

Children's liturgy – Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

Preparation of the worship space

Colour: green

Props: coloured pens or pencils

Song suggestions: Make me a channel of your peace (898, Laudate)
Seek ye first the kingdom of God (820, Laudate)

Welcome: Today Jesus talks about the importance of giving, of being generous with what we have and treating other people as we would like to be treated. Let's think a bit more about this today.

Opening prayer: Generous God, we thank you for all that you have given us. May we also be generous to others and treat all people as we would wish to be treated. Amen.

First reading (optional): Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23

Psalm: Psalm 102:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13 r. 8

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

Gospel: Luke 6:27-38

Jesus said to his disciples: "But I tell you who hear me: love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who ill-treat you. If anyone hits you on one cheek, let him hit the other one too; if someone takes your coat, let him have your shirt as well. Give to everyone who asks you for something, and when someone takes what is yours, do not ask for it back. ³¹ Do for others just what you want them to do for you.

"If you love only the people who love you, why should you receive a blessing? Even sinners love those who love them! And if you do good only to those who do good to you, why should you receive a blessing? Even sinners do that! And if you lend only to those from whom you hope to get it back, why should you receive a blessing? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount! No! Love your enemies and do good to them; lend and expect nothing back. You will then have a great reward, and you will be children of the Most High God. For he is good to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful just as your Father is merciful.

"Do not judge others, and God will not judge you; do not condemn others, and God will not condemn you; forgive others, and God will forgive you. Give to others, and God will give to you. Indeed, you will receive a full measure, a generous helping, poured into your hands — all that you can hold. The measure you use for others is the one that God will use for you."

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

Gospel reflection: What do you remember from the reading today?

Jesus is telling the disciples how he wants them to be. He asks them to be good to everyone, even those who hate them.

He asks them to treat everyone as they would want to be treated.

He asks them not to judge other people, to be kind and compassionate, and to forgive those who hurt them.

And he also asks them to be generous. To give what they have to anyone who asks them.

Can you remember a time when you received a gift? Maybe it was your birthday, or Christmas or another special occasion? How did it make you feel to receive the gift?

Can you remember a time when you gave someone a gift? How do you think it made them feel? And how did it make you feel when you gave it to them?

Giving is a wonderful thing. It can make us feel happy, because we are making other people happy.

We don't just have to give people presents. Can you think of some other things that we can give to people?

We can give people our love, our time, our friendship, our kindness. We can give them comfort when they are sad.

Jesus says that those of us who are generous will receive lots of gifts back. This doesn't mean that we will get loads of presents. It's not about getting more toys or sweets or things, but about being surrounded by love, peace, hope and joy. These are really important gifts.

What gift do you think you can give to others this week?

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

God gives generously and so we pray together:

We pray for the Church throughout the world: that it may be a place of giving, of love, and peace, where all people may be treated as they wish. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for all members of our global family: that we may be moved to share generously with one another and so be filled with the gifts of love, hope and peace. Lord, in your mercy...

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

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We pray for our parish, our family and friends: that we may live our lives as Jesus asked, giving generously of our love, time and kindness to all, no matter where in the world they live. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer: God of love, help us to be giving and loving to one another. Fill us with your gifts of peace, hope and love. Amen.

Activity suggestions

Invite the children to colour in the accompanying illustration and on the back to write or draw what gift (eg kindness, love, forgiveness, friendship) they think they can give to others in the coming week.

Decorate a large box to look like a present and cut a slit in the top. Give all the children small pieces of paper. Encourage them to write or draw the gift that they will give to others this week and then put it in the box to make one big present.

Invite the children to write a prayer thanking God for all the gifts that they have been given.

Encourage the children to share all that they have heard and thought about today with the people at home. Remind them to try to be generous in the coming week and to count up each time they give something to another person or they receive something and to think about how these gifts make them feel. If the children have written a prayer, ask them to say it with others at home during the week.

*Gospel passage taken from:

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