



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 C

'Be Ready'

Green

Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-12 Psalm 143 Luke 12:35-40



Have you ever had a thief break into your house? We can't really stay at home always to make sure that no-one breaks in, so what things do we do to prevent thieves from getting in to our homes when we are asleep or out? Jesus is preparing his disciples to be on the alert and watchful for when he was to come again. He was trusting them to carry out his orders while he was away. They were to live their lives as he had shown them and be prepared at all times. Jesus tells us that God will

reward all those who are faithful and trustworthy in their service, even if it is hard to do.

Who are the people who are to be faithful today?



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

Luke 12:35-40

Jesus said to his disciples:

"Be ready and keep your lamps burning just like those servants who wait up for their master to return from a wedding feast. As soon as he comes and knocks, they open the door for him.

"Servants are fortunate if their master finds them awake and ready when he come! I promise you that he will get ready and have his servants sit down so he can serve them. Those servants are really fortunate if their master finds them ready, even though he comes late at night or early in the morning.

"You would surely not let a thief break into your home, if you knew when the thief was coming. So always be ready! You don't know when the Son of Man will come."

Brothers and sisters:

Faith makes us sure of what we hope for and gives us proof of what we cannot see. It was their faith that made our ancestors pleasing to God.

Abraham had faith and obeyed God. He was told to go to the land that God had said would be his, and he left for a country he had never seen.

Because Abraham had faith, he lived as a stranger in the promised land. There he lived in a tent, and so did Isaac and Jacob, who were later given the same promise.

Abraham did this, because he was waiting for the eternal city that God had planned and built.

Even when Sarah was too old to have children, she had faith that God would do what he had promised, and she had a son.

Her husband Abraham was almost dead, but he became the ancestor of many people. In fact, there are as many of them as there are stars in the sky or grains of sand along the beach.

PSALM

Psalm 143

Response: **O Lord, hear my prayer**

Listen, Lord, as I pray!

You are faithful and honest, and will answer my prayer. **R**

Each morning let me learn more about your love because I trust you.

I come to you in prayer, asking for your guidance. **R**

You are my God. Show me what you want me to do,
and let your gentle Spirit lead me in the right path. **R**

Background to the Readings for Leaders

The tradition about the faith of Abraham is used as the illustration in the first reading, that faith is about an openness of mind to God's promises. Jesus, in the Gospel, is teaching his disciples about watchfulness. Instructing them to light their lamps implies that they need to be watchful even into the night in anticipation of the return of the master. Just like today, Roman custom reckoned a day to be from midnight to midnight. The nights were divided into four watches. Jewish custom measured a day from sunset to sunset, with the night divided into three watches. At a Jewish wedding, the groom goes in procession to the home of the bride, where the wedding takes place and a feast is held. After this celebration the groom brings his bride back to his own home to begin their life together. The introduction of the wedding feast is a favourite image of the end-time. The reference to guarding a house against thieves is a second, unconnected example of the need for constant vigilance, although he does not specify the reason for this.

Images from the Readings

- *Be ready*
- *Keep your lamps burning*
- *Proof of what we cannot see*
- *Faith made them pleasing to God*
- *I trust you*

Reflection for Leaders

Jesus always promised that he would return at the end of the age, and the exhortation is for us to be ready because none of us knows when that will be. However, while we are waiting we are called upon to live lives of discipleship and faithful stewardship. It is our responsibility to respond to the demands that Jesus makes of us – to live simply and with integrity, detached from possessions, to be alert and ready, attentive to whatever the Master wants of us. Can you recall an incidence when you were totally unprepared? What was the situation? How did you handle it? What happened?

In what specific ways can you make yourself ready for the Lord? Do you know what the Master wants but find it difficult to carry out? Spend time each day this week reflecting on how well you have lived out the Gospel call. Pray for openness to God and the courage to respond to God's call.

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

(An unlit tea light candle for each child – optional)



LEADER'S LITURGY OUTLINE

Nineteenth 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, you sent your Son Jesus to show us how to live. Help us to carry on the work that you have trusted to us.

R Amen.

First Reading: *Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-12*

(if used)

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

Psalm 143

Response:

O Lord, hear my prayer

or

Alleluia

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 12:35-40

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 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.

- Do you think Jesus really wants us to stay awake all night to make sure that thieves don't break into our houses? (*Take care not to make the children overly anxious about intruders*)
- What are the things that we use to keep burglars and thieves out of our homes? (locks, burglar alarms, window-stays, etc)
- So what is Jesus trying to tell his disciples in this Gospel story? (that as followers of Jesus we should always be prepared, and live our lives the way that he showed us)
- Why? (because this will help us to be ready for anything that Jesus asks of us, especially when we are faced with really difficult decisions. Also God will reward those who are faithful and trustworthy in their service)
- Who are the people that Jesus is trusting to be faithful to his work today?
- How do you think we can do this?

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



Have the children come forward and light their tea-light candle from the processional candle and place it on the focus table as you read the first part of the Gospel again:

“Be ready and keep your lamps burning”.

The above action may not be suitable for larger groups of children.

Together pray:

“Dear Jesus, help me always to be ready for you. Amen”

or you might like to sing a song about light, such as:

“This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine”



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: As God's children, we gather to share the good news of Jesus Christ. We now bring our prayers to our faithful God:

- That the leaders of our Church always are faithful to the work trusted to them by Jesus
... Let us pray to the Lord
R **Lord hear our prayer** or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- That we develop a greater faith and trust in God when we are undergoing times of trouble
... 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 alert and prepared at all times, ready to respond to God's call
... Let us pray to the Lord
R **Lord hear our prayer** or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For those who are sick and lonely 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: God of all blessings, hear these prayers we make through Our Lord Jesus Christ

All: **Amen**

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



Come Lord Jesus