



Liturgy of the Word with Children

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

1st Sunday of Lent - Year C

Violet

'The temptations of Jesus'

Deuteronomy 26:4-10 Psalm 91 Luke 4:1-13



Jesus went into the desert to think and to be close to God. Did he find it easy in the desert? Jesus showed us the importance of spending time reflecting on the things in our lives and drawing closer to God through prayer. We use these forty days of Lent to do this too. It is an opportunity for us to do something for God to show our love and how sorry we are for the mistakes that we make.

It gives us the chance to have a fresh start.

Leader's Preparation

In preparation for leading this celebration begin by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures for the First Sunday of Lent, 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

Luke 4:1-13

When Jesus returned from the Jordan River, the power of the Holy Spirit was with him, and the Spirit led him into the desert. For forty days Jesus was tested by the devil, and during that time he went without eating. When it was all over, he was hungry. The devil said to Jesus, "If you are God's Son, tell this stone to turn into bread." Jesus answered, "The Scriptures say, 'No one can live only on food.'"

Then the devil led Jesus up to a high place and quickly showed him all the nations on earth. The devil said, "I will give all this power and glory to you. It has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. Just worship me, and you can have it all." Jesus answered, "The Scriptures say: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve only him!'"

Finally, the devil took Jesus to Jerusalem and had him stand on top of the temple. The devil said, "If you are God's Son, jump off. The Scriptures say: 'God will tell his angels to take care of you.

They will catch you in their arms, and you will not hurt your feet on the stones.” Jesus answered, “The Scriptures also say, ‘Don’t try to test the Lord your God!’”
After the devil had finished testing Jesus in every way possible, he left him for a while.

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 26:4-10

Moses said to the people: “The priest will take the baskets of grain from your hands and put them in front of the altar of the Lord your God. And there, in the presence of the Lord your God, you must say,

‘My ancestor was merely as homeless Aramean, who went to live in Egypt. Although his family was small, they became great and powerful, a nation of many people.

‘The Egyptians showed no pity! They oppressed our people and were very cruel to us. Then we called out for help to you, the Lord God of our ancestors. You heard our cries and knew that we were in trouble, distressed and oppressed.

‘You reached out your mighty arm and rescued us from Egypt. You did fearsome things, and you worked miracles and all kinds of wonders.

‘You brought us here and gave us this land rich in milk and honey. Now, Lord, I bring to you the best part of the crops that you have given to me.’ “Leave your baskets there in the presence of the Lord your God and bow down to worship him.”

PSALM

Psalm 91

Response: Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble

Live under the protection of God Most High and stay in the shadow of God All-Powerful.

Then you will say to the Lord, “You are my fortress, my place of safety; you are my God, and I trust you.” **R**

No terrible disasters will strike you or your home.

God will command his angels to protect you wherever you go. **R**

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

The reading from Deuteronomy indicates that the profession of faith was part of the Israelite celebration of the First Fruits, which acknowledged God's provision of the land and harvest. This celebration involved the action of offering the basket, and words which recounted God's saving acts. Today's Gospel speaks of a period of forty days that Jesus spent in the desert fasting and praying. Forty is a significant number in the Bible. It denotes an extended period, such as the duration of Noah's flood, the number of years the Israelites wandered in the wilderness, and the preparation fasting time of both Elijah and Moses before encountering God. In Scripture, the desert or wilderness is a place of great deprivation and hardship. It is filled with danger – wild animals, bandits, outcasts from society and even demons. Yet it was the Spirit which led Jesus there. The temptations challenge Jesus to prove his divine sonship. Jesus counters each episode with a reference to Scripture. Unlike the Israelites, Jesus remains faithful and the devil departs for a time.

Images from the Readings

- *I bring you the best part*
- *I trust you*
- *The power of the Holy Spirit was with him*
- *No one can live only on food*
- *The Scriptures say*

Reflection for Leaders

Lent, traditionally a time of fasting, prayer and giving, also runs for forty days. It is a special time of preparation, when we are invited to really examine our lives in detail. Our 'desert experiences' often lead us to a new faith experience and a new understanding of God.

Which of the temptations of Jesus would you personally find most challenging? What are the great temptations in your life? In what ways have you been 'led by the Spirit' through the wilderness?

Spend some time this week contemplating the difficult periods of your life, and how they lead you to new understandings of yourself, others and God.

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: Violet cloth, Lectionary, a candle, a pair of sandals, a stone and a bun.



LEADER'S LITURGY OUTLINE

1st Sunday of Lent - Year C

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 I invite the children to join in the procession for their 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, during the six weeks of Lent, help us to be strong even when we find it most difficult.

R Amen.

First Reading: Deuteronomy 26:4-10

(if used)

The Word of the Lord / Ko te Kupu a te Ariki
Thanks be to God / Whakamoemiti ki te Atua

Psalm 91

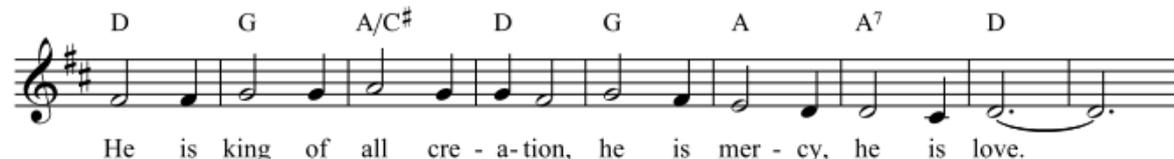
Response: Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble
(or another suitable response known by the children)

D G A D Bm A D A



Praise the God of all com-pas-sion, Lord of hea-ven, Lord of earth.

D G A/C# D G A A7 D



He is king of all cre-a-tion, he is mer-cy, he is love.

Gospel: Mark 1:12-15

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

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 Whakāaro

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.*

- Does anyone know what this time of the Church's year is called? (Lent).
It is the time that we are given an opportunity to look hard at our lives, work out what is really important to us and make a fresh start.
- Why do you think Jesus went into the desert? (to spend time with God in prayer)
- While he was there what happened to him? (the devil tested him)
- How was Jesus able to resist the things that the devil was offering him? (He believed and trusted in God)
- Can you think of any times when you felt as though you were being tested to choose the wrong things? Is it wrong to feel tempted by them? (No – temptations themselves are not wrong. As humans we all experience these from time to time. They are just invitations to make the wrong choices.)
- What happens if we do choose the wrong thing? (We can turn back to God and show how sorry we are for the mistakes that we make)

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

Invite the children to close their eyes as they think about the difficult things in their lives. Ask them to make this prayer their own:

Be with me, Lord, when I have to make choices.
Help me to remember God's great love for me
so that I may choose what is good.

GOD'S LOVE LASTS FOREVER



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: With hearts full of hope let us pray to God for all our needs:

- For the Church, that all will find a deeper faith and trust in God. Let us pray to the Lord
R. Lord hear our prayer or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- That we will turn to God more often in prayer as we begin our journey through Lent this year. Let us pray to the Lord
R. Lord hear our prayer or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- That the people of our country will have the strength to do what is right. Let us pray to the Lord
R. Lord hear our prayer or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For ourselves and our families, that we will know what is important in life. Let us pray to the Lord
R. Lord hear our prayer or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

Leader: God of mercy and love, we are your children. Bless and protect us and those for whom we pray, through Jesus Christ our Lord

All: Amen

The children re-join the assembly before the prayers over the gifts.



Prayer
Fasting
Giving

40
Days

1st Sunday of Lent, Year C

Chorus play

Luke 4:1-13

The temptations of Jesus

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

People required: *Narrator, Jesus, Evil One ...*

Narrator: One day, God led Jesus into the desert where he was tempted by the Evil One.

Chorus: **Why?**

Narrator: Jesus had just been baptised by John.

Chorus: **In the river?**

Narrator: In the river Jordan. He felt special, he felt holy.

Chorus: **He felt special and oh so holy!**

Narrator: The Evil one wanted to see just how holy and special he (Jesus) was.

Chorus: **So he put the hard word on Jesus?**

Narrator: He tried to tempt Jesus who was, by this stage, very hungry.

Chorus: **VERY hungry after not eating for forty days!**

Narrator: It wasn't really 40 days of no food. In the Bible, the number 40 means "a long time".

Chorus: **A very long time to be hungry.**

Narrator: The Evil One came to Jesus and said:

Evil One: If you are really God's Son, get yourself some food. Here, turn these old stones into bread. God on, you can do it. Go on, there's no point in starving. Do it the easy way, go on.

Chorus: **Did Jesus take the easy option? Did he give in? He was pretty hungry.**

Narrator: Jesus did not give in but said to the Evil One:

Jesus: People need more than food to live. God is more important than food.

Chorus: **Did the Evil One go away then?**

Narrator: The Evil One never gives up that easily. He took Jesus to a high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms in the world.

Chorus: **Wow! What a sight!**

Evil One: I will give you everything you can see, Jesus. All you have to do is to bow down and worship me. Show me that I am the most important thing in your life.

Chorus: **I bet that upset Jesus.**

Jesus: God away Evil One. You are NOT the most important thing in my life and I will not worship you. You are false, you are an idol. I will not worship you. I only worship God.

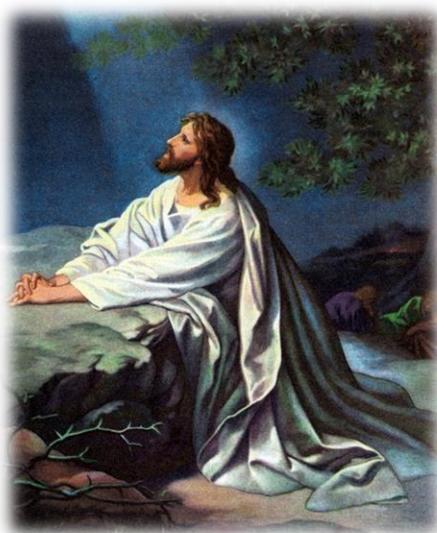
Chorus: **Then did the Evil One get the message and leave Jesus alone?**

Narrator: No, next he took Jesus to the holy city of Jerusalem. He took him to a high point of the temple and said:

Evil One: This is your last chance to prove you really are God's Son and not a fake. Throw yourself over the edge and let God save you.

Jesus: I don't have anything to prove to you. Go away. You should not tempt me to use my power in the wrong way. My power was given to me to serve others, not to make me look great. Now GO AWAY.

Narrator: Finally, the Evil One got the hint and left Jesus in peace.



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