



Liturgy of the Word with Children

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Green

'Walking on water'

1 Kings 19:9a, 11-13a, Psalm 85, Matthew 14:22-33



Jesus often taught his friends about faith, and the amazing things that could happen when it was strong. Today, we hear about a time when Peter discovered that even he could walk on water if he kept looking to Jesus. What happened that made Peter begin to sink? What did he do when this happened? Peter often let Jesus down because his faith was weak, but Jesus always reached out to save him, just as he does with us when we call out

to him.

Leader's Preparation

In preparation for leading this celebration begin by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures for the Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, starting with the Gospel. (You may choose to use or focus on one reading only, but remember that the Gospel may not be omitted.) Then look through the preparatory material that follows and familiarise yourself with the Liturgy Outline.

GOSPEL

Matthew 14:22-33

Jesus made his disciples get into a boat and start back across the lake. But he stayed until he had sent the crowds away. Then he went up on a mountain where he could be alone and pray. Later that evening, he was still there.

By this time the boat was a long way from the shore. It was going against the wind and was being tossed around by the waves. A little while before morning, Jesus came walking on the water toward his disciples. When they saw him, they thought he was a ghost. They were terrified and started screaming.

At once Jesus said to them, "Don't worry! I am Jesus. Don't be afraid."

Peter replied, "Lord, if it is really you, tell me to come to you on the water."

“Come on!” Jesus said. Peter then got out of the boat and started walking on the water toward him.

But when Peter saw how strong the wind was, he was afraid and started sinking.

“Lord, save me!” he shouted.

Right away Jesus reached out his hand. He helped Peter up and said, “You surely don’t have much faith. Why do you doubt?”

When Jesus and Peter got into the boat, the wind died down. The men in the boat worshipped Jesus and said, “You really are the Son of God!”

FIRST READING

1 Kings 19:9a, 11-13a

Elijah went into a cave and spent the night. The Lord said, “Elijah, go out and stand on the mountain. I am going to pass that way.”

At once a strong and mighty wind shook the mountain and shattered the rocks. But the Lord was not in the wind.

An earthquake shook the ground, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake there was a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire.

After the fire, hardly a sound was heard. Elijah covered his face with his robe and went out and stood at the entrance to the cave.

PSALM

Psalm 85

**Response: Lord, show us your mercy and love
and grant us your salvation.**

I will listen to you, Lord God,
because you promise peace to those who are faithful.
You are ready to rescue everyone who worships you,
so that you will live with us in all of your glory.

Love and loyalty will come together; goodness and peace will unite.
Loyalty will sprout from the ground;
justice will look down from the sky above.

Our Lord, you will bless us; our land will produce wonderful crops. Justice will
march in front, making a path for you to follow.

Scriptures from the Lectionary for Masses with Children (CEV)
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Background to the Readings for Leaders

Elijah's experience of God in the first reading follows his triumph over the priests of Baal on Mt Carmel and his sudden fear of Jezebel which sent him scuttling into the sanctuary of a cave. God visits him, not in the power of the elements, but in the still, small voice of a gentle breeze. In the Gospel, Jesus too has retreated to a quiet place to be alone with God while his disciples were in a boat on the Sea of Galilee, crossing from the Jewish side into gentile territory just as he has instructed them. Dangerous storms here can blow up very rapidly and with ferocity, so it was understandable that the disciples were frightened. The Hebrew people recognised in the waters of the sea a symbol of the chaos from which creation sprang and were always a little mistrustful of the water. Matthew gives the only account of Peter's abortive efforts to do as Jesus was doing. The church is often symbolised as a boat (the barque of Peter) and at the time Matthew was writing this may symbolically reflect something of the events of the time. Many had been forced out of their synagogues, away from traditional Judaism and an increasing number of gentiles were coming to belief in Jesus. Matthew gives Peter's actions prominence, the bold impulsiveness of his initial trust followed by the distraction of his fears and doubts. It is in taking his eyes and focus off Jesus that Peter sinks. But comfort in the stretched out hand of Jesus to rescue him and the calming of the storm restores morale and increases the faith of those present.



Images from the Readings

- Tossed around by the waves
- They were terrified
- Come on!
- Why do you doubt?
- Hardly a sound

Reflection for Leaders

Peter's experience can echo for us times when we have been caught in storms of fear and confusion and felt like we were going under. Removing our focus from Jesus can cause our doubts to multiply and allow us to sink. Can you think of a time when you experienced the calming action of Jesus? What are the things that can be a distraction on your personal faith journey that have caused you to remove your focus from Jesus? What are the things that have helped keep you afloat? During this week be aware of the fears of others in your family or workplace, and be a soothing, calming influence for them.

Reflecting on the Readings with the children

Before Sunday read over the suggested discussion points given in the Leader's Liturgy Outline.

With the 8-12 year olds: First, listen to the children's own responses to the Reading/s and then, if needed, use some of the discussion starters suggested.

With the 5-7 year olds: Adapt some of the questions in the 8-12 material and then join with the older group for the 'Liturgical Action'.

Suggested Focus

Prepare a focus for the area where the children's Liturgy of the Word is to be held:

Green cloth, Lectionary, a large bowl with floating candles, a sprig of greenery for the sprinkling rite



LEADER'S Liturgy Outline

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

At a suitable moment after the Opening Rites, but before the First Reading is proclaimed, the children are presented with the Children's Lectionary and a candle and sent, with their ministers, to the place where they will celebrate their own Liturgy of the Word, with words of dismissal such as the following:

INVITATION – *Pōwhiri*

for their

I invite the children to join in the procession

celebration of the Liturgy of the Word.

To the Minister of the Word:

Receive this Book of Readings and proclaim God's Word faithfully to the children entrusted to your care.

Receive this candle as the light of Christ who is present in his Word.

PROCESSION WITH THE BOOK OF READINGS – *Te Kapa o te Pukapuka Tapu*

WELCOME – *Ko te whakatau*

Leader: O God, you call us to faith and courage. Help us to have the courage of Peter to take risks, and reach out to us when we need to be rescued. Amen

R Amen.

First Reading: *1 Kings 19:9a, 11-13a (if used)*

The Word of the Lord / Ko te Kupu a te Ariki

Thanks be to God / Whakamoemiti ki te Atua

Psalm 85

Response:

**Lord, show us your mercy and love
and grant us your salvation.**

(or another suitable response known by the children)

(Second Reading not included this week)

D G Bm A D G Asus⁴ A


 General: Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Fill us O Lord with your word.____

Bm G D A G A D


 Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Your word is life for our souls.

Gospel: Matthew 14:22-33

Minister of the Word: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

Children: **Glory to you, O Lord / Korōria ki ā koe, e te Ariki**

At the end of the Gospel: The Gospel of the Lord

Children: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ / Kia whakanuia rā koe, e te Ariki, e Hēhu Karaiti.**

REFLECTING ON THE READINGS WITH THE CHILDREN – Whai Whakaaro

8-12 year olds: Suggested Beginning: A good place to begin is with the question: What did you hear? Allow each child the opportunity to respond in their own words to hearing the Word of God. Then begin a general discussion, building on these responses, perhaps using some prepared questions, like the following, to stimulate ideas.

- *Have you ever played the game where you close your eyes and allow yourself to fall back into someone's arms to catch you?*
- *Who would you choose to play this game with? (someone you trust – parent, teacher friend etc)*
- *When do you turn to these people?*
- *In the Gospel the disciples are feeling very afraid. What made them feel like that? What things make you afraid?*
- *Did the disciples trust Jesus? How do you know?*
- *What did Peter do when Jesus called to him to trust him?*



- *Why do you think only Peter got out of the boat and started to walk towards him? Do you think he was brave?*
- *Why did he start to sink? (he began to think about the wind and let his fear take his mind off Jesus)*
- *What did Jesus do when Peter called out to be saved?*
- *What does this story tell us about Jesus?*

5-7 year olds: Adapt some of the questions in the 8-12 material and then join with the older group for the 'Liturgical Action'

LITURGICAL ACTION – Ko te Ritenga Karakia

Use the bowl of water in prayer today...

*Talk about how God's word at creation drew order out the water chaos,
and Jesus' word calmed the storm.*

*With a sprig of greenery, sprinkle some of the water
over the children with the words
"Don't be afraid".*

*Teach the children to make the sign of the cross as
the drops of water touch them.*



PROFESSION OF FAITH – Panui o te Whakapono

We believe in God the Father,
who made the whole world.
We believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God,
who was born in Bethlehem
and lived among us,
who died on the cross for us,
and rose from the dead.
We believe in the Holy Spirit
who brings life and love to us all.
We believe that the Church is one family,
and that one day
we will share everlasting life
with God in heaven.
Amen.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL – *Te Īnoinga o te Hunga Whakapono*

(Here are some suggested intercessions; you are encouraged to compose your own according to the age and experience of the children)

Leader: Just as Peter was able to call out to Jesus for help when he was sinking, so can we bring all our needs to God with confidence:

- That the Church be a place of comfort for all those who are afraid
Let us pray to the Lord R Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- That we learn to be bold and courageous as we do what Jesus tells us
Let us pray to the Lord R Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For the courage to believe all things are possible when we have our eyes on Jesus
Let us pray to the Lord R Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For the gift of faith and comfort for all those who feel like they are in the middle of a storm
Let us pray to the Lord R Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

Leader: Saving God, you reach your hand to us when we call for help. Hear these prayers that we bring to you through Jesus Christ your Son

All: Amen

The children rejoin the assembly before the prayers over the gifts.

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Liquid Picture

Matthew 14:22-33

Walking on water

Note to leaders: The following **liquid picture** is appropriate to use with children of any age but especially suitable for **younger children**.

How to do liquid pictures:

Liquid Pictures is a form of drama which allows a story to be presented in a flowing or liquid manner. The process follows this pattern:

- Divide the story or Scriptural passage into five or six main statements.
- Accompany each statement with a simple action that can be held in a freeze frame position.
- Choose one child to say each statement and do a simple action. These children form a straight line facing the audience.
- A leader introduces the story.
- The first child steps forward, repeats the statement two or three times (once is not enough for children to remember!) then freezes.
- The second child steps forward, repeats the statement and freezes.
- The process continues until the last child finishes.
- The leader concludes with a simple statement.

Leader: Jesus asked his disciples to get into the boat and go to the other side of the lake. They went alone: ...

Swirling wind, danger !

Look out, a ghost ! danger !

Be not afraid. Relax !

Peace, calm, stillness..

Trust me and trust yourself ?

I am coming Jesus !



Leader: Jesus call us to trust him and to trust ourselves as we jump out of the boat to follow him..

From 'Just Imagine, Creative ways of presenting Scripture' written by Rina Wintour, Mountjoy Enterprises, www.mountjoyenterprises.com.au. Available from the Liturgy Centre.