



Liturgy of the Word with Children

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Green

'Follow me'

Jeremiah 20:7-9, Psalm 63, Romans 12:1-2, Matthew 16:21-25



Do you like to do difficult things when you can see an easier way? Sometimes we need to do the right thing, even if it is hard. Jesus tells us that we should not try to take the easy way out, but to follow his way, even when it is hard. Why was Peter so upset by what Jesus was saying in today's reading? What would he have preferred Jesus to do? When we are trying to live as Jesus tells us and find it very hard, should we give up easily?

How can we manage to do the hard and difficult things that being a follower of Jesus requires of us?

Leader's Preparation

In preparation for leading this celebration begin by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures for the Twenty-Second 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

Matthew 16:21-25

Jesus began telling his disciples what would happen to him. He said, "I must go to Jerusalem. There the nation's leaders, the chief priests, and the teachers of the Law of Moses will make me suffer terribly. I will be killed, but three days later I will rise to life."

Peter took Jesus aside and told him to stop talking like that. He said, "Lord, surely God won't let this happen to you!"

Jesus turned to Peter and said, "Satan, get away from me! You're in my way because you think like everyone else and not like God."

Then Jesus said to his disciples: "If any of you want to be my followers, you must forget about yourself. You must take up your cross and follow me. If you want to save your life, you will destroy it.

"But if you give up your life for me, you will find it."



FIRST READING

Jeremiah 20:7-9

Jeremiah spoke to the Lord and said: "You tricked me, Lord, and I was really fooled. With your mighty power you defeated me.

"No one ever stops sneering or telling jokes about me. All I can say to anyone is 'Death and destruction!'

"Your message has brought me insults and abuse. Sometimes I say to myself, 'I won't think about you or mention your name.'

But your message is like a fire burning inside me, and I can't keep quiet.

PSALM

Psalms 63

Response: My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God

You are my God. I worship you.

In my heart I long for you, as I would long for a stream.

I have seen your power and your glory in the place of worship.

Your love means more than life to me, and I praise you.

As long as I live, I will pray to you. I will sing joyful praises

and be filled with excitement like a guest at a banquet.

SECOND READING

Romans 12:1-2

Dear friends, God is good.

So I beg you to offer your bodies to him as a living sacrifice, pure and pleasing. That's the most sensible way to serve God.

Don't be like the people of this world, but let God change the way you think. Then you will know how to do everything that is good and pleasing to him.

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

Jeremiah's prophecy was proving to be an immensely unpopular message. As the power of Assyria was falling, Israel began looking towards Egypt, and Jeremiah could see that this was unwise. He was put in public stocks and we find him in the first reading bemoaning his situation to God. Despite this the message burns within him compelling him to speak it anyway. Today Jesus makes his first prediction of his passion and death as he journeys towards Jerusalem. It is the start of the story that continues over the next four chapters of Matthew's Gospel. Peter is dreadfully upset by these comments and blurts out his opposition. There is a marked contrast between Jesus' response to Peter this week, almost vilified for standing in the way of the divine mission, and that of last week when Peter was highly praised for his affirmation. Peter's failure is to see that the cross is part of God's plan – his understanding of Jesus' mission is not complete. The call to take up their cross is a condition of discipleship, and a daily commitment. This image would have been a familiar sight in the time of the Roman occupation. The term 'Satan' originally meant adversary or accuser. Later it came to mean the personification of evil.

Images from the Readings

- *Journey to Jerusalem*
- *You're in my way*
- *Take up your cross*
- *Fire burning inside me*
- *Bodies as living sacrifice*

Reflection for Leaders.

The cross is the central symbol of the Christian faith. It reminds us immediately of the death of Jesus through which God's plan of salvation was attained. It also reminds us of our own struggles and failures and suffering. As you reflect this week on your life, what obstacles to discipleship can you identify? Are they of your own making, or blocks put in your path by circumstances or other people? How would you name the cross that you carry? Has there been a specific time when you have made an active choice to face a hardship or pain rather than avoid it? Has this changed you? Perhaps you have become a stronger person through it. Can you name persecutions other than martyrdom that are faced by Christians today, even in our own country? During the week observe the crosses that burden other people, and look for a way to help relieve someone.



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'. If time permits, you might like to use the 'liquid picture' for this Gospel on page 9 of this resource with these younger children.



Suggested Focus

Prepare a focus for the area where the children's Liturgy of the Word is to be held: *Green cloth, Lectionary, a candle and a cross.*

LEADER'S LITURGY OUTLINE

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

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 the way to live. Give us the strength and courage to do the right things when we struggle. Amen

R Amen.

First Reading: Jeremiah 20:7-9 (if used)

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

Psalm 63

Response:

My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God

(or another suitable response known by the children)

Second Reading: Romans 12:1-2 (if used)

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Sing)

Music © 2011 Maria Guzzo



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: Matthew 16:21-25

Minister of the Word: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew
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

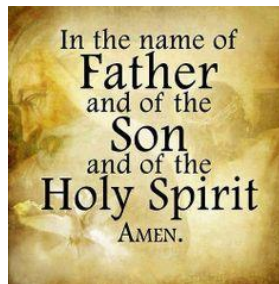
8-12 year olds: Suggested Beginning: A good place to begin is with the question: What did you hear? Allow each child the opportunity to respond in their own words to hearing the Word of God. Then begin a general discussion, building on these responses, perhaps using some prepared questions, like the following, to stimulate ideas.

- Why was Peter so upset by what Jesus was saying? (He didn't want to see Jesus suffer and die)
- What do you think Jesus meant when he said that Peter thought like everyone else and not like God? (Peter wanted to take the easy way out because he didn't properly understand God's plan)
- Do you think Jesus was scared? What did he do?
- What did he mean when he said that his followers should forget about themselves? (Doings things that are not always easy to do – being kind to others, forgiving others even when they have hurt us, making difficult choices when necessary)
- How can we live as Jesus wants us to?

- What happens when it gets really difficult to do this? Should we give up easily?
- Think about the sort of things you run away from or quit from. What can you do to help you face up to these things?
- Do you think it is easy to be a follower of Jesus? Was it easy for Peter? Is it easy for you or your family?

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'. If time permits, you might like to use the 'liquid picture' for this Gospel on page 9 of this resource with these younger children.

LITURGICAL ACTION – Ko te Ritenga Karakia



Practice the sign of the cross with the children today.

Make the gestures boldly and reverently.

Explain the significance of this ritual as an act of worship that identifies us both as Christians and particularly as Catholics.



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 all have crosses to carry in this life, but Jesus tells us we can turn to God for help whenever we need it. So together we pray:

- For our Church, that it will always help to lift the burdens from people who suffer
Let us pray to the Lord R̄ Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For strength for all people who want to be followers of Jesus
Let us pray to the Lord R̄ Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For all people who suffer because of their faith
Let us pray to the Lord R̄ Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For those who serve God, that they will do everything that is good and will please God
Let us pray to the Lord R̄ Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

Leader: God of compassion, sometimes it is hard to be your followers. Give us, and those we pray for, the strength to do the right thing always, through Jesus Christ your Son

All: Amen

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

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Liquid Picture

Matthew 16:21-25

Follow me

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

How to do liquid pictures:

Liquid Pictures is a form of drama which allows a story to be presented in a flowing or liquid manner. The process follows this pattern:

- Divide the story or Scriptural passage into five or six main statements.
- Accompany each statement with a simple action that can be held in a freeze frame position.
- Choose one child to say each statement and do a simple action. These children form a straight line facing the audience.
- A leader introduces the story.
- The first child steps forward, repeats the statement two or three times (once is not enough for children to remember!) then freezes.
- The second child steps forward, repeats the statement and freezes.
- The process continues until the last child finishes.
- The leader concludes with a simple statement.

Leader: Jesus said, if you want to be my disciple ...

Follow me!

It might be hard sometimes!

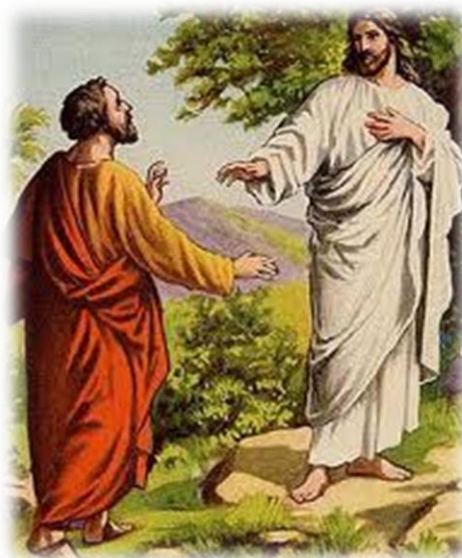
You need to be tough!

You need to be strong!

Follow me!

Okay!

Leader: Follow me!



From 'Just Imagine 4, Many Creative ways of presenting Scripture' written by Rina Wintour, Mountjoy Enterprises, www.mountjoyenterprises.com.au. Available from the Liturgy Centre.