



Liturgy of the Word with Children

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Green

'Come follow me'

Jonah 3:1-5, 10 Psalm 25 Mark 1:14-20



When Simon and Andrew responded to Jesus call to follow him, they were two fishermen casting their nets into the sea. What a change that call and their response to it made in their lives. We are called too to follow the new way of Jesus and our response has changed our lives whether we acknowledge the fact or not.

Leader's Preparation

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

Mark 1:14-20

After John was arrested, Jesus went to Galilee and told the good news that comes from God. He said, "The time has come! God's kingdom will soon be here. Turn back to God and believe the good news!"

As Jesus was walking along the shores of Lake Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew. They were fishermen and were casting their nets into the lake. Jesus said to them, "Come with me! I will teach you how to bring in people instead of fish." Right then the two brothers dropped their nets and went with him.

Jesus walked on and soon saw James and John, the sons of Zebedee. They were in a boat, mending their nets. At once Jesus asked them to come with him. They left their father in the boat with the hired workers and went with him.

FIRST READING

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

The Lord spoke to Jonah and said, "Jonah, go to that great city of Nineveh and speak to them for me." Jonah obeyed the Lord and went to Nineveh. The city was so large that it took three days just to walk through it. After walking for a day, Jonah told the people, "Forty days from now Nineveh will be destroyed."

They believed God's message and they set a time when they would all go without eating. Then everyone in the city, no matter who they were, also dressed in sackcloth.

When God saw that the people had stopped doing evil things, he had pity on them and did not destroy them, as he had said.

PSALM

Psalm 25

Response: **Teach me your ways, O Lord.**
 or Alleluia!

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

Please Lord remember, you have always been patient and kind.
Show how truly kind you are
And remember me. **R.**

You are honest and merciful.
And you teach sinners how to follow your path.
You lead humble people to do what is right
And stay on your path. **R.**

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

Read the Book of Jonah from the Old Testament for some background to today's First Reading, some of the children will have heard the story of Jonah and the whale. But the interesting part is the contest between Jonah's own sense of justice and the will of God. There are a few moments of suspense before it becomes clear that Jonah will obey. Jonah realises the futility of fighting with the will of God after his experience with the storm and the great fish. There may also be a lingering hope that the Ninevites will reject his message and thus receive what he considers is their just reward from the wrath of a patient God. Jonah does not have a change of heart, he merely complies to the wishes of the Lord because he has found escape impossible. The prompt action of the Ninevites presents a model for true repentance in three stages: first they acknowledge their guilt and show this by outward actions (proclaim a fast and put on sackcloth) secondly they have an internal change of attitude (turn away from evil and violence) lastly they acknowledge God's freedom to accept or reject their repentance.

In the Gospel the first words foreshadow Jesus' own fate at the hands of the people. "After John had been handed over....". Jesus makes a claim upon the disciples and gives a new direction to their lives. Mark the writer gives the impression that Peter and Andrew answered Jesus' call by leaving behind their livelihood, whereas James and John responded by severing family ties, his primary purpose seems to be to show that discipleship entails renunciation of possessions and family ties. It was customary for Jewish students to approach a distinguished teacher and attach themselves to him, here the teacher makes the first move. The disciples left behind a thriving and secure business to follow Jesus, emphasising the costliness of discipleship with its demands to leave behind family and financial security.

Images from the Readings

- Repent and believe
- Follow me
- Went after him
- Called and sent

Reflection for Leaders

You know that God has an important message to send and chooses you to do it, you may never know how God uses you to relay that message. The disciples must have been afraid to change their way of life, afraid of the unknown, of the risks they were taking, fear of the unknown can be a stumbling block to change in our lives. Jonah too experiences fear to respond to the will of God for him and tries to run away. In Jonah's story we are given an illustration of how we are to die to ourselves and be born into the world of God's will. (Symbolised in the story by the time Jonah spent inside the belly of the fish.)

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

Prepare a focus for the area where the children's Liturgy of the Word is to be held:

Green cloth (ordinary time), Lectionary, candle,
picture of someone walking along a path or netting resembling a fishing net



LEADER'S LITURGY OUTLINE

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

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: Loving God, You call us as you called Jonah to do your work in the world. Help us to say yes when we are called to do good.

R Amen.

LITURGICAL ACTION – Ko te Ritenga Karakia

The Greek words, *Kyrie Eleison* mean,
"the merciful one is here".

Teach the children the meaning of these words then use this refrain as part of a simple litany of repentance and preparation before listening to the readings of the day ...



First Reading: *Jonah 3:1-5, 10*

(if used)

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

Psalm 25 Response:

Teach me your ways, O Lord.

or Alleluia!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Sing)

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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: *Mark 1:14-20*

Minister of the Word:

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark

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.

- Who were the brothers who left their boats and nets to follow Jesus? They were Simon Peter and Andrew, James and John. Jesus asked them to follow him and become fishers of people. These men would help lead people back to God and teach others of God's great love for them.

- Many people followed Jesus and became his disciples, but Jesus chose a small number of them to carry on his work. How many did he choose, and can you remember some of their names?
- Jesus chose twelve apostles. The name “apostle” was given to a follower of Jesus who had been specially chosen. They were all close friends of Jesus who were chosen to preach and perform miracles in his name.
- The names of the twelve apostles were: Simon Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, (another) James, Thaddaeus, Simon, and Judas.
- Jesus calls us to follow him, too. When we are baptized into the Christian family we are called to be followers of Christ. But Jesus also calls us to follow him every day. How?
- To follow Jesus, we do not usually have to leave home like the first disciples did! By loving God and our neighbour we can follow Jesus every day by living as Jesus taught us to.

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’

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: With happy hearts let us call upon God for our needs.

- For a deep thirst for justice in the church throughout the world.
Let us pray to the Lord R̄ Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For a hunger for peace everywhere.
Let us pray to the Lord R̄ Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For the spirit of goodwill to our neighbours.
Let us pray to the Lord R̄ Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For the grace to accept others as they are.
Let us pray to the Lord R̄ Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

Leader: God protector and Saviour, hear the prayers we your children make to you through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen**

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

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Chorus Play

Mark 1:14-20

Come follow me

People required: Leader, Reader 1 and Reader 2

Leader: The response is 'Come follow me'.

Reader 1: Jesus said to all the people in Galilee ...

Reader 2: The time has come! Come follow me!

Chorus: Come follow me!

Reader 1: Jesus said to the fishermen ...

Reader 2: The time has come! Come follow me!

Chorus: Come follow me!

Reader 1: Jesus said to Simon and Andrew ...

Reader 2: The time has come! Come follow me!

Chorus: Come follow me!

Reader 1: Jesus said to James and John ...

Reader 2: The time has come! Come follow me!

Chorus: Come follow me!

Reader 1: Jesus says to you ... (names of children)

Reader 2: The time has come! Come follow me!

Chorus: Come 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.