



# Liturgy of the Word with Children

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

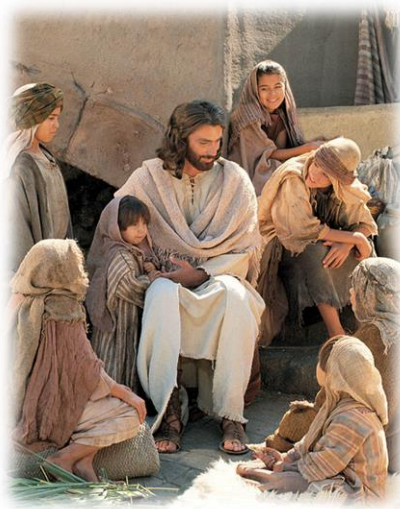
Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

## Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Green

*'Anyone who obeys God is my brother or sister or mother.'*

Genesis 3:9-15 Psalm 130 2 Corinthians 4: 16-5:1 Mark 3:20-21, 31-35



*In our Gospel reading today, Jesus says something amazing. As he sits teaching, surrounded by a large group of people from all different places, families and backgrounds, all eager to hear what he is teaching them about God, he tells them that he counts each one of them as a member of his family – God's family! And that makes all of us in the Church part of the same family. Our distinguishing family likeness is how well we obey God by living the Jesus way.*

### Leader's Preparation

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

(short form)

Mark 3:20-21, 31-35

Jesus went back home, and once again such a large crowd gathered that there was no chance even to eat. When Jesus' family heard what he was doing, they thought he was crazy and went to get him under control.

Jesus' mother and brothers came and stood outside. Then they sent someone with a message for him to come out to them. The crowd that was sitting around Jesus told him, "Your mother and brothers and sisters are outside and want to see you."

Jesus asked, "Who is my mother and who are my brothers?" Then he looked at the people sitting around him and said, "Here are my mother and my brothers. Anyone who obeys God is my brother or sister or mother."

## FIRST READING

Genesis 3:9-15

The Lord called out to Adam and asked, "Where are you?" Adam answered, "I was naked and when I heard you walking through the garden, I was afraid and hid!" "How did you know you were naked?" God asked. "Did you eat from the tree I told you not to?" Adam said, "It was that woman you put here with me! She gave me some of the fruit and I ate it." The Lord God then asked her, "What have you done?" The woman answered, "The snake tricked me into eating some of that fruit." The Lord God said to the snake, "Because of what you have done, you will suffer a greater curse than the cattle and the wild animals. For as long as you live, you will crawl on your stomach and eat dirt from the ground. You and this woman will hate each other. Your descendants and hers will always be enemies. One of them will crush your head, and you will bite him on the heel."

## PSALM

Psalm 130

**Response:**                    **With the Lord there is mercy**  
   **or        Alleluia!**

From a sea of troubles I call out to you, Lord. Won't you please listen as I beg for mercy? **R**

If you kept record of our sins, no one could last long. But you forgive us, and so we will worship you. **R**

With all my heart, I am waiting, Lord, for you! I trust your promises.

Yes, I wait more eagerly than a soldier on guard duty waits for the dawn.

Israel, trust the Lord! **R**

## SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 4:16-5:1

Brothers and sisters: We never give up. Our bodies are gradually dying, but we ourselves are being made stronger every day. These little troubles are getting us ready for an eternal glory that will make all our troubles seem like nothing.

Things that are seen don't last forever, but things that are not seen are eternal. That's why we keep our minds on the things that cannot be seen.

Our bodies are like tents that we live in here on earth. But when these tents are destroyed, we know that God will give each of us a place to live. These homes will not be buildings that someone has made. But they are in heaven and will last forever.

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

For the next six months of Ordinary Time, we will be reading from the Gospel of Mark. Today the reading from Genesis is chosen to balance the reading from Mark. It reminds us that God is always acting like a loving parent who cares about us, wanting to know where we are, what we are doing, and helping us to learn from the mistakes that we have made or trying to protect us from the dangerous things that may threaten our lives.

The terrible thing about sin is the way it causes separation between God and his people. So much self-deceit, thoughtless choices or destructive life patterns are really to do with hiding our selves from God. It is not difficult to see a similar sort of pattern in the lives of our children as they set out to explore their world – how easy it is for them to get into trouble or danger or unhealthy habits while we as adults try to teach them or protect them from danger. The hardest thing of all is to realise that in spite of all our care, we could not make the difference we wanted to “save” our child. Try to read the Genesis story from this perspective and see if it sheds new light on the story for you.

So much of Jesus teaching is about showing people how to feel comfortable in God’s presence once again. Jesus is a great healer. St Paul reminds us of this when he talks about the ongoing spiritual healing that happens for those who live in Christ – even if their physical body is wearing out. A professional tentmaker himself, he uses the metaphor of physical death as merely a folding-up of the tent of one’s physical body so the spirit can live on, “at home” with God forever. In the Gospel reading of this day Jesus looks at those around him with the same kind of love and affection that he holds for his own family. He recognises that God’s love is beyond the ties of blood and genes. Spiritually we are all bound together as members of God’s great family, as close to Jesus as his own family.

What distinguishes us as members of God’s family is the family likeness of doing God’s will – living the loving way.

## *Images from the Readings*

- Who is my mother, my brothers and sisters?
- Where are you?
- What have you done?
- God will give each of us a place to live

## *Reflection for Leaders*

Whether we live on our own or with others, most of us have experience of living as members of a family. Take time to reflect on your own family experiences – Who you are close too?



Who you do not see so often? What are the reasons? Take time to reflect also on the family likenesses you share – those you appreciate – those you might have difficulty accepting.

Is there anything in your family story that is crying out to be appreciated more – or healed because it has caused pain or separation?

What steps could you take this week to enter more fully into your own experience of family life?

Is there some assistance that is needed? How is your experience of family life reflected back to you through the bigger story of family life as a member of God's inclusive, welcoming, healing embrace that longs to heal the rifts and overcome the divisions and separation in God's family members?

It is an honour to be considered a close relative of Jesus. Do you think you behave as though this is true? Jesus said, "Anyone who obeys God is my brother or sister or mother." What family likeness do you show?

### *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, Lectionary, a candle, picture of a family, a bowl of holy water



# LEADER'S LITURGY OUTLINE

## Tenth 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:** O loving God, as brothers and sisters of Jesus, we gather together as one family to worship you and give you praise. Help us to always treat each other with love and kindness, just as you taught us to.

**R** Amen.

### First Reading: *Genesis 3:9-15*

(if used)

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

### *Psalm 130*

*Response:*

**With the Lord there is mercy.**

or **Alleluia!**

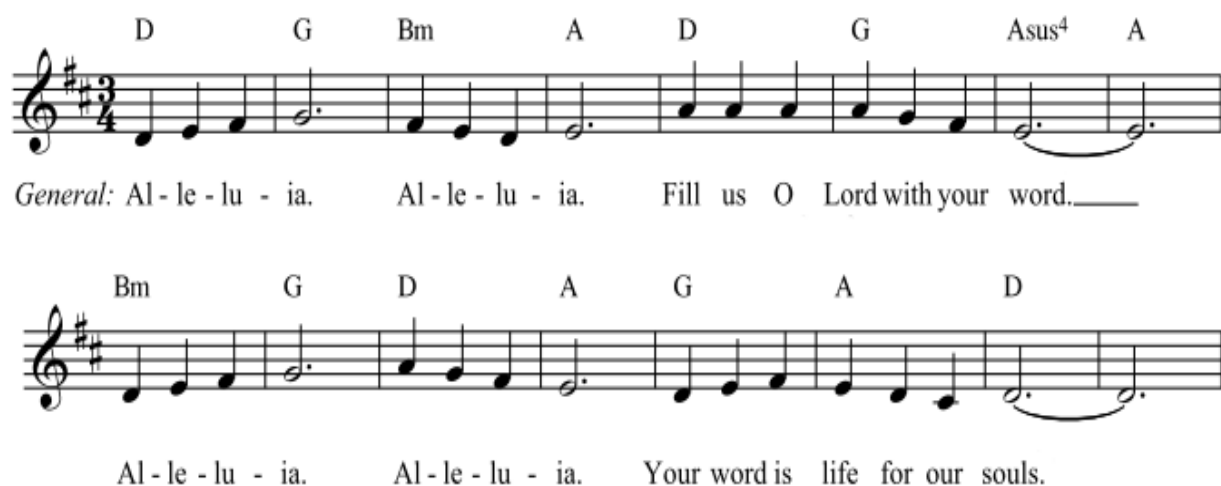
## Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:16 – 5:1

(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 Asus<sup>4</sup> 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 3:20-21, 31-35

**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.*

- Think about the people in your own special family: Who is a brother? Who is a sister? Who has an uncle? Who has a Grandma?
- What are some of the different names people use to name their Grandfather? (Grand dad, Poppa, Opa, Nonna) .

- Take time to talk about the way we might share a family likeness: do we look a bit like other people in our family, perhaps the same colour eyes, the same shape nose, the same curly hair or how we walk or laugh.
- Sometimes we are like other people in our family in liking to be quiet or noisy, being good at sport or enjoying music....
- One day Jesus was sitting talking to a circle of friends and visitors, rather like we are sitting now. Someone told him that his mother, his brothers and sisters were outside wanting to see him. Jesus looked around at all the people he was with and told them that everyone who chooses to live God's special way of life is really part of his own close family. That means us as well. When we are living God's way as Jesus teaches us to do, then we all share the same family likeness.

**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*

Remind the children that our Church has a special way of welcoming people as members of God's family. We baptise them in holy water. Then every time we come to Church we remind ourselves that we are members of God's family by dipping our fingers in the holy water font and making the sign of the cross on our bodies. Invite the children to stand in a circle and take the bowl of baptismal water to them so they can dip their fingers and make the sign of the cross on their body, saying the words that remind us we all belong to God's family –

:

*"In the name of the  
Father, and of the Son  
and of the Holy Spirit,  
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: Let us pray to our Saving God for our needs:

- For a church that invites everyone to belong to it.  
Let us pray to the Lord           ℟   Lord hear our prayer  
or                   **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For the poor of the world, that those with enough food will look to their needs.  
Let us pray to the Lord           ℟   Lord hear our prayer  
or                   **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For government that sees to the needs of the poor  
Let us pray to the Lord           ℟   Lord hear our prayer  
or                   **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For those who hurt us.  
Let us pray to the Lord           ℟   Lord hear our prayer  
or                   **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

Leader: God of Resurrection and Life hear the prayers we your children make to you.  
Through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen**

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



# Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

*Liquid Picture*

Mark 3:20-21, 31-35

Who are my mother and sisters and brothers?

**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, 'Who are my mother, my sisters and brothers?' . . .

I am – I help people!

I am – I listen to God!

I am – I forgive others!

I am – I make people laugh!

I am – I am gentle!

**Leader:** Jesus said, 'Anyone who obeys God is my brother or sister or mother.'

*From 'Just Imagine 4, Many 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.*