



Liturgy of the Word with Children

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

'Trusted in little matters'

Green

Romans 12:9-15 Psalm 25 Luke 16:10-13



If someone in a shop gave you too much change, what would you do? Jesus knew that we would often be tested about being honest in our everyday lives. Being honest is a choice we make every day. God wants to be sure that we can be trusted with the most precious treasure of all when we serve God.

Leader's Preparation

In preparation for leading this celebration, begin by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures for the Twenty Fifth 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 16:10-13

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Anyone who can be trusted in little matters can also be trusted in important matters. But anyone who is dishonest in little matters will be dishonest in important matters.

“If you cannot be trusted with this wicked wealth, who will trust you with true wealth?

“And if you cannot be trusted with what belongs to someone else, who will give you something that will be your own?

“You cannot be the slave of two masters. You will like one more than the other or be more loyal to one than the other. You cannot serve God and money.”

Brothers and sisters:

Be sincere in your love for others. Hate everything that is evil and hold tight to everything that is good. Love each other as brothers and sisters and honour others more than you do yourself. Never give up. Eagerly follow the Holy Spirit and serve the Lord. Let your hope make you glad. Be patient in time of trouble and never stop praying.

Response: **Teach me your ways, O Lord.**

Show me your paths and teach me to follow;
Guide me by your truth and instruct me. **R**

You keep me safe, and I always trust you.
Please, Lord, remember, you have always been patient and kind. **R**

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

Business practice of the day meant that stewards had a great deal of responsibility in administering their master's property. Money in and of itself is not bad, despite the implications in the Gospel reading – but it does wield power to create or break down barriers between people. Wealth was thought to be a sign of God's favour and blessing, so Jesus' words would have been challenging to his hearers. What is the message Jesus is conveying to us with these words? We must recognise that we are stewards trusted to use and administer God-given resources and talents with wisdom and integrity. Jesus' teaching gives insight into the ways of God and ultimately the choice that we each have to make regarding our priorities. The honesty and integrity with which we deal with money and material possessions will determine the level to which we will be trusted in greater matters.

Images from the Readings

- *Trusted in little matters*
- *Never give up*
- *True wealth*
- *Hold tight to good*
- *Slave of two masters*

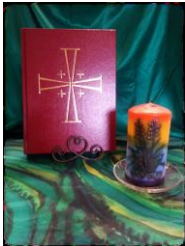
Reflection for Leaders

Today's reading is an invitation for us to consider our priorities in a new light. How we use our money has implications for us as Christians and for others. How has your attitude to money affected your decisions and the way you live your life? How does it affect or reflect your attitude to God? What do you spend your money on? What are the things that you cannot do without? What are the things, other than material possessions, of which you have been given stewardship in your life? Are your priorities ones that Jesus would approve of? During this week make a conscious effort to make use of a resource you have – time, money or talent – to make life better for 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 or cross with money on a plate in front of it.*

LEADER'S LITURGY OUTLINE

Twenty Fifth 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, your goodness is always our ideal. Help us to be honest and truthful with each other and have integrity in all our dealings.

R Amen.

First Reading: Romans 12:9-15

(if used)

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

Psalms 25

Response: Teach me your ways, O Lord.

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 16:10-13

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.

- Why do you think there is money at the prayer focus today? What do you do with your pocket money? Is Jesus telling us to do without money? (No – but it can't become more important than God.) What are the two qualities that Jesus identifies in our Gospel today? (honesty and greed)
- Are people who are dishonest or greedy good people to know?
- How do we know how to behave and what values are good? In the Gospels Jesus shows us how to live God's way. We make choices about what is important to us and how we behave. Sometimes these can be difficult choices, especially when they are about little things. Jesus warns us that the little things do matter to God. Looking after something for someone else is called 'stewardship'. All things really belong to God and we are just trusted to look after them for a while.
- Have you ever cheated or lied and then found that other people don't trust you after that? It can take a long time to earn trust back after it has been broken. Jesus tells us that God won't trust us with important things until we can be trusted with little things, and we must make a choice whether money is more important to us than God is.

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 sit in silence for a few moments, thinking about how they can best make choices about being honest and sharing their resources so they can help someone in need. At the end of this time, stand in a circle and hold hands while you pray,

“Jesus, help us to make right choices about being honest and teach us to be happy and content with what we have. Amen”

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: God of goodness, we have listened to your words, and now bring our needs before you:

- That the leaders of our Church and country will treat all people with integrity and honesty ...
Let us pray to the Lord
R **Lord hear our prayer** or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- That in a world which is full of dishonesty, our will try to shine like a beacon of goodness and hope ...
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 do the right thing even when no-one is looking ...
Let us pray to the Lord
R **Lord hear our prayer** or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For a right attitude to money and possessions ...
Let us pray to the Lord
R **Lord hear our prayer** or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

Leader: Generous and faithful God, you give us all things. Teach us to be content with what we have and generous towards those who need our help.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen**

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

