



Liturgy of the Word with Children

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

'Teach us to pray'

Green

Genesis 18:20-32 Psalm 138 Luke 11:1-10



Jesus gave us a special prayer which we call 'The Lord's Prayer' or the 'Our Father'. This prayer was very different from anything that the Jews had heard before, because it taught the disciples to approach God as a loving and protective parent rather than someone all-powerful and far away from us. Jesus tells us to be persistent in asking God for what we need. God always answers our prayers, though not necessarily the way we expect or want. What sort of things do you pray for?

Leader's Preparation

In preparation for leading this celebration, begin by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures for the Seventeenth 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

Luke 11:1-10

When Jesus had finished praying, one of his disciples said to him. "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his followers to pray." So Jesus told them, "Pray in this way: 'Father, help us to honour your name. Come and set up your kingdom. Give us each day the food we need. Forgive our sins, as we forgive everyone who has done wrong to us. And keep us from being tempted.' "

Then Jesus went on to say: "Suppose one of you goes to a friend in the middle of the night and days, 'Let me borrow three loaves of bread. A friend of mine has dropped in, and I don't have a thing for him to eat.' And suppose your friend answers, 'Don't bother me! The door is bolted, and my children and I are in bed. I cannot get up to give you something.'

“He may not get up and give you the bread, just because you are his friend. But he will get up and give you as much as you need, simply because you are not ashamed to keep on asking.

“So I tell you to ask and you will receive, search and you will find, knock and the door will be opened for you. Everyone who asks will receive, everyone who searches will find, and the door will be opened for everyone who knocks.”

FIRST READING

Genesis 18:20--32

The Lord said to Abraham, “I have heard that the people of Sodom and Gomorrah are doing all kinds of evil things. Now I am going down to see if those people are really that bad. If they aren’t, I want to know about it.”

The men turned and started toward Sodom. But the Lord stayed with Abraham, who asked, “Lord, when you destroy the wicked people, are you also going to destroy the good ones? Would you spare the city if there are fifty good people in it? Surely, you wouldn’t let the good ones be killed when you destroy the bad ones. You are the judge of the earth, and you do what is right.” The Lord replied, “If I find fifty good people in Sodom, I will save the city to keep them from being killed.” Abraham answered, “Lord, I am nothing more than the dust of the earth. Please forgive me for daring to speak to you like this. But supposing there are only forty-five good people in Sodom. Would you still wipe out the whole city?” The Lord replied, “If I find forty-five good people, I won’t destroy the city.”

Abraham asked the Lord, “Suppose there are just forty good people?” The Lord replied, “Just for them, I won’t destroy the city.”

Abraham said, “Lord, please don’t be angry, if I ask you what you would do if there are only thirty good people in the city.” The Lord replied, “If I find thirty, I still won’t destroy it.”

Then Abraham said, “Lord, I don’t have any right to ask. But what would you do if you find only twenty?”

The Lord replied, “Because of them, I won’t destroy the city.”

Finally, Abraham said, “Lord, please don’t become angry, if I speak just once more. Suppose you find only ten good people there.”

The Lord then replied, “For the sake of ten good people, I still won’t destroy the city.”

PSALM

Psalm 138

Response: Lord on the day I called for help, you answered me

or Alleluia!

With all my heart I praise you, Lord.

In the presence of angels I sing your praises.

I worship at your holy temple. **R**

I praise you for your love and your faithfulness.

You were true to your word and made yourself more famous

than ever before.

When I asked for your help,
you answered my prayer and gave me courage. R

I am surrounded by trouble, but you protect me.
With your own powerful arm you keep me safe.
You, Lord, will always treat me with kindness.
Your love never fails. R

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

In Jesus' time, many teachers offered their disciples a spiritual path. In the gospel today, Jesus' followers are looking to Jesus to teach them his 'way' to God. Although there are many images of God in the Hebrew Scriptures, most people understood a vague 'All powerful' and 'Almighty' distant God. Jesus shows us the intimate loving relationship that he experiences with God as a parent - more gracious, more generous and more loving than our human ones. The reluctance exhibited by the neighbour in the gospel can be understood in light of the living arrangements of the time. Animals were housed on the ground floor at night, and the family spread their sleeping mats on the floor above. To open the door in the night would mean disturbing the entire household and flock.

Images from the Readings

- *Teach us to pray*
- *Not ashamed to keep asking*
- *Ask ... search ... knock*
- *The door will be opened*
- *I will spare the city*
- *You answered me*

Reflection for Leaders

Consider the circumstances of a time when you had to refuse a request for help that someone made of you. Did it alter your relationship with that person? How did you feel? Persistence is encouraged in the readings today. Have there been times when you have felt like giving up on your journey? What has helped you to persevere? Spend some time reflecting on your prayer life. How do you pray? Do you ever abuse the privilege of asking God for needs? What is it that you are searching for? Prayer doesn't always change our circumstances, but it can change us. This week, spend time meditating on the 'Our Father'. Pray it line by line, thinking about the meaning of each part.

Reflecting on the Readings with the children

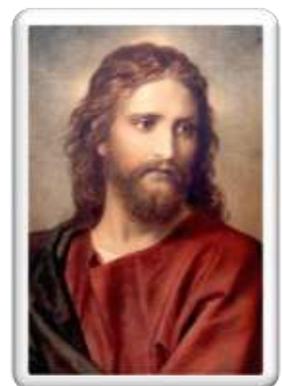
Before Sunday read over the suggested discussion points given in the Leader's Liturgy Outline. With the 8-12 year olds: First, listen to the children's own responses to the Reading/s and then, if needed, use some of the discussion starters suggested.

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'.



Suggested Focus

Green cloth, Lectionary, candle, a picture of Jesus, a prayer book and a copy of the 'Our Father' each - (see page 11)



LEADER'S LITURGY OUTLINE

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

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 know us and love us so much and take care of all our needs. Help us to always turn to you in prayer whenever we need help.

R Amen.

First Reading: Genesis 18:20-32

(if used)

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

Psalms 138

Response: Lord on the day I called for help, you answered me
or Alleluia

D G Bm A D G Asus⁴ A

General: Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Fill us O Lord with your word._____

Bm G D A G A D

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Your word is life for our souls.

Gospel: Luke 11:1-10

Minister of the Word: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke
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.

- When do you pray? What do you pray for? Have your prayers changed since you were little? What does Jesus tell us today about praying? Jesus taught his disciples a very special prayer that we say each time we come to Mass. Do you know what it is called? (the ‘Our Father’ or the ‘Lord’s Prayer’)
- People in those days often thought God was very powerful and far away, so this prayer meant that we are able to speak to God in a very close and personal way, just as if we were speaking to our parents.



(Take the children through the prayer in sections and reflect on the meaning of each part with them)

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

Recite together the 'Lord's Prayer':



Our Father who art in Heaven,
Hallowed be thy name;
Thy kingdom come
Thy will be done
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive those who trespass against us;
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
Amen.

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 Īnoinga 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: Loving God, you invite us to bring all our needs to you in prayer. Listen to the prayers of your children:

- That our church continues to teach her people to pray, to trust God, and not give up ... Let us pray to the Lord
R **Lord hear our prayer** or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- That we learn to notice and think of other people and pray for their needs...
... Let us pray to the Lord
R **Lord hear our prayer** or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For a good attitude to God even when we don't understand everything, that our prayers will be pleasing to God and help our faith to grow ...
... Let us pray to the Lord
R **Lord hear our prayer** or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- That we learn to be persistent and confident in our prayer
... Let us pray to the Lord
R **Lord hear our prayer** or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

Leader: God of surprises, fill us with your Spirit, and give us all that we need.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord

All: Amen

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



Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

THE LORD'S PRAYER



Our Father who art in Heaven,
Hallowed be thy name;
Thy kingdom come
Thy will be done
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive those who trespass against us;
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
Amen.