



Liturgy of the Word with Children

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Green

'Jesus heals a leper'

1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1 Psalm 31 Mark 10:40-45



The way Jesus treated people with kindness and compassion was as important as his miracles. Invite the children to share their own experiences of being unwanted or left out and who made them feel better. Remind the children that this is the way that Jesus wants us to live. When and how can we do this?

Leader's Preparation

In preparation for leading this celebration begin by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures for the Sixth 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 1:40-45

A man with leprosy came to Jesus and knelt down. He begged, "You have the power to make me well, if only you wanted to."

Jesus felt sorry for the man. So he put his arm on him and said, "I want to! Now you are well."

At once the man's leprosy disappeared, and he was well.

After Jesus strictly warned the man, he sent him on his way. He said, "Don't tell anyone about this. Just go and show yourself to the temple as Moses commanded, and everyone will know that you have been healed."

The man talked about it so much and told so many people, that Jesus could no longer go openly into a town. He had to stay away from the towns, but people still came to him from everywhere.

Brothers and sisters:

When you eat or drink or do anything else, always do it to honour God. Don't cause problems for Jews or Greeks or anyone else who belongs to God's church.

I always try to please others instead of myself, in the hope that many of them will be saved. You must follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.

PSALM

Psalm 31

Response: **I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble,
and you fill me with the joy of salvation.
or Alleluia!**

Our God, you bless everyone whose sins you forgive and wipe away. **R.**

So I confessed my sins and told them all to you. **R.**

I turn to you Lord, in time of trouble.

And so your good people should celebrate and shout. **R.**

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

The First Reading today is from the book of Leviticus and although it will not be used with the children it is useful for leaders to understand the background. In Leviticus the laws on people with diseases of the skin are spelled out by Moses for the people of Israel. The determination of the diseases active and inactive state belonged to the priest who acted not as physician but as a judge and interpreter of the law, whose permission was required before purification rites allowing re-entry into the community were allowed to begin. During the time of uncleanness the diseased person had to remain outside the city, giving notice of his condition to everyone in the way described in today's reading. Leprosy as used in the readings was a general term for any repulsive scaly skin disease. Concern was for the lack of bodily integrity necessary under the law for the worship of Yahweh and this was the reason for the protective legislation of religious and social ostracism. By touching the leper and thus breaking the law, Jesus puts himself in the same situation as the leper, making himself in turn unclean, banning himself from worship and contact with the community until a priest declares him cleansed, he has made himself an outcast by choice. Sickness of any sort and skin disease in particular was considered by the Jews as a punishment from God for sin committed.

Images from the Readings

- Now you are well
- Take a gift
- Honour God
- Follow the example of Christ

Reflection for Leaders

How would it be if we, when spiritually sick or after having sinned, should be made to shout “Unclean, unclean!” to ward people off and away from us for fear that they too might be infected by our downfall? Instead we are asked to befriend outcasts and those afflicted and to offer forgiveness.

Jesus in today’s reading reaches out and touches the unclean leper and thus cures him of his affliction. Picture the scene in your mind — the diseased and ostracised leper coming to Jesus and falling on his knees with the words “If you want to, you can make me clean.” As sinners, as we journey once more through Lent, we find here encouragement to throw ourselves on the mercy of a compassionate God.

Reflect today on the people in our society who are on the outside, the poor, the weak, the drunkard, the prostitute, the compulsive gambler, the racial minority, the indigenous people, the unemployed, the unskilled, the aid’s victim, the insane, anyone who is different from the norm, and formulate your response to them in the light of today’s Gospel.

You might explain to the children a little about the background to the way the Jews treated people with leprosy (There is background in the Bible in the Book of Leviticus, chapters 13-14) Discuss how we treat people with similar infectious skin diseases these days. Ask the question: By associating with outcasts and people like lepers what message was Jesus giving his disciples and the Jewish people? Who belongs to the kingdom of heaven, who are the chosen people of God? The answer has to be —everyone belongs. Make a list with the children of the people who are on the outside of our society. A good way to begin is to assimilate these “outsiders” into our prayer. To pray for them by name at the end of our Liturgy of the Word and at the Prayers of the Faithful. We could suggest a project to the children. That this week they are to make a special effort to reach out to someone who is on the outside of their social circle at school.

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,



LEADER'S LITURGY OUTLINE

Sixth 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: God our creator, you are all knowing. We do not understand how some people are sick and others are not, some have troubles and some do not, help us to reach out to those who are outside our group of friends, and to bring in those who are not wanted.

R Amen.

First Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1

(if used)

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

Psalms 31

Response: I turn to you Lord in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.
or Alleluia!



General: Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Fill us O Lord with your word. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Your word is life for our souls.

Gospel: Mark 10:40-45

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 Whakāaro

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.*

Jesus breaks all the rules when speaking with the man with leprosy. Touching and speaking to those who were declared by the old law to be unclean was forbidden. Jesus says by his actions that the sick and outcasts are to be part of his ministry, part of God’s kingdom on earth. This is a strong message for us. No one is to be excluded from our mission in the world.

- What did Moses say people with leprosy had to do?
- When the man with leprosy asked Jesus to cure him what did Jesus say? What did Jesus then ask the man to do?
- Why, do you think Jesus asked the man to say nothing to anybody about his cure except to the priest?

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

(use material from end of reflection for leaders)

Pray by name for those who need
healing or special care
to be included in our lives
and activities.



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.

