



Liturgy of the Word with Children

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

'Will you follow Jesus?'

Green

1 Kings 19:16b, 19-21 Psalm 16 Galatians 5:1, 13-15 Luke 9:57-62



Has anyone ever promised that they will come with you and then they have gone and done something else instead? How did that make you feel? Jesus wants to share his love and his message with anyone who makes him welcome. He knew that he would need help to take this message of God's love to people throughout the world, and he needed people who would be reliable. Jesus doesn't punish anyone who does not receive him, but he

wants them to know exactly what he is asking of them. When people say they wish to follow him, he wants them to do it with their whole hearts and not look back. What is Jesus saying to us today about the place that he holds in our lives?

Leader's Preparation

In preparation for leading this celebration, begin by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures for the Thirteenth 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

Luke 9:57-62

Along the way to Jerusalem someone said to Jesus, "I'll go anywhere with you!"

Jesus said, "Foxes have dens, and birds have nests, but the Son of Man doesn't have a place to call his own."

Jesus told someone else to come with him. But the man said, "Lord, let me wait until I bury my father."

Jesus answered, "Let the dead take care of the dead, while you go and tell about God's kingdom."

Then someone said to Jesus, "I want to go with you, Lord, but first let me go back and take care of things at home."

Jesus answered, "Anyone who starts ploughing and keeps looking back isn't worth a thing in God's kingdom!"

FIRST READING

1 Kings 19:16, 19-21

God told Elijah the prophet: "Choose Elisha, the son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah, to take your place as a prophet."

Elijah left and found Elisha ploughing in a field with a pair of oxen. There were eleven other men in front of him in the field, and each of them was also ploughing with a pair of oxen. Elijah went over to Elisha and put his robe on him. Elisha left his oxen and ran after Elijah. Then he said, "Let me go and tell my father and mother good-bye, and I will go with you." Elijah answered, "Go back! Did I tell you to do this?"

Elisha left him and went back. He killed his two oxen and boiled them by making a fire with the wood from the plough and the yoke. He gave the meat to the people, and they ate it. Then he left with Elijah and became his servant.

PSALM

Psalm 16

Response: **You are my inheritance, O Lord**
 or Alleluia!

Protect me, Lord God! I run to you for safety, and I have said,
"Only you are my Lord!" You, Lord are all I want!
You are my choice, and you keep me safe. **R**

I praise you, Lord, for being my guide.
Even in the darkest night, your teachings fill my mind.
I will always look to you, as you stand beside me and protect me from fear. **R**

You have shown me the path to life,
and you make me glad by being near to me.
Sitting at your right side, I will always be joyful. **R**

SECOND READING

Galatians 5:1, 13-15

Brothers and sisters: Christ has set us free! This means we are really free. Now hold on to your freedom and don't ever become slaves of the Law again.

My friends, you were chosen to be free. So don't use your freedom as an excuse to do anything you want. Use it as an opportunity to serve each other with love. All that the Law says can be summed up in the command to love others as much as you love yourself. But if you keep attacking each other like wild animals, you had better watch out or you will destroy yourselves.

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

Elisha's rapid response to the call that Elijah made on him gives us the pattern of the desired response to God's call to discipleship in any age. The implication for Elisha to the call as a prophet commissioned by God, is to make a radical break from his past. Paul addresses the freedom brought by Christ as an opportunity to be servants to one another in love. Christianity does not exchange one form of bondage for another – the invitation is to be guided by the Spirit in order to be freed from the demands of the law. In the Gospel today Jesus is journeying to Jerusalem. On the way he meets people, teaches and preaches. All the while he is forming his disciples. The journey will culminate in the cross for Jesus. Jesus wants willing disciples, and the three brief exchanges in the Gospel today point out the demands of discipleship: it will not necessarily be comfortable; it has a sense of urgency; and it demands wholeheartedness. Jesus is not demanding us to leave all our responsibilities and obligations but does demand that we prioritise them behind Christ himself.

Images from the Readings

- *Wholehearted response to the call from God*
- *Christ has set us free*
- *Use your freedom to serve*
- *Simple lifestyle*
- *Worth in God's kingdom*

Reflection for Leaders

There is a cost to discipleship for each person, but just as the resurrection followed for Jesus, out of our crosses flows life for us as well. Jesus waits for our free response to him. There is no compulsion in our call – always it is an invitation. We need to explore our excuses and hesitations honestly. What are some of the difficulties you have encountered in your Christian journey? Often we need to let go of the old in order to be free to move on with the new things that we are called to. What are the things that you have needed to let go of in order to move on with Jesus? What are the things that make you want to delay commitment today? What kinds of things have you been committed to in your life? How do you prioritise the calls on your life? Commitment is a difficult concept for many in our world today. Why is this? What can you do this week to reassess the priorities and commitments you have made, let go what is past and reaffirm the ones that are important?

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

Green cloth, Lectionary, candle.



LEADER'S LITURGY OUTLINE

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, 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, help us to listen to your message of love and peace which Jesus brought to share with us. May we be people of commitment and faithfulness.

R Amen.

First Reading: 1 Kings 19:16, 19-21

(if used)

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

Psalms 16

Response:

You are my inheritance, O Lord

or

Alleluia

Second Reading: Galatians 5:1, 13-15

(if used)

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

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: Luke 9:57-62

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 Whakaaro

8-12 year olds:

Suggested Beginning: A good place to begin is with the question: What did you hear? Allow children the opportunity to respond in their own words to hearing the Word of God. When each has had an opportunity to speak you might begin general discussion by building on to their responses. Help the children to focus on the “feelings” in this particular Gospel reading by using some prepared questions like the following:

- Have you ever had someone say they were going to do something and then not done it? How did that feel?
- They may have intended to do it, but sometimes other things happen to side-track us.
- Many people wanted to follow Jesus because it was exciting to see people being healed, and watching the crowds gather round wherever he went. But Jesus wanted people to be very serious about being his followers. Some of the people in the Gospel today wanted to take care of things at home. What sort of things do you think they had to do there?
- Were they putting God’s work first?
- Was Jesus angry with them? How did he react?

- How do we know what things are most important to people, even when they say otherwise?
- Sometimes we have to make choices about God. How can we put God's work first in our own lives - at home, at school, with our friends?

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



Sing 'I say "Yes", My Lord' (As One Voice 155, Gather Australia 445)

An MP3 of this song is available for download (\$AU2.20) from www.willowpublishing.com.au Type the song title into the 'search' box.

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: Strengthened and encouraged by God's word, we turn to God for all we need:

- That the leaders of our Church be faithful to the teaching of Jesus ...
... Let us pray to the Lord
R **Lord hear our prayer** or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- That we may be strong in our commitment to be true disciples, and make it our first priority ... 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 respond to the challenge Jesus calls us to each day ...
Let us pray to the Lord
R **Lord hear our prayer** or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For all the sick, the lonely and the rejected in our community ...
Let us pray to the Lord
R **Lord hear our prayer** or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

Leader: Faithful God, you sent Jesus to be the way, the truth and the life.
Help us to follow him in all that we do, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen**

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

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

Chorus Play

Luke 9:57-62

The cost of discipleship

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

People required: Chorus, Jesus, Leader.

Chorus: What must we do, Jesus? What must we do to be real disciples?

Jesus: Foxes and birds have a place to rest, but I do not.

Reader: Don't worry about where you live or how many things you own.
Just follow Jesus.

Chorus: Just follow Jesus.

Reader: My father is dead! I need to look after my family.

Jesus: Your job is to tell everyone about God's Kingdom.

Chorus: Just follow Jesus.

Reader: I have things at home for which I am responsible.

Jesus: Your responsibility is to preach the good News to all the world.

Chorus: Just follow Jesus.



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