

Exploring the Gospel

A Religious Education Resource for Parishes

2/7/17

'Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.' (Matthew 10:40-42, NRSV).

Notes for Catechists

The closing remarks of Jesus' sending-out sermon are remarkably positive and hopeful. This is in sharp contrast to much that precedes them. Rejection, persecution, and division dominate this preparation speech. *Jesus seems intent on sending disciples with open eyes!*

Following these dire warnings, however, is the above passage on welcome. The followers of Jesus are to expect opposition to be sure. They can also expect to encounter those who are open to the gospel and hospitable to those who bring it. *Being sent on mission is not all bad news!*

Given all that precedes our passage, this is remarkable indeed. Opposition will be rife, but there are still people waiting to eagerly embrace the message of the coming kingdom. *Even with turmoil surrounding the gospel its bearers are to expect to meet people willing to – through these messengers – welcome God!*

These are brave and godly souls. Imagine the disciples pairing up with a sense of expectation.

They will go with no 'gold, silver, or copper' but with the knowledge that they will meet households 'worthy' of their coming. Jesus opened his discourse with these generous promises. He now closes with the same. They form bookends of encouragement.

There will be people who welcome, and respond to, the apostle's message. Some will see the 'prophet' in their actions and others their 'righteousness'. Some may even simply express their gratitude and pleasure with – 'a cup of cold water'. *In each case God will express divine pleasure with a heavenly reward.*

May our mission be characterised and motivated by Jesus' positive expectation of such heavenly fruit.

-M Beresford

- What does Mission mean to you?
- How does Mission feature in your ministry?
- How can we show hospitality, put people at ease in our ministry and beyond?

Catechist Reflection....

Servanthood Means Involvement

an extract from **Jesus Now**

by Leslie F Brandt



Discipleship

IntoThyWord



"Kia inu kau ahau,
If I could just drink"

Te Pu Akonga Whakapono Katorika ki Tamaki

Religious Education Team

Catholic Diocese of Auckland

www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/religious-education

Suggested Approach with Children

2/7/17

Aim to help the children in their response to Jesus' call to be welcoming to others.

Feeling into....

Invite the children to reflect on the word...WELCOME

- *What does it mean to you?*
- *What does it mean to welcome someone?*
- *How do you welcome your friends?*
- *How do you welcome a stranger?*
e.g. a new child in your class
- *Have people welcomed you? How?*
- *Do you know what Jesus looks like?*
- *What do you know about Jesus?*

IMAGINE

if you met Jesus today!
If he suddenly turned up at your place and knocked on the door, or rang the bell...

Well, Jesus wants us to treat everyone the same way we treat him

- What would **you** say or do to welcome him?

Meeting with....

Jesus welcomed everyone. It didn't matter how tired or busy he was. He was always ready to be friendly and share time with them.

Listen

to what he says about welcoming and being welcomed.

Read

Matthew 10: 40-42

(**CATECHIST please note** we are reading the abridged Gospel of the day)

Prayer....

Lord Jesus,
help us to love and care for everyone, by remembering that each person we meet has the spirit of God living inside them.
Help us to welcome others knowing that we are really welcoming you.

Amen.



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A reading from the Gospel of Matthew.....

2/7/17

adapted for children

Jesus said to his apostles:

*"Any one who makes you feel welcome
In their homes, is welcoming me, for I am
with you always.*

*Anyone who treats you kindly and shares
their food and drink with you, is sharing
their goodness with me and my
Father who sent me.*

*However small or great their act of kindness,
they will be rewarded for their goodness."*



Responding to....

Jesus always has time to spend with others, even when he was really tired or busy.

- Do you remember the story about the disciples who tried to stop the little children from seeing Jesus?
He welcomed them with open arms and spent time with them
- What happened?
He welcomed them with open arms and spent time with them
- What message does Jess have for us today?

At our Baptism we all received the gift of God's Spirit. Because of this gift, each one of us and every person we meet has the light of Christ burning inside them. So we should treat everybody just the way we would treat Christ.

Jesus tells us that when we do something for another out of kindness and love, we are actually doing it for him.

- Is it always easy to be kind and welcoming?

No, but we can work harder to make it so.

- *How can you be kind, loving and welcoming this week at home, school and at play?*
- *How can you be kind, loving and welcoming this week to those whom you may find a little difficult?*



Catechist Reflection....

Servanthood Means Involvement

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God came to us through
Jesus Christ.
It was in this manner
that he became involved
in our pain and our needs.
Because of that involvement
He found us and redeemed us.....
drawing us to Himself and
His kingdom.
This involvement continues
in our world through those
who follow Christ.
Jesus has set the pace;
he expects His disciples
to keep it.
We are to become involved in
humankinds needs,
to become identified with people
in their sorrows and joys.
We do this as servants of Jesus
we represent Him.

Infilled with His love,
we are to reflect that
love and concern to others.
It isn't enough to condemn
the distortions of humanity
from pulpits and pews,
homes and workplaces;
we are elected to become involved
in the hurts and sufferings,
the oppression and deprivation
of all God's creatures
on Main Street or the marketplace,
in suburb, town, villages and cities,
wherever they may be found.
Because we are already involved
in the sickness of this world,
we must, if we follow Jesus,
now become involved in its cure.

This will not be convenient
or comfortable.
It might even be dangerous.
We may have to risk
reputations,
wealth,
status,
In this involvement.

Following Jesus, however,
requires this kind
of involvement.
As he suffered on our behalf,
we are expected to suffer
on behalf of others
for His sake,
to lose our lives in service to them
only to find them anew
In the comparable joy of being
the sons and daughters
of the living God and his
loyal disciples
and followers.

Jesus once said to His disciples...
*"As the Father has sent me,
even so I send you"*
And this, is what he is saying to us also.

For personal/group discussion....

Infilled with His love, we are to reflect that
love and concern to others. It isn't enough
to condemn the distortions of humanity
from pulpits and pews, homes and
workplaces; we are elected to become
Involved in the hurts and sufferings,
the oppression and deprivation of all God's
creatures on Main Street or the marketplace,
in suburb, town, villages and cities, wherever
they may be found.

Because we are already involved
in the sickness of this world, we must,
if we follow Jesus, now become involved
in its cure.

- What are the sicknesses of our world, city, communities....?
- How can we, each in our own way and as community of disciples address these "sicknesses"?

My/our prayer today is.....

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Jesus wants us to
WELCOME
everyone as we
WELCOME him!

**TICK the things we can
do to welcome someone**

Lord Jesus,
help us to love and care for
everyone, by remembering
that each person we meet
has the spirit of God living
inside them.

Help us to welcome others
knowing that we are really
welcoming you. AMEN.

When we **WELCOME**
Jesus, who else do we
WELCOME?

**COLOUR the letters
with a Dot to find out**



Jesus wants us to
WELCOME
everyone as we
Would **WELCOME**
him!

Do **YOU** remember
what Jesus said?

DISCOVER the answer
by **FOLLOWING** the
instructions

When we **WELCOME**
Jesus, who else do we
WELCOME?

COLOUR the letters
with a Dot to find out

Lord Jesus,
help us to love and care for
everyone, by remembering
that each person we meet
has the spirit of God living
inside them.
Help us to welcome others
knowing that we are really
welcoming you. AMEN.

