



# Liturgy of the Word with Children

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

## Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

*'Choosing to follow Jesus'*

*Green*

Wisdom 9:16c-18 Psalm 90 Luke 14:25-27



*Jesus knows that it is not easy being a follower of his, and to live as he wants us to. There is a cost involved. Jesus wants us to think carefully about what is expected of us if we are to be his disciples. We have to love him totally and be really committed to living the way he has taught us – to love one another, to be forgiving and kind. Why do we want to be Jesus' followers when it can be such a difficult thing for us to do?*

*This is the place where we belong to God and can find true happiness and peace. The benefits make all the cost worthwhile.*

### *Leader's Preparation*

*In preparation for leading this celebration, begin by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures for the Twenty Third 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 14:25-27

Large crowds were walking along with Jesus, when he turned and said:

“You cannot be my disciple unless you love me more than you love your father and mother, your wife and children, and your brothers and sisters. You cannot come with me unless you love me more than you love your own life.

“You cannot be my disciple unless you carry your own cross and come with me.”

No one really knows what is in the heavens. And, Lord, we cannot know what you have planned, unless you send down Wisdom and your Holy Spirit.  
Wisdom makes straight paths for those who live on earth. She teaches us what pleases you, and by Wisdom we are saved.

**PSALM**

Psalm 90

Response: **In every age, O Lord, You have been our refuge**

Our Lord, teach us to use wisely all the time we have.  
Help us, Lord! Don't wait! Pity your servants. **R**

When morning comes, let your love satisfy all our needs.  
Our Lord and our God, treat us with kindness and let all go well for us.  
Please let all go well! **R**

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

The rhetorical question posed in the first reading invites us to acknowledge that of course no one can know God's mind and intentions. We are called to realise our human limitations. We must prioritise and make choices about the opportunities that come our way. Jesus uses the strong figurative language of Aramaic to explain to the disciples, and the crowd, the cost of following him. He invites all those who choose to be his followers to put him first, even if it means upsetting family members and friends. Discipleship may be demanding but it is not impossible, for we are given grace to sustain us and community to support our efforts. If we make the right choices and have the courage to put our lives on the line for them, then God promises us enriched lives. This call for single-hearted commitment and intimacy eventually led to the development within the church of orders of religious men and women who renounce possessions and choose not to marry.

## *Images from the Readings*

- *Large crowds accompanied Jesus*
- *Love me more than your own life*
- *Cost of discipleship*
- *Knowing God's plans*
- *Wisdom makes straight paths*

## *Reflection for Leaders*

Jesus' call to the crowd to a greater commitment to discipleship must reach out to envelop us today as well. The choices that today's readings call us to make seem harsh and extreme, but often it is our attitude which needs to be right. There is always a cost of discipleship, and the concept of commitment seems difficult for many people today. Most people, however have had an experience of making a great sacrifice out of love for someone else at some point in their lives. Choosing to follow Jesus can often cost us some difficulties in our family and social lives. If this is so, how have you dealt with this? Is there anything that is holding you back from a more wholehearted response? While most of us are not called to renounce all our worldly goods, we are expected to hold lightly onto our possessions. Reflect on which of your possessions mean the most to you, and for what would you relinquish them? Do you find it hard to admit that what you have in excess rightly belongs to those who have nothing? What can you do this week to share some of your abundance with someone in need?

## *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, a crucifix and a cross shape for each child to write on (see page 8 of this resource).*



# LEADER'S LITURGY OUTLINE

## Twenty Third 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 are patient with us when we struggle to live your way. Give us the strength we need to always put you first.

**R** Amen.

*First Reading: Wisdom 9:16-18*

(if used)

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

*Psalms 90*

**Response:** In every age, O Lord, You have been our refuge

or Alleluia

D G Bm A D G Asus<sup>4</sup> 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 14:25-27*

**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.

- Is it easy to learn new things, like how to ride a bike or swim?
- What do you have to do? (Keep practicing, keep trying). How long did it take?
- If something is really easy to do or to get, do you think we value it as much?
- Jesus is telling us today that we are going to have to work hard to be his followers as well. Most of the time we can't do what he has asked of us. What do you think is the hardest thing?
- Can you think of any ways that you have found following Jesus difficult? (maybe giving up sport to go to Church)
- When it gets really hard, what do you think we can do? (pray, help each other, share)

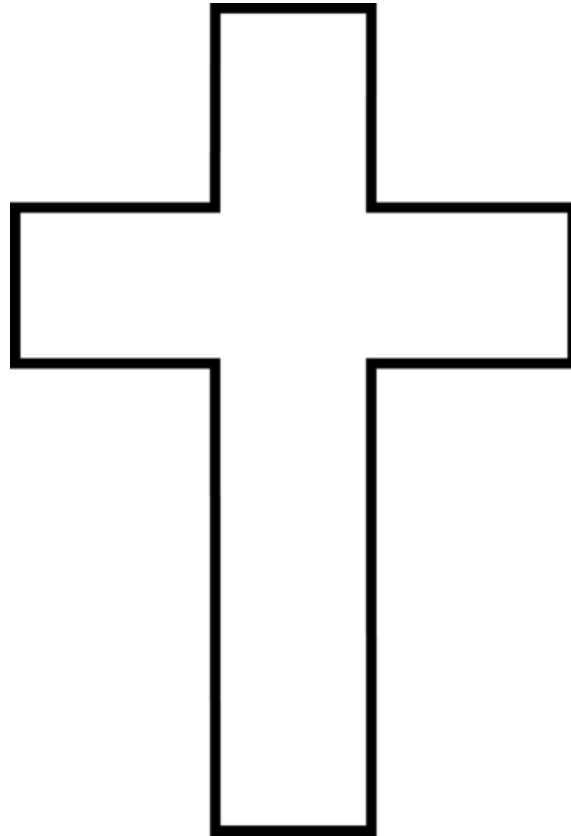
**5-7 year olds:** Adapt some of the questions in the 8-12 material and then join with the older group for the 'Liturgical Action'



## *LITURGICAL ACTION – Ko te Ritenga Karakia*

*Practice making the sign of the cross.*

*Explain to the children that the cross is the most common visual symbol of Christianity. Using the small cross shapes, ask the children to write their names on and place them under the crucifix at the prayer focus, as a sign of their willingness to follow Jesus even when it is hard to do.*



## *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:** We have listened to God's Word. Let us now bring our needs to God with faith and trust:

- That our Church leaders will remain true disciples ... 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 make a deeper commitment to follow Jesus even when it is difficult for us. Let us pray to the Lord  
R **Lord hear our prayer** or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For a spirit of generosity in sharing what we have with those who are in need ...  
Let us pray to the Lord  
R **Lord hear our prayer** or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For our families, our schools and our faith community, that they be strengthened to support all who belong to them ...Let us pray to the Lord  
R **Lord hear our prayer** or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

**Leader:** Generous God, shower your blessing and protection upon us and those for whom we pray. We ask this through Our Lord Jesus Christ.

**All:** **Amen**

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



