask the children what Jesus said to show that the mission of the disciples would be hard.

How much did he say that his disciples must love him?

What did he say about the disciples thinking about themselves and their own wishes?

What did Jesus say to encourage them?

Who are the people Jesus says should be welcomed?

Ask what might have been the difficulties the disciples faced?

Response

Jesus' words help us to think about the people who carry on the work of Jesus today. Who are the people who spread the good news of God's love today? (Parents, teachers, priests, catechists, those who minister at Mass – readers, choir, servers etc., those who heal, care for those in need etc. etc.)

Talk about the Church's work all over the world, particularly if your parish supports a specific mission project.

Encourage the children to thank verbally a person who speaks God's word to the parish. Talk about the ways in which we welcome people and think about what it feels like to be made welcome.

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: We pray for all people sent out to preach God's love. May they remain true to the task they have been entrusted with. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for generosity among all wealthy people of the world to those less fortunate. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for anybody who is ill, that they may know your healing graces. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for anyone we know who is feeling a bit down for any reason today, and we take a moment to think about them in the silence of our hearts. 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.

