

Children's liturgy – Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

Preparing the worship space

Colour: green

Props: photos of children from around the world and their names, large sheet of coloured card.

Welcome: Today we hear how Jesus changed Simon's name to Peter, which means "rock". Names are very important – we all have one and God knows all of us by our name. Let's think a bit more about names today.

Song suggestions: Do not be afraid (147, Celebration Hymnal for Everyone)

Opening prayer: God of all, you know us all by our name, and love and care for us, because we are all your children. Help us also to love and care for our brothers and sisters around the world. Amen.

First reading (optional): 1 Samuel 3:3b-10

Psalm: Psalm 39:2, 4, 7-10, r. 8, 9

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

Gospel: John 1:35-42

The next day John was standing there again with two of his disciples, when he saw Jesus walking by. "There is the Lamb of God!" he said.

The two disciples heard him say this and went with Jesus. Jesus turned, saw them following him, and asked, "What are you looking for?"

They answered, "Where do you live, Rabbi?" (This word means "Teacher.")

"Come and see," he answered. (It was then about four o'clock in the afternoon.) So they went with him and saw where he lived, and spent the rest of that day with him.

One of them was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. At once he found his brother Simon and told him, "We have found the Messiah." (This word means "Christ.") Then he took Simon to Jesus.

Jesus looked at him and said, "Your name is Simon son of John, but you will be called Cephas." (This is the same as Peter and means "a rock.")

(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 gospel today tells us about how some of the disciples first became followers of Jesus.

Jesus looked at Simon and decided he should be called Peter, which means “rock”. Why do you think Jesus chose this name for Simon Peter?

Simon Peter was strong and dependable (like a rock) and he was the foundation for the Church. (Buildings are built on rock foundations so that they do not fall over).

Names are very important. We all have one, or two, or maybe even three. And some of us have a nickname that we like to be called by our family or our friends.

How many names do you have? What are they? Do you know what your name means? What do you like about your name?

You could look up in advance what the names of some of the children mean, or what your own name means.

You could also share the names and a little bit of info about some children around the world with your group. See the activity suggestions for more details.

We are all part of God’s family and so God knows us all by our name and loves and cares for us wherever we are in the world. God’s family spreads out all over the world and includes all kinds of different people.

How does this make you feel?

How do you think God wants us to treat our brothers and sisters around the world – each of whom God knows by name?

God wants us to treat each other fairly, with love and respect and to care for one another. So, how will you treat your brothers and sisters here and around the world in the coming week?

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

We know that God loves us and knows everyone by name and so we pray together:

We pray for world leaders: that they may make wise decisions for the good of all the members of our global family. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our brothers and sisters throughout the world, especially those who are living in poverty: that they may be able to change their lives for the better. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may take the time to get to know others, no matter where in the world they are from or how different they are from us,

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and care for them and help them as God loves and cares for us. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer: Loving God, help us to remember that all people throughout the world are special, because you know us by our names and we are all your children. Amen.

Activity suggestions

Invite the children to colour in the accompanying illustration, making the person in the picture look like them. Then encourage them to write their name in big colourful letters in the speech bubble. On the back they could write a prayer for all their brothers and sisters in their global family, who God also knows by name, and say it together with the people at home during the week.

Share the names, and information about some children around the world with your group. You could ask the children about the similarities and differences between their lives and the lives of the children featured here.

Ruben lives in Bolivia, in an area called the Alto Plano, high up in the Andes mountain range. He and his family grow vegetables in their greenhouse to eat: lettuce, cucumbers, courgettes, tomatoes, broad beans. Ruben's favourite vegetable is lettuce.

Zin Thu Thu lives in a village in Myanmar, with her parents, brother and sisters. She has been learning how to stay safe in a storm.

Guti stays at her school in Uganda during the week because her village is quite far away. She likes singing and she uses songs and drama to help other children in her school to learn about water and keeping clean.

Samai's favourite subject at school is reading. Every morning he wakes up, says his prayers, has breakfast and then heads out to school. He lives in Sierra Leone.

Create a poster with the children on a large sheet of coloured card. In the centre write "God knows us all by name". Invite the children to draw a picture of themselves and write their name and stick those around the text to make the poster. You could also add in pictures and names of some of the children from around the world that they have heard about in the session.

Encourage the children to share and discuss all that they have heard and thought about in the liturgy today at home. If they have written a prayer ask them to say it together with the people at home during the week.

*Gospel passage taken from:

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

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