



# Liturgy of the Word with Children

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

## Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C

*'God chose you'*

*Green*

Wisdom 11:22-12:1 Psalm 145 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 Luke 19:1-10

*Jesus had a special love for people who turned from their lives of sin to repent and live the way that God wants. In today's reading Jesus meets a tax collector called Zacchaeus. Why are the people so shocked when Jesus says he wants to stay with him? Why do you think Jesus does this? Jesus is full of forgiveness and his love always helps us to make a fresh start.*



### *Leader's Preparation*

In preparation for leading this celebration, begin by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures for the Thirty-First 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 19:1-10

Jesus was going through Jericho, where a man named Zacchaeus lived. He was in charge of collecting taxes and was very rich.

Jesus was heading his way, and Zacchaeus wanted to see what he was like. But Zacchaeus was a short man and could not see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree. When Jesus got there, he looked up and said, "Zacchaeus, hurry down! I want to stay with you today."

Zacchaeus hurried down and gladly welcomed Jesus.

Everyone who saw this started grumbling, "This man Zacchaeus is a sinner! And Jesus is going home to eat with him."

Later that day Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "I will give half of my property to the poor. And I will now pay back four times as much to everyone I have ever cheated."

Jesus said to Zacchaeus, "Today you and your family have been saved, because you are a true son of Abraham. The Son of Man came to look for and to save people who are lost."

## FIRST READING

Wisdom 11:22-12:1

Our Lord, compared with you, the world is a speck of dust too light for the scales. And it quickly disappears like drops of morning dew.

You show mercy to everyone, and your power is absolute. You overlook our sins, so that we will turn to you.

You created everything, and you love it all. You would never make anything that you did not like.

Nothing would have lasted, unless you had wanted it to. Only what you commanded to last could have endured. Master, you love all who live, and you have pity on all of us, because everything is yours. Your eternal Spirit is in everything.

## PSALM

Psalms 145

Response: **I will praise your name for ever, my King and my God.**

I will praise you, my God and King, and always honour your name.

I will praise you each day and always honour your name. **R**

You are merciful, Lord! You are kind and patient and always loving.

You are good to everyone, and you take care of all your creation. **R**

Our Lord, you keep your word and do everything you say.

When someone stumbles or falls, you give a helping hand. **R**

## SECOND READING

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

Brothers and sisters:

God chose you, and we keep praying that God will make you worthy of being his people. We pray for God's power to help you do all the good things that you hope to do and that your faith makes you want to do.

Then, because God and our Lord Jesus Christ are so kind, you will bring honour to the name of our Lord Jesus, and he will bring honour to you.

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

Zacchaeus was a person of considerable wealth and influence in Jericho, despite being looked down on by the religious leaders and disliked by the general population because of the dishonest practices of tax collectors. Zacchaeus' enthusiasm to see Jesus caused him to run ahead of the crowd and climb a tree – both actions rather undignified for someone of his status. So, although it is Jesus' initiative to invite himself to dinner, Zacchaeus has already prepared himself for public ridicule out of his desire to meet with him, and this enables his response to be immediate and joyful. Zacchaeus' offer to give half his wealth to the poor, and repay four-fold those he has cheated, shows the depth of his commitment to Jesus, and underlines the importance the early church placed on sharing possessions. Sharing a meal with someone established a relationship of mutual equality and respect. It was by doing this, and by calling Zacchaeus a 'son of Abraham' (a term reserved for holy people – those chosen by God) that Jesus gives a public declaration of Zacchaeus' worth.

## *Images from the Readings*

- *He wanted to see what Jesus was like*
- *God's great mercy and power*
- *People grumbled*
- *God chose you*
- *Seeking the lost*

## *Reflection for Leaders*

The children might well be able to identify with Zacchaeus' lack of stature, but feeling insignificant can affect any one of us. Can you recall a time when you felt left out and overlooked? Have you ever considered why Zacchaeus wasn't reprimanded by Jesus for his dishonesty and greed? Have you ever been singled out for an unexpected acknowledgement or treat? How might a sense of acceptance change your attitudes? Zacchaeus' response to Jesus' invitation was immediate, joyful and completely life-changing. Have you ever felt that enthusiastic about an unexpected invitation? How did it change your relationship with the person who extended it? It can be hard to be enthusiastic when you are tired and jaded. Acknowledging and appreciating God's gift to ourselves can be challenging at these times. Take some quiet time to think about what gift God gives you and what your response to that could be. Try to be a bit extravagant and perhaps offer an unexpected invitation to someone who might be lonely or overlooked this week.

## *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

## Thirty-First 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 have chosen each one of us to be your children. Make our hearts more loving and ready to forgive others just as you forgive us.

**R** Amen.

*First Reading: Wisdom 11:22-12:1*

(if used)

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

*Psalms 145*

**Response:** I will praise your name for ever, my King and my God.  
or Alleluia

*Second Reading: 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12*

(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            Asus<sup>4</sup>    A

## LITURGICAL ACTION – *Ko te Ritenga Karakia*

Just as Jesus reached out a hand of friendship and acceptance to Zacchaeus, we too can reach out and touch each other's hand as our liturgical action this week.



## 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 mercy and love, help us to be like you to the people we meet. We bring our needs to you in prayer:

- For the Church, that it be a place of welcome and acceptance for all people no matter what they have been before ...Let us pray to the Lord  
R **Lord hear our prayer** or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For all who, like Zacchaeus, have a real desire to meet Jesus, that they have the courage to change their lives ...Let us pray to the Lord  
R **Lord hear our prayer** or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For an attitude of hospitality and welcome in our families, our schools, our community ...  
Let us pray to the Lord  
R **Lord hear our prayer** or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For the people in our community who feel lost ...Let us pray to the Lord  
R **Lord hear our prayer** or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

**Leader:** God you accept each of us just where we are. Shower your love on us and all 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.

# Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

## Echo Mime

Luke 19:1-10

The Little Man's Story

### Note to Leaders:

A passage is chosen and rewritten in short, simple statements. For each statement, an action is devised. The leader voices the statement and performs the accompanying actions. Both statement and action are repeated or echoed by the rest of the group.

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A reading from God's Word

*Hands open as in reading a book*

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One day

*One finger pointed up, palm outwards*

Jesus went to Jericho

*Point from left to right*

To see some friends

*Look around*

People crowded around him

*Bend over, outstretch arms*

And followed him

*Look backwards*

Wherever he went

*Look around*

A man named Zacchaeus

*Make large Z in the air*

Wanted to see Jesus

*Looking action*

But he could not

*Shake head*

Because he was too short

*Point close to ground*

Zacchaeus ran ahead

*Point to the distance*

And climbed a tree

*Point skywards*

And looked down over the crowds

*Look downwards*

"Hello Jesus,

*Wave with one hand*

Jesus, hello!"

*Hand near mouth*

"Come here, Zacchaeus

*Motion with hand movement*

Come down at once

*Point downwards*

I am hungry, Zacchaeus

*Rub stomach*

And I wish to dine with you"

*Point to person*

The crowds complained

*Stomp feet*

And whinged

*Shake fists*

And spoke unkind words

*Shake head*

About Zacchaeus

*Make large Z in the air*

"He is no good"

*Hands crossed in front*

"He is a sinner"

*Uncross hands*

"Stay away, Jesus, stay away"

*Turn back*

"Eat with us instead"

*Eating action*

Zacchaeus spoke up  
And promised to change his ways  
To become a better person  
And to give  
What belonged to others

*Make large Z in the air*  
*Hand on heart*  
*Two hands on heart*  
*Handing over action*  
*Hands outstretched*

Jesus was very proud  
That Zacchaeus  
Had changed his ways  
And become a better person

*Make a large J in the air*  
*Make a large Z in the air*  
*Hand on heart*  
*Two hands on heart*

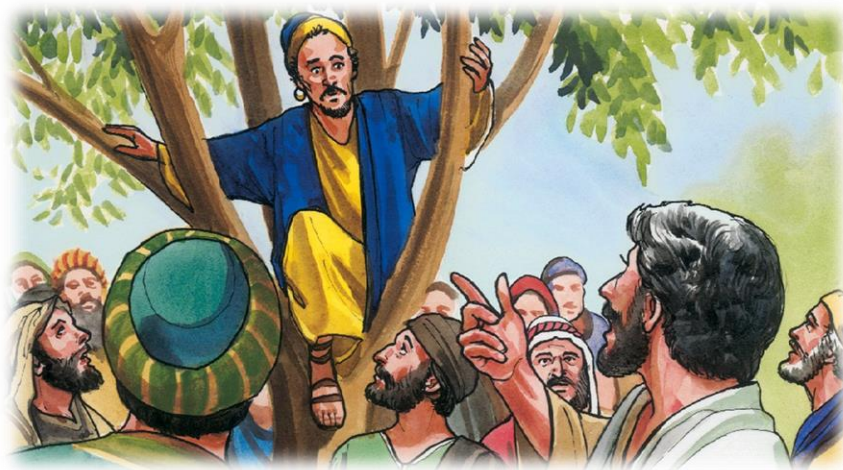
Jesus and Zacchaeus  
Enjoyed a fine meal together  
And the crowds still didn't  
understand

*Make a large J and Z in the air*  
*Rub stomach*  
*Shake heads*

The Word of God

*Hands open as in reading a book*

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From 'Just Imagine, Creative ways of presenting Scripture' written by Rina Wintour, Mountjoy Enterprises, [www.mountjoyenterprises.com.au](http://www.mountjoyenterprises.com.au). Available from the Liturgy Centre.