

Liturgy of the Word with Children
10th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B
9th June 2024
Mark 3:20-35

Catechist Background

Having re-entered Ordinary Time two weeks ago with the feasts of Trinity Sunday and Corpus Christi, see *General Introduction to Ordinary Time*:

<https://rcdow.org.uk/evangelisation/resources-for-parish-ministry/childrens-liturgy/>)

Before Lent we heard in the Mark's Gospel about Jesus teaching with authority, healing and forgiving sins, and his power over evil spirits. In today's Gospel Jesus returns home and his family, perhaps because of what he is preaching, think he is 'out of his mind'. (The Children's Lectionary omits this first part). Then the scribes attack Jesus, who, as they cannot deny his power over evil spirits, claim his power comes from Beelzebul, the prince of devils. This leads to a discussion about Satan, and 'who is casting out who' as Jesus points out that no one can fight himself and win. It is worth noting that for Jews at that time, 'Satan' was not evil. Instead Satan's job (given to him by God) was to tempt people (like Job in the Old Testament/Jewish scriptures) to test their faith in God.

Jesus' family arrive looking for him but he turns to those who are listening to him, and says that anyone who does the will of God is his family. Jesus does not deny his relationship with his family but he emphasises the deeper relationship, that of total commitment to God, which he has with others.

Setting the Scene

It might be most fruitful today to focus on ideas of family: biological families and God's family. God's love is beyond biology. Spiritually we are bound together as members of God's family, as close to Jesus as his own family. What marks us out as members of God's family is the family likeness of doing God's will: living in a loving way. For the activity you will need a large smiley face for each child and slips of paper each with one quality which shows a way to be like Jesus. i.e. 'I am like Jesus when I am... (helpful, kind, gentle, loving, forgiving, generous, peaceful, sharing, honest, friendly, prayerful)...

We Say Sorry

Leader: Lord Jesus, You call all to follow you, Lord have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: You draw us into your family, Christ have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: You lead us to the Father, Lord have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Gloria

We Pray (1)

Loving God, help us to know what it means to follow Jesus and to live as you want us to live. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel: Mark 3: 20-35

Reflecting on the Reading with Children

- Who does Jesus say are his family as well as his mother and brothers?
- Think of your own family. Who is a brother? Who is a sister? Who has cousins? Who has an uncle? Who has a Grandma?
- We often have likenesses to other members of our families. Talk about the way we might share a family likeness: do we look a bit like other people in our family, perhaps the same colour eyes, the same shape nose, the same curly hair or how we walk or laugh. Sometimes we are like other people in our family in being quiet or noisy, being good at sport or enjoying music....
- In the Gospel we heard how Jesus' family are those who listen to him, people like us. When we live in God's love and try to do what God wants we belong to one family, sharing one heavenly Father and are all brothers and sisters of Jesus.
- What are the family likenesses of being part of this big family? (helping people, being kind, making people laugh, being generous, listening to God, praying etc.)

Response

Give each child a large smiley face. Display the slips of paper showing ways to be like Jesus. Have more than one of each as some will choose the same ones, emphasising family likeness. The children might suggest others. Ask the children to choose a way in which they are like Jesus and stick it on to the sheet. Remind them that together we are the family of God, living as God wants us to, as brothers and sisters of Jesus.

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 created the world and watches over us?
- Do you believe in Jesus, God the Son, who is our brother?
- Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit, who helps us to listen and learn?

We Pray (2)

Again, relate the bidding prayers to the Gospel reading by saying, 'Lord, we want your Kingdom to come, and so we now pray...'

Leader: We pray for all of us in your Church, that we may always care for our brothers and sisters in Christ. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray that God's family may grow and touch all people everywhere in the world. We especially pray for people living in places where there is lots of fighting.

Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for all the people of our parish. May we all reach out to each other as brothers and sisters. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We take a moment to remember anyone we know who is especially in need of our prayers today. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord, help us always show, by being like Jesus, that we are the family of God. We make all our prayers through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.