



Liturgy of the Word with Children

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

Twenty eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B Green

'Seek and find God'

Wisdom : 7-11 Psalm 90 Hebrews 4: 12-13 Mark 10: 17-27

Have you ever been on a treasure hunt?

The Bible tells us that we are to seek for wisdom and understanding, to seek out the kingdom of God.

This reminds me of a saying:

Act as though it all depends on you, pray as though it all depends on God.

God promises that if we seek him we will find him.



Leader's Preparation

In preparation for leading this celebration begin by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures for the Twenty eighth 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 10: 17-20

(This Gospel reading offers an excellent opportunity to share the reading between the two characters, Jesus and the young man)

As Jesus was walking down a road, a man ran up to him. He kneeled down, and asked, "Good teacher, what can I do to have eternal life?"

Jesus replied, "Why do you call me good? Only God is good. You know the commandments. 'Do not murder. Be faithful in marriage. Do not tell lies about each other. Do not cheat. Respect your father and mother,'"

The man answered, "Teacher I have obeyed all these commandments since I was a young man."

Jesus looked closely at the man. He liked him and said, "There's one thing you still need to do. Go sell everything you own. Give the money to the poor, and you will have riches in heaven. Then come with me."

When the man heard Jesus say this, he went away gloomy and sad because he was very rich.

Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "It's hard for the rich people to get into God's kingdom!" The disciples were shocked to hear this. So Jesus said to them again, "It's terribly hard to get into God's kingdom! In fact it's easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to get into God's kingdom."

Jesus' disciples were even more amazed. They asked each other, "How can anyone ever be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "There are some things that people cannot do, but God can do anything."

FIRST READING

Wisdom 7:7-11

I prayed for understanding, and it was given to me. I asked God for Wisdom and it came to me. I valued Wisdom more than power and kingdoms. Riches were nothing compared with Wisdom. I considered her more valuable than priceless jewels. Gold was nothing but sand, and silver was merely mud, when compared with Wisdom.

I loved her more than health and beauty. I preferred Wisdom to light, because she is much brighter. Wisdom has countless treasures, and everything is good because she is mine.

PSALM

Psalms 90

Response: **Fill us with your love O Lord, and we will sing for joy.**
 or Alleluia!

Teach us to use wisely all the time we have.

When morning comes, let your love satisfy all our needs.

Then we can celebrate and be glad for what time we have left. **R**

Do wonderful things for us, your servants,

And show your mighty power to our children.

Our Lord and our God, treat us with kindness and let all go well for us. **R**

SECOND READING

Hebrews 4:12-13

Brothers and sisters: What God has said is not only alive and active! It is sharper than any double edged sword. His spirit can cut through our spirits and our souls and through our joints and our marrow, until it discovers the desires and thoughts of our hearts.

Nothing is hidden from God!

He sees through everything, and we will have to tell him the truth

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

The background for the poem of the First Reading is in the Book of Solomon, also known as the Book of Wisdom. At the beginning of Solomon's reign God invites him to ask for whatever he wants and Solomon answers, "Give your servant an understanding heart, in order to govern your people and to discern between good and evil." The author of this book of Wisdom is on a quest for God. Such a search alters our whole outlook on life. This is no casual conversation but rather a deep heartfelt listening and questioning of our motives and reasons for what we do and the choices we make in the way we live our lives. The writer of the letter to the Hebrews has obviously experienced such a search and likens the power of the Word of God to a double edged sword. There is no hiding from God. However, once the thoughts and attitudes of our hearts are purified and we embrace the gifts of wisdom and understanding, God's power of transformation results in a whole new way of life – we have found the treasure, we have entered the kingdom!

Images from the Readings

- Understanding
- Wisdom
- Countless treasures
- Nothing is hidden from God
- Go sell everything you own
- God can do anything

Reflection for Leaders

Once again the readings focus on the choice between God and riches. It is not only riches in a material sense that we are called upon to clear away from between God's love and will for us and our own part in our agreement to live as children of God, but also things such as our time and patience or attachment to anything that might distract us from God's call to us. For God asks us where our heart truly resides. We are to beware of trying to fulfil desires and feed appetites that can never be satisfied in this world. Attachment to our possessions can lead to our being owned by them.

Jesus demands an inner independence. So that by being independent of what we have we can allow ourselves to be wholly dependent on God.

We are called to be conspicuous, to be recognisable by our relationship with God, each other and our neighbour. How hard it is to be conspicuous followers of Christ. What will others think we are about? Sometimes it is easier to focus on the exterior things- the accepted trappings of being Christian. -The pious private devotions, the weekly routine going to Mass. - These are the comfortable conventions that Wisdom warns us against. They would not be conspicuous enough for Christ, or Paul for that matter. These conventions do not speak of active burning concern for the welfare of others or highlight lives dedicated to the service of good.

How can we encourage ourselves and the children to turn their attention from material possessions to the things of the heart?

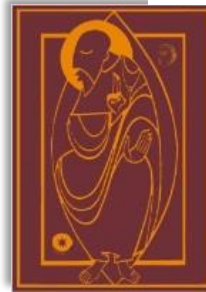
Reflecting on the Readings with the children

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, a candle, a treasure box filled with brightly coloured stones (treasure)



LEADER'S LITURGY OUTLINE

Twenty eighth 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 created us to serve you and each other, and to be children of faith and hope; Help us to turn from our cares and worries and to listen to your voice in our hearts.

R Amen.

First Reading: Wisdom 7:7-11

(if used)

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

Psalm 90 **Response:** Fill us with your love O Lord, and we will sing for joy.

or Alleluia!

Second Reading: Hebrews 4:12-13

(if used)

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



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 10:17-27

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 children the opportunity to respond in their own words to hearing the Word of God. When each has had an opportunity to speak you might begin general discussion by building on to their responses, perhaps using some prepared questions, like the following, to stimulate ideas:

Using the pictures that you have placed on your focus, ask:

- Have you ever participated in a treasure hunt? What did you have to do? How did you know where to hunt? Did you find the treasure? Was there enough treasure for everyone?

The Bible tells us that we are to seek God as we live our lives. It's a bit like a treasure hunt. We seek or search for God by looking out for signs of his love.

- What might some of these signs be do you think? We might find God's love in helping someone, being friendly, enjoying God's beautiful world, being glad when someone helps us or listens to us when we are worried about something. There are lots of different ways we can find God's love.

- Now, can you think of some things that might stop us from finding God's love? Sometimes we find it really difficult to share a precious toy or a favourite book or to stop playing when the bell rings or Mum calls us to do a job for her.
- How might we behave at times like that?
- Is it difficult or easy to find God's love in those sorts of moments?
- Can you remember which person in our Gospel story today found it hard to share his precious treasures with other people?
- How do you think he was feeling at the beginning of that story? Why?
- How do you think he was feeling at the end of the story? What changed for him? What do you think he might have done next? (He might have tried to change things in his life)
- What do you think Jesus would say to him if he came back to Jesus after he changed things in his life? Can you help us to think of some ways we can get out of the difficult moments in our lives so we can set out on our treasure hunt to find God's love once again? (Saying sorry, letting go and sharing, listening to our teacher or our parents who are trying to help us be obedient, using the Sacrament of Reconciliation).
- What does it feel like when we have made that change? (as though we are filled with new life or have found a new treasure, or relief that we can start again)
We are like the young man in the Gospel who was seeking God. Jesus helped him to see what he needed to change in his life. When we are seeking God, we must expect to see the same pattern in our lives too. What beautiful treasures we will find on the way!

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

Ask the children to identify one way that they could be a treasure, in Jesus name, for someone in their lives. Help them to choose ideas that are simple, practical and real for their lives. Then give each child a treasure - one of the brightly coloured stones – to hold in their hands. Create a time of stillness and quiet, then ask the children to imagine Jesus standing before them, placing his hands over theirs so he can bless the treasure they hold in their hands. Let them take this treasure home so it can remind them of the promise they have made in Jesus name and the love he has given them to make it come true.



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 Īnoīnga 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 God who created us and provides for our needs:

- For the Church our home; and for strong women, men and children to lead the Church. R
Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For food for the hungry, shelter for the homeless and care for the poor.
R Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- That the children of Aotearoa New Zealand will have respect for all people especially the elderly and the weak.
R Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- That we will follow Jesus' way.
R Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

Leader: Saving God 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.

