

Children's liturgy – Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

This children's liturgy resource is based on the gospel reading of the day. It concentrates on the earlier verses, Mark 9:38-41 as the later verses may be confusing or frightening for young children. Based on your knowledge of your group, you can choose whether to read the later verses, which are in italics below.

Preparing for worship

Colour: green

Song suggestions: Do not be afraid (972, Laudate)
Will you come and follow me (877, Laudate)

Welcome: Today we reflect on how Jesus is our teacher, who guides us to make the right choices, even when it is difficult. We will think about how important it is for all children around the world to have the chance to learn.

Opening prayer: God of love, teach us to follow you, strengthen our faith and help us to make the right choices even when it is difficult. Amen.

First reading (optional): Numbers 11:25-29

Psalm: Psalm 18:8, 10, 12-14 r. 9

Gospel acclamation: *Everyone stands and sings the acclamation together.*

Gospel: Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48 (*Based on your knowledge of your group, you could decide whether or not to read the latter verses, which are in italics, as it could be confusing or frightening for the children.*)

John said to him, "Teacher, we saw a man who was driving out demons in your name, and we told him to stop, because he doesn't belong to our group."

"Do not try to stop him," Jesus told them, "because no one who performs a miracle in my name will be able soon afterwards to say evil things about me. For whoever is not against us is for us. I assure you that anyone who gives you a drink of water because you belong to me will certainly receive his reward.

"If anyone should cause one of these little ones to lose his faith in me, it would be better for that person to have a large millstone tied around his neck and be thrown into the sea. So if your hand makes you lose your faith, cut it off! It is better for you to enter life without a hand than to keep both hands and go off to hell, to the fire that never goes out.

And if your foot makes you lose your faith, cut it off! It is better for you to enter life without a foot than to keep both feet and be thrown into hell.

And if your eye makes you lose your faith, take it out! It is better for you to enter the Kingdom of God with only one eye than to keep both eyes and be thrown into hell. There 'the worms that eat them never die, and the fire that burns them is never put out.'"

(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation® and used with permission)*

Gospel reflection: What do you remember about the gospel reading that we heard today?

What does John call Jesus, right at the beginning of our story today? John calls Jesus “Teacher”. What is a teacher? Who is your teacher?

A teacher is someone who helps us to learn, who inspires and guides us, who shows us how to do things and helps us to be the best we can be.

It is important for all people around the world to have a chance to learn. Daniel lives in the Democratic Republic of Congo. He joined a workshop to learn carpentry.

He says, “We learned to make cabinets. We learned to make tables. We learned to make beds. And many other things, like chairs to sit on. I was really focusing on my work because I knew this is what is going to help me tomorrow and in the future.”

Without this training, Daniel might have ended up involved in the fighting in his country. He’s really glad he did the workshop, but he feels sad that some of his other friends didn’t get to go to school.

Jesus came to teach the disciples, and all of us, about God, his Father. He came to show us the way to live our lives to please God and to help us to know God better.

Jesus tells the disciples that anyone who is not against him, who is not Jesus’ enemy, is his friend. And Jesus says that anyone who treats people well because they follow him will be loved by him and be rewarded in heaven.

Do you believe that Jesus is our friend, a teacher who loves and cares for all of us always? I do!

But how do we show that we are friends or followers of Jesus? What would Jesus like us to do?

Just like Jesus cares for us all, he asks us to care for one another. Not just the people we know, our friends and our family, but for all people around the world. And to show our love and care for others in everything that we do.

Include these paragraphs only if you have read the later gospel verses to the children:

Jesus also has a message that might be a bit scary or confusing as he tells the disciples that they should cut off their hand or foot rather than losing faith in him. Now of course, we can’t really go around cutting off parts of our body. That would really hurt and is pretty dangerous, so what do you think Jesus might be trying to say?

Maybe Jesus is saying that if we are going to be his followers, if we are going to have faith and believe in him, sometimes we will have to do things that are very hard.

It can be really hard to be different and to stick to what we believe in. Sometimes it can even be a little bit painful, if others get angry and upset with us or laugh at us. But Jesus is with us, and he tells us that it will be all right in the end. Knowing he is there beside us can help us to be brave.

Caring for others and following Jesus means being kind and generous and friendly and helpful. It can mean making sure everyone has enough food to eat, and clean water to drink, or the chance to go to school.

But it can also mean sticking up for what is right and what we believe in. We might have to choose to do the right thing when others are doing something wrong. We might need to speak out when we see something happening that we know is not right or fair.

How will you show that you care for others and follow Jesus this week?

Intercessions *You may want to ask the children to offer their own prayers or you can use the suggestions below.*

Jesus calls us to learn from him and to love and care for one another. Let us remember this as we pray together:

We pray for all people throughout the world: that they may all have the chance to learn the skills they need for the future. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for all teachers: that God may give them wisdom as they guide us through life. Lord, in your mercy....

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may be willing to listen and learn from others and to follow Jesus' teaching in all that we do. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer: God of life, guide us as we learn and lead us to care for one another as your Son taught us to. Amen.

Activity suggestions

Invite the children to colour in the accompanying illustration of Daniel making a chair at his carpentry workshop and to complete the rest of the activity sheet, either in the liturgy or at home.

School is a gift which should be for everyone. CAFOD wants to create opportunities for students around the world to learn. Can you help us?

For activities and resources to support Family Fast Day with the children visit **cafod.org.uk/schoolfundraising**

Remind the children to share all that they heard and thought about with the people at home during the week. Encourage them to do what they can to care for others, to follow Jesus and to learn from him throughout the coming week.

*Gospel passage taken from:
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For more children's liturgy resources and illustrations see cafod.org.uk/childrensliturgy

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