

Children's liturgy – Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

Preparation of the worship space

Colour: Green

Props: Coloured pens and pencils.

Song suggestions: *Freely, freely (209, Celebration Hymnal for Everyone)*

Welcome: Today we hear about a dishonest manager and about how we cannot love God and money equally. God must come first in our lives.

Opening prayer: Generous God, in you we have all we need. Help us to put you first in all that we do and to trust that you will care for us always. Amen.

First reading (optional): Amos 8:4-7

Psalm: Psalm 112:1-2, 4-8. R. Cf. vv. 1, 7

Gospel acclamation: *everyone stands and sings the acclamation together.*

Gospel: Luke 16:1-13

Jesus said to his disciples, "There was once a rich man who had a servant who managed his property. The rich man was told that the manager was wasting his master's money, so he called him in and said, 'What is this I hear about you? Hand in a complete account of your handling of my property, because you cannot be my manager any longer.' The servant said to himself, 'My master is going to dismiss me from my job. What shall I do? I am not strong enough to dig ditches, and I am ashamed to beg. Now I know what I will do! Then when my job is gone, I shall have friends who will welcome me in their homes.'

So he called in all the people who were in debt to his master. He asked the first one, 'How much do you owe my master?' '100 barrels of olive oil,' he answered. 'Here is your account,' the manager told him; 'sit down and write fifty.' Then he asked another one, 'And you—how much do you owe?' 'A thousand sacks of wheat,' he answered. 'Here is your account,' the manager told him; 'write 800.' As a result the master of this dishonest manager praised him for doing such a shrewd thing; because the people of this world are much more shrewd in handling their affairs than the people who belong to the light."

And Jesus went on to say, "And so I tell you: make friends for yourselves with worldly wealth, so that when it gives out, you will be welcomed in the eternal home. Whoever is faithful in small matters will be faithful in large ones; whoever is dishonest in small matters will be dishonest in large ones. If, then, you have not been faithful in handling worldly wealth, how can you be trusted with true wealth? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to someone else, who will give you what belongs to you?"

“No servant can be the slave of two masters; such a servant will hate one and love the other or will be loyal to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation® and used with permission, see details below)*

Gospel reflection: What do you remember from today's reading?

The manager in this story's job was to look after a rich man's property and money. Why was the rich man cross with his manager?

The rich man was cross because the manager was not careful with his money. He spent too much of it. And so the rich man told the manager he could no longer have a job.

There are many rich people in the world and there are even more people who have very little. Do you think it is fair that some of us are rich and have lots of nice things and some of us are poor and do not have clean water, a house to live in, a school to go to, clothes to wear or books to read from and learn?

Another word that is sometimes used instead of manager is steward. We are all stewards of this world but also of each other. We are called to look after both people and the earth, wisely and fairly.

In today's gospel, Jesus says that if we can't be trusted in small things we won't be trusted with bigger things.

What small things are important to you and why? What big things are important to you and why? How can you be careful with all of them?

Jesus says we can't serve both God and money in our lives. God must come first. Then other people. Then money and the things we own last. He also says that we should be generous with the money that we do have and use it to look after others. In this way, we will be welcomed into heaven by God.

When you think about what's important to you, which comes first? God? Your friends and family, including our brothers and sisters around the world? Or your toys and clothes and other things?

How will you make sure that you put God and other people before your possessions in the coming week? What will you do to show that you serve God in your life?

Intercessions *You may want to ask the children to offer their own prayers or you can use the suggestions below.*

Jesus asked us to put God first so in God's name we pray together...

For more children's liturgy resources and illustrations see cafod.org.uk/childrensliturgy

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We pray for world leaders: that they may care for their people and for what is right more than for money and power. May they rule wisely and justly. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our brothers and sisters in every country: that we may share what we have with one another, so that all people may have enough to live well. Lord in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may share what we have fairly and always remember what is truly important. Lord in your mercy...

Closing prayer: God of plenty, we thank you for all that you have given us. Help us to remember what is really important in our lives and to be generous in all that we do. Amen.

Activity suggestions

Invite the children to colour in the accompanying illustration of a woman donating to charity. Talk about how/whether this shows that she is putting other people first. What other ways are there that we can show people are more important to us than money and possessions? Encourage the children to write or draw one or two of their ideas on the back of the illustration.

Invite the children to make a list of the differences between loving God and loving money/possessions. Then ask them to decide which things last longest and remind them that God will always look after them.

Remind the children to go home and share all that they have heard and thought about in the liturgy today with their grown ups. Encourage them to think of one thing they can do (small or big) this week to show others they can be trusted to care for things or people in their homes. Remind them to try to put God and other people first in all that they do in the coming week.

*Gospel passage taken from:

Good News Translation® (Today's English Version, Second Edition)

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