

Liturgy of the Word with Children
Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C
23 January, 2022
Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21

Catechist Background

After being affirmed in his mission in the gospel readings in the previous two Sundays by both his Father and his mother, in this Sunday's gospel we see Jesus publicly stating his mission himself. He borrows his job description from the one originally used for Isaiah—likewise, it is our calling too. The scene is not complete here; we see the reaction of his listeners in next week's gospel.

Setting the Scene

For the activity listed below, you will need to set up a circle of rope or masking tape on the floor as a 'prison' large enough to hold all of the children. Alternatively, arrange chairs in a loose circle with enough space between them to walk.

We Say Sorry

Leader: You show us how to live, Lord have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: You invite us to follow you, Christ have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: You give us all we need, Lord have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Gloria

We Pray (1)

Heavenly Father, we know you love us more than we can possibly imagine. Help us to live our lives in a way that helps us to understand you more and more. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel: Luke 1:4, 4:14-21

Reflecting on the Reading with Children

- Explain to the children that Jesus is speaking in the synagogue at the beginning of his public ministry. What other stories do we know about Jesus where he practises what he is preaching in today's gospel?
- As followers of Jesus, we should try to do the type of things that he did. Even if we don't know anybody who is physically blind or anybody in prison, to follow Jesus we should look out for those most in need.

Response

Suggest to the children that even though we may not be actually in prison or blind, there are things in our lives that might make us feel a little 'stuck,' just like captives, or keep us from clearly 'seeing' how things really are. Ask the

children what sorts of things might make us feel like we are not free, or unable to understand things clearly. Suggestions might include being tired, having a cold, being shouted at, someone being unfair to us. Write down their answers if you wish.

Gather the children inside the circle you have prepared earlier. Tell them that when you say that Jesus has set them free from something, they should all step out of the makeshift prison. Using whatever suggestions they have put forward, call out, 'Jesus has come to set you free from _____!' (fill in the blank with 'being tired' or 'somebody being unfair to you,' or another of their suggestions). Repeat until they have been reminded they have been 'set free' from everything on their list.

We Believe

Relating to the creed what you have shared with the children, ask this series of questions and invite the children to reply, 'I do.'

- Do you believe in God, the Father, who made the world and everything in it?
- Do you believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God, who came to set us free?
- Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who was with Jesus in Nazareth and is with us now?

We Pray (2)

Again, try to relate the bidding prayers to the reading by saying, 'We trust that Jesus is still looking after those in need in our world today and so we pray...'

Leader: We pray for people whose jobs are about telling people about God's love. Help them to remember how important that is. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for people who make laws. Help them to make laws that will help people feel free and happy. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for all people who are in prison, and people who are poor. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for ourselves, that we are able to do our part to help other people feel free and happy. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord, we know you are looking out for everyone in the world, especially those who need the most care. Help us to remember that you are with us when we are in need. We make all our prayers through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

