

**Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Year B**  
**20 June 2021**  
**Mark 4:35-41**

**Catechist Background**

Today's gospel comes at the end of a day's teaching to the people. Jesus had taught the crowds in parables and then explained the parables to the disciples. He then took the disciples away from the crowds into the boat on the Sea of Galilee. The disciples are frightened by the sudden storm and wake Jesus from his peaceful sleep. Notice the contrast between their terror and Jesus' peace. Their words are somewhat reproachful, questioning his care for them. What did they expect him to do, one might ask. Today's gospel shows Jesus' power over the elements, over nature, another example from Mark of Jesus' divine authority. Clearly, from their reaction at the end of the passage, the disciples are unsure of Jesus' identity – despite their expectations of him. What they see is a human being who acts with the power of God. This theme recurs throughout Mark's gospel. Jesus questions their faith in him. 'How is it that you have no faith?' Did they not trust that all would be well just because he was there. What is important here is that we are able to look beyond the miracles to the deeper reality of the person of Jesus.

This gospel calls upon us to reflect on our own lives, to be able to bring our struggles to God in prayer and to trust in God's response

**We Say Sorry**

Leader: You speak to us your saving Word, Lord have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: you lead us into truth, Christ have mercy.

**All: Christ, have mercy.**

Leader: You open our ears and our hearts, Lord have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

**Gloria**

**We Pray (1)**

Loving God, help us to do what is right by following Jesus and knowing you love us. Amen.

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Gospel: Mark 4:35-41**

Have ready a set of toy blocks, enough to build a tower. Ask the children to name some things that might cause them to worry or to be afraid. As each worry is mentioned begin building a tower of blocks, adding a new block as each worry is named. Tell them that if we let worries build up in us without sharing them, it can begin to feel as if everything is crashing down around us. Knock over the blocks.

Ask the children whom can they talk to when they have worries. How do these people help?

In today's gospel we are going to hear about a time when the disciples were worried and frightened.

Read from the Children's Lectionary Mark 4:35-41 Allow for silence.

**Reflecting on the readings with the children:**

Help the children to recall the story.

What were the disciples worried about?

Was Jesus worried? How do you know?

What did the disciples do?

What do you think they expected Jesus to do?

Jesus did a really amazing thing, that none of the disciples would have expected. He calmed the storm after the disciples came to him with their fears.

The disciples were amazed and were unsure who he really was. Help the children to understand that Jesus, through his actions, was helping his friends to understand that, through him, God is present in the world.

### **Response:**

Like the disciples we can share our worries with Jesus. Jesus will help us if we bring him our worries in prayer. The way Jesus helps will not always be what we have expected, but it will be a way which makes us feel better and able to deal with our problems. Lead the children in a quiet time in which they can talk to Jesus about one thing they are worried or concerned about.

After an appropriate time pray together, *'Jesus, when we are afraid, help us to remember to place our faith in you.'*

### **We believe:**

Relating the Creed to what you have shared with the children, ask this series of questions and invite the children to reply, "I do", e.g.

- Do you believe in God who always loves and cares for us?
- Do you believe we can always turn to Jesus to calm our fears?
- Do you believe in the Holy Spirit who brings us peace?
- And do you believe in the Catholic Church where we come together as a family and that, one day we will share everlasting life with God in heaven?

### **We pray:**

Again relating the bidding prayers to what you have shared with the children, propose some bidding prayers, e.g., Jesus has said he is with us always as we pray, so we pray

Leader: That all people will let Jesus touch their lives with his Good News, Lord, in your mercy

**Response Hear our prayer.**

Leader: That we will learn about Jesus from his actions and his words, Lord, in your mercy.

**Response: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: That we will follow the example of Jesus in showing care for all who suffer or are lonely, Lord, in your mercy.

**Response: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: That the people we know who are suffering from illness, may be helped by listening also to the Good News, Lord, in your mercy.

**Response: Hear our prayer.**

