

Liturgy of the Word with Children
Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C
26 June, 2022
Luke 9:51-62

Catechist Background

In some ways today's gospel is an awkward passage that is open to misunderstanding. It comes into sharp focus particularly when contrasted with today's first reading (1Kings 19:16, 19-21), where Elisha was allowed to say goodbye to his parents. The implication in this gospel is not that we should not be concerned about our loved ones, but rather that we should be ready to follow Jesus' call in every moment of our lives. Elisha was called to be a successor to Elijah; the disciples were not called to 'succeed' Jesus but to follow him, and we are called to do the same. Many people miss opportunities in following God's will because they delay 'until I get a promotion,' or 'after the children are in school,' or 'when the children have left home.' Jesus asks us to follow him in all stages of our lives. Every moment is the perfect time.

Setting the Scene

For the activity described below, you will need items to make and decorate flags. Depending on the age and ability of your children, these could be of any size or shape (e.g. bunting or traditional flags), and made out of either cloth or paper.

We Say Sorry

Leader: You call all to follow you, Lord have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: You entrust us with your work, 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)

God our Father, help us to follow Jesus and to understand that what he says is true.
Amen.

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel: Luke 9:57-62

Reflecting on the Reading with Children

- How do we know if someone supports a particular football team? What might they wear? How could we know from what they say? How might we know from their actions?
- How do we know if someone follows Jesus? How would they act?

- If you say that you will be a fan of XXXXX team in the future, are you really their fan now?
- If someone said that they will follow Jesus in the future, but not yet, what would that mean?

Response

Give the children flags to decorate to show that they 'support Jesus' side.' If your children's liturgy group has lots of very small children, it might be a good idea to have prepared a design for the flag beforehand, for instance with a cross on it. Make sure to emphasise that following Jesus involves more than waving flags or cheering, but also joining Jesus in imitating his love in action.

If your space and noise constraints allow it, you may wish to shout a cheerful 'We follow Jesus!' while waving your flags.

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 whole world out of love?
- Do you believe in God the Son, Jesus, who came to call us back to God?
- Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit who helps us to follow Jesus today?

We Pray (2)

Again, try to relate the bidding prayers to the reading by saying, 'Jesus, you prayed to your Father and so we also now pray...'

Leader: We pray for leaders in the Church and leaders in Catholic schools, that they may always lead people to follow Jesus. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for all sportsmen and sportswomen. May they remember to be good role models, especially for children. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for Christians in the parts of the world where it is dangerous to say that you believe in Jesus. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for our parish and for our families. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord, we know that you hear all our prayers. Help us to hear when you answer us. We make all our prayers through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

