

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

Preparation of the worship space

Colour: green

Props: Paper and coloured pens or pencils

Song suggestions: Sing of the Lord's goodness (713, Laudate)
Tell out my soul (880, Laudate)

Welcome: Today Jesus tells us a story about some workers who all receive the same wages, even though some worked all day and some just worked for an hour. Does that sound right to you? Let's think some more about this today.

Opening prayer: Generous and giving God, you created the world with enough for everyone. Help us to share what we have been given and make sure all your people have enough. Amen.

First reading (optional): Isaiah 55:6-9

Psalm: Psalm 144:2-3, 8-9, 17-18. R. v.18

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

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

"The Kingdom of heaven is like this. Once there was a man who went out early in the morning to hire some men to work in his vineyard. He agreed to pay them the regular wage, a silver coin a day, and sent them to work in his vineyard. He went out again to the market place at nine o'clock and saw some men standing there doing nothing, so he told them, 'You also go and work in the vineyard, and I will pay you a fair wage.' So they went. Then at twelve o'clock and again at three o'clock he did the same thing. It was nearly five o'clock when he went to the market place and saw some other men still standing there. 'Why are you wasting the whole day here doing nothing?' he asked them. 'No one hired us,' they answered. 'Well, then, you also go and work in the vineyard,' he told them.

"When evening came, the owner told his foreman, 'Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with those who were hired last and ending with those who were hired first.' The men who had begun to work at five o'clock were paid a silver coin each. So when the men who were the first to be hired came to be paid, they thought they would get more; but they too were given a silver coin each. They took their money and started grumbling against the employer. 'These men who were hired last worked only one hour,' they said, 'while we put up with a whole day's work in the hot sun—yet you paid them the same as you paid us!'

'Listen, friend,' the owner answered one of them, 'I have not cheated you. After all, you agreed to do a day's work for one silver coin. Now take your pay and go home. I want to give this man who was hired last as much as I have given you. Don't I have

the right to do as I wish with my own money? Or are you jealous because I am generous?"

And Jesus concluded, "So those who are last will be first, and those who are first will be last."

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

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

A landowner went out to hire some workers for his vineyard. He took on new workers at the start of the day and three more times later in the day. He promised them all a fair wage.

The workers who arrived first expected to be paid more than the workers who arrived near to the end of the day. After all, they were hot and tired and had worked very hard all day, while some of the others have only worked for one hour.

How did the workers who had been hired first feel when they saw that everyone was being paid the same wage?

They thought it was unfair. They were angry and complained. Do you agree with them? Why/why not?

The landowner says that he has paid the first workers exactly what they agreed was fair at the beginning of the day. He says that they have no reason to be cross that he is generous to the other workers, that he can do what he likes with his own money.

Can you think of a time when you felt something was unfair? How did it make you feel? What did you do about it?

Who do you think the landowner in the story is supposed to be? What is Jesus trying to tell us?

Jesus is showing us that God's idea of fairness (sometimes we use the word justice), is different from ours. God's fairness is about making sure that every single person gets what they need, no matter what their situation.

God gives us what we need and not just what others think we deserve. God is generous and created a world with enough for absolutely everyone.

But do you think everyone in our world does have enough money? Or even enough food and water? Why/why not? Do you think this is fair? Do you think this is what God wants?

How can we help make sure that all people get their fair share of the good things that God has given us?

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

CAFOD is the official aid agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales and part of Caritas International. Charity no 1160384 and a company limited by guarantee no 09387398

We can try hard not to take more than we need and make sure we don't waste food, water or energy.

We can be generous with what we have, like the landowner in the story, sharing what we have with others.

And we can try to make a change to our world so that it is a fairer place for all people to live. Sometimes we can make a difference by ourselves. And sometimes we do this by writing to the Prime Minister or other people in power asking them to make the changes.

What will you do this week to try to help make sure that all people around the world get their fair share of the things that God has given for us all?

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

We believe that God is generous and fair and so we pray together:

We pray for world leaders: that they may do all they can to make the world a fairer place and make sure that all people have their fair share. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our sisters and brothers around the world, especially those who are poor: that every single person may have what they need to live. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may be generous and fair to all people in our one global family. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer: Living Lord, we give thanks for your generosity and love. Help us to take no more than we need, to share all that we have and to work together for change so that the world becomes a fairer place for everyone. Amen.

Activity suggestions

Invite the children to colour in the accompanying illustration and on the back to write or draw how they will help make sure that everyone gets their fair share of the things that God has given us in the coming week.

Take a sheet of paper and divide it into two columns. In one column encourage the children to write or draw all the things that they think are unfair in the world. In the other column ask them to write or draw how they can help change these things to make the world a fairer place.

Encourage the children to join in with our special "Seeds for all" activity as part of the Fix the Food System campaign. More information is available at cafod.org.uk/childrensliturgy

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

CAFOD is the official aid agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales and part of Caritas International. Charity no 1160384 and a company limited by guarantee no 09387398

Invite the children to discuss all that they have heard and thought about today with their grown ups at home. Encourage them to try to be generous and fair in the coming week and to do at least one thing to try to make the world a fairer place for other people.

See cafod.org.uk/familyprayers for more child-friendly prayer activities.

*Gospel passage taken from:

Good News Translation® (Today's English Version, Second Edition)
© 1992 American Bible Society. All rights reserved.

Anglicisation © The British and Foreign Bible Society 1976, 1994, 2004. The copyright for the derivative work of Anglicisation pertains only to the text within the Good News Translation (GNT) that British and Foreign Bible Society adapted for British literary usage, consistent with Section 103(b) of the United States Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. § 103(b).

Bible text from the Good News Translation (GNT) is not to be reproduced in copies or otherwise by any means except as permitted in writing by American Bible Society, 101 North Independence Mall East, FL 8, Philadelphia, PA 19106 (www.americanbible.org).



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

CAFOD is the official aid agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales and part of Caritas International. Charity no 1160384 and a company limited by guarantee no 09387398