

Liturgy of the Word with Children
Sixth Sunday of Easter, Year C
22 May 2022
John 14:23-29

Catechist Background

Although we are in the season of Easter, this Sunday's gospel is a continuation of the 'Last Supper Discourses' that we heard from last week. As Jesus prepared for his crucifixion and told his disciples things to help sustain them over the difficult days to come, his disciples did not fully grasp what he was saying. They were still hoping Jesus would set up an earthly kingdom, kicking out the occupying Roman forces and bringing prosperity especially to themselves, Jesus' closest comrades.

Setting the Scene

For the activity below you will need sticky labels and writing/drawing materials.

We Say Sorry

Leader: You call us to trust in you, Lord have mercy

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: You lead us in truth, Christ have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: You open your arms to all of us, Lord have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Gloria

We Pray (1)

God, help us to show the joy in our lives that comes from Jesus' resurrection.
Amen.

Gospel Intro

Some, if not all, of the children will have experience of someone they love being far away—perhaps a friend who has moved house, or an auntie in another country, or grandparents in another town. How does it feel when someone you love is far away? Explain to the children that in this reading, Jesus knew he didn't have much time left with his friends and wanted to say some things that they would be able to look back on to make them feel stronger when he was gone.

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel John 14:23-29

Reflecting on the Reading with Children

- When Jesus spoke these words, he was about to be crucified. How else did Jesus leave his friends, after he rose?
- What did Jesus say the Father would send to his friends?

- What did Jesus say he was leaving with them? Why do you think he might have said that? Do you think his friends would have felt very peace-filled over the events of the next few days?
- What kind of things remind us of Jesus' peace?
- What kind of things make it hard to feel Jesus' peace?

Response

Give each child a sticky label (with the backing paper still on), and allow them to write the word 'PEACE' on it, and to decorate it. For younger children, have the word already written on the label. When they are finished decorating, allow the children to stick the label to their clothing as a reminder to themselves to spread Jesus' peace throughout the day. Their friends and family who see them today might be reminded of peace from their label throughout the day as well.

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, Alleluia, Alleluia!'

- Do you believe in God, the Father of us all?
- Do you believe in Jesus Christ, who leaves us his peace?
- Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who teaches us and reminds us of what Jesus has taught us?

We Pray (2)

Again, try to relate the bidding prayers to the reading by saying, 'God has left us to be peacemakers in this world, and so we pray...'

Leader: We pray for leaders in our church, especially those who have made mistakes in leading people to you. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for all newly elected officials to work together to promote Christ's peace. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for people who don't have safe places to live. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for people we know who don't feel very peaceable today. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord, we know you are always with us, even when we cannot see you. Help us to feel your peace and spread it to others. We make all our prayers through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

