



Liturgy of the Word with Children

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Green

Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and sent them out

Exodus 19:1-6a, Psalm 100, Romans 5:6-11, Matthew 9:36 – 10:8



Exhortation to the Apostles, James Tissot. Image accessed from Commons.Wikimedia.org

We often hear of the twelve apostles. Apostle means one who is sent on a special mission to do a special job. Do you know much about the apostles? Jesus handpicked them and spent time teaching them about the kingdom of heaven. What was the special mission that Jesus was sending them out to do? Who does this work today?

Leader's Preparation

In preparation for leading this celebration, begin by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures for the Eleventh 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 9:36 – 10:8

When Jesus saw the crowds, he felt sorry for them. They were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

He said to his disciples, "A large crop is in the fields, but there are only a few workers. Ask the Lord in charge of the harvest to send out workers to bring it in."

Jesus called together his twelve disciples. He gave them the power to force out evil spirits and to heal every kind of disease and sickness.

The first of the twelve apostles was Simon, better known as Peter. His brother Andrew was an apostle, and so were James and John, the two sons of Zebedee. Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas,

Matthew the tax collector, James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus were also apostles. The others were Simon, known as the Eager One, and Judas Iscariot, who later betrayed Jesus.

Jesus sent out the twelve apostles with these instructions: "Stay away from the Gentiles and don't go to any Samaritan town. Go only to the people of Israel, because they are like a flock of lost sheep.

"As you go, announce that the kingdom of heaven will soon be here. Heal the sick, raise the dead to life, heal people who have leprosy, and force out demons. You received without paying, now give without being paid."

FIRST READING

Exodus 19:1-6a

The people of Israel left Rephidim. And two months after leaving Egypt, they reached the desert near Mount Sinai. They set up camp there at the foot of the mountain.

Moses went up the mountain to meet with the Lord God, who told him to say to the people: "You saw what I, the Lord, did in Egypt. You know how like a mighty eagle I brought you here to me. Now if you will obey me and are faithful to me, you will be my people. The whole work is mine. But you will be mine in a special way and serve me as priests."

PSALM

Psalms 100

Response: We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

Shout praises to the Lord, everyone on this earth. Be joyful and sing as you come in to worship the Lord. **R**

You know the Lord is God! He created us, and we belong to him;

we are his people, the sheep in his pasture. **R**

The Lord is good! His love and faithfulness will last forever. **R**

SECOND READING

Romans 5:6-11

Brothers and sisters: Christ died for us at a time when we were helpless and sinful. No one is really willing to die for an honest person, though someone might be willing to die for a truly good person. But God showed how much he loved us, even though we were sinful.

But there is more! Now that God has accepted us because Christ sacrificed his life's blood, we will also be kept safe from God's anger. Even when we were still God's enemies, he made peace with us, because his Son died for us. Yet something even greater than friendship is ours. Now that we are at peace with God, we will be saved by his Son's life.

And in addition to everything else, we are happy because God sent our Lord Jesus Christ to make peace with us.

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

The first reading gives us a wonderful image of God carrying his children on eagles wings. Not long out of Egypt, they are encamped at the foot of Mt Sinai awaiting the giving of the Law. The beautiful relationship God has with the people is outlined in this reading. Matthew's gospel was written for people who were mainly converts to Christianity from Judaism. The traditions and prejudices of their Jewish upbringing were still alive in their lives – including the enmity between the Jews and the Samaritans, the fear of contamination by pagan ideas and the suspicion of the Gentiles. Jesus recognises that his mission is to the people of Israel who are like a flock of lost sheep. The group of disciples Jesus chose to surround him self with and prepare for this missionary activity were an unusual choice of men. They were fishermen, a tax collector, a zealot, - only Judas Iscariot, who would later betray Jesus to the Jewish authorities, was well educated. It is assumed that the 'twelve' relate to the twelve tribes of Israel. The pity that Jesus felt as he looked with eyes of compassion upon those who flocked to listen to him and receive healing in their lives caused him to reach out to them in ministry and appoint others to help him carry on the work. The commission is urgent as he passes on authority and power to them.

Images from the Readings

- *Sheep without a shepherd*
- *Workers for the harvest*
- *Power of healing*
- *You will be my people*
- *Greater than friendship*

Reflection for Leaders

The first reading gives us a wonderful image of God carrying his children on eagles wings. Not long out of Egypt, they are encamped at the foot of Mt Sinai awaiting the giving of the Law. The beautiful relationship God has with the people is outlined in this reading. Matthew's gospel was written for people who were mainly converts to Christianity from Judaism. The traditions and prejudices of their Jewish upbringing were still alive in their lives – including the enmity between the Jews and the Samaritans, the fear of contamination by pagan ideas and the suspicion of the Gentiles. Jesus recognises that his mission is to the people of Israel who are like a flock of lost sheep. The group of disciples Jesus chose to surround him self with and prepare for this missionary activity were an unusual choice of men. They were fishermen, a tax collector, a zealot, - only Judas Iscariot, who would later betray Jesus to the Jewish authorities, was well educated. It is assumed that the 'twelve' relate to the twelve tribes of Israel. The pity that Jesus felt as he looked with eyes of compassion upon those who flocked to listen to him and receive healing in their lives caused him to reach out to them in ministry and appoint others to help him carry on the work. The commission is urgent as he passes on authority and power to them.

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' which this week uses the 'Chorus Play' on page 8 to reinforce the Gospel message.

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, a chart listing the apostle's names

Simon Peter

Andrew

James

JOHN

Philip

Bartholomew

Thomas

Matthew

James

Thaddeus

Simon

Judas

LEADER'S Liturgy Outline

Eleventh 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 are our hope and our strength. Help us to follow Jesus and do the work you call us to.

R Amen.

First Reading: Exodus 19:1-6a

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

Psalm 100

Response: We are his people: the sheep of his flock.

Second Reading: Romans 5:6-11

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: Matthew 9:36 – 10:8

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.*

- Have you ever needed some help from your friends?
- What sort of things do they help you with?
- Sometimes only a special friend who knows you really well can help.
- What do you think Jesus meant when he was talking about the harvest and not enough workers?
- Jesus had a group of very special friends.
- When he saw all the people around him who needed help he felt sorry for them, and so he asked his friends to help. What sort of help did people need? Do people have the same needs today?
- What are these twelve special friends of Jesus called? (the apostles)
- What sort of people were they? (Fishermen, tax collectors, ordinary people – not religious people or doctors or lawyers)
- Today we call the special people who do the same job, bishops. Do you know the name of any bishops? What do they do?
- How did Jesus bring God’s special love and care into this world?
- Can you think of any other people today who do this?

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

Invite the children to link hands and pray a special prayer of blessing and protection for the Pope, your bishop, your priest and all who share in the mission of the Church. Pray that God will send more workers to continue the mission.

If time allows: Both older and younger children come together for the liturgical action this week using Rina Wintour's 'chorus play' of this Gospel on page 9.



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 call upon God who is near to us in every need:

- For the Church that we are able to share the good news with all people with courage and confidence

Let us pray to the Lord **R** **Lord hear our prayer**
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

- That all people, especially those who are sad or lonely or confused, will come to know how tenderly God values them

Let us pray to the Lord **R** **Lord hear our prayer**
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

- That we move past our fears and do the work that God calls us to

Let us pray to the Lord **R** **Lord hear our prayer**
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

- For all those who feel loss in their lives, that they will be comforted

Let us pray to the Lord **R** **Lord hear our prayer**
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

Leader: God of wisdom and love, you understand all our feelings and needs even before we ask. We ask you to answer these prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord

All: **Amen.**

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

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Chorus Play

Matthew 9:36 – 10:8

Jesus calls the twelve disciples

Note to leaders: It might be helpful if the responses for the 'Chorus group' were written on signs for the rest of the children to read.

People required: Leader, Reader 1, Reader 2, and Reader 3

Leader: Jesus called twelve disciples.

Chorus: I'm calling you . . .

Reader 1: Simon Peter.

Chorus: I'm calling you . . .

Reader 2: Andrew.

Chorus: I'm calling you . . .

Reader 3: James and John.

Chorus: I'm calling you . . .

Reader 1: Philip and Bartholomew.

Chorus: I'm calling you . . .

Reader 2: Thomas and Matthew.

Chorus: I'm calling you . . .

Reader 3: James.

Chorus: I'm calling you . . .

Reader 1: Thaddeaus.

Chorus: I'm calling you . . .

Reader 2: Simon the Eager One.

Chorus: I'm calling you . . .

Reader 3: Judas.

Leader: Jesus told the disciples to care for people, to heal the sick and to help everyone they could.



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.