

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

Preparing the worship space

Colour: green

Song suggestions: Lay your hands (347, Celebration Hymnal for Everyone)

Welcome: Today we hear about how Jesus healed people who were sick. Many people who were ill came to Jesus and he made them better. Who makes you feel better when you are sick? Let's think some more about healing today.

Opening prayer: Merciful God, look after all those who are sick. Help us to bring them comfort and make them feel better in any way that we can. Watch over all doctors, nurses and carers and give them strength in their difficult job. Amen.

First reading (optional): Job 7:1-4, 6-7

Psalm: Psalm 146:1-6 r. 3

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

Gospel: Mark 1:29-39

Jesus and his disciples, including James and John, left the synagogue and went straight to the home of Simon and Andrew. Simon's mother-in-law was sick in bed with a fever, and as soon as Jesus arrived, he was told about her. He went to her, took her by the hand, and helped her up. The fever left her, and she began to wait on them.

After the sun had set and evening had come, people brought to Jesus all the sick and those who had demons. All the people of the town gathered in front of the house. Jesus healed many who were sick with all kinds of diseases and drove out many demons. He would not let the demons say anything, because they knew who he was.

Very early the next morning, long before daylight, Jesus got up and left the house. He went out of the town to a lonely place, where he prayed. But Simon and his companions went out searching for him, and when they found him, they said, "Everyone is looking for you."

But Jesus answered, "We must go on to the other villages round here. I have to preach in them also, because that is why I came."

So he travelled all over Galilee, preaching in the synagogues and driving out demons.

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

Gospel reflection: What do you remember about the reading?

Simon's mother-in-law is sick. She has a fever and is in bed. Jesus arrives at the house, takes her by the hand and helps her out of bed. Immediately she feels better.

Later that day lots of people who were ill came to the place where Jesus was. Some of them may have travelled a long way. Jesus helped them all, curing them and making them feel better.

What do you think this story tells us about Jesus?

Jesus cared for people and wanted to help them. He was able to make people well again because he is God's son. When people saw what he could do, they believed in him.

When was the last time that you were sick? How did you feel? Who helped you and made you feel better? What did they do to make you feel better?

Sometimes when we are sick we have to see a doctor or go to the hospital. How long does it take to get from your house to the doctors?

In El Salvador it is hard for some people to get the health care that they need. In some parts of the countryside there are very few health services available, so families have to travel long distances to get the care that they need. The poorest families can't afford the cost of health care which is very expensive.

Many years ago CAFOD supported villagers in Guarjila, in El Salvador, to set up a health clinic, and to train as health workers. The clinic is still going strong, helping pregnant women and their babies to keep well. They also make home visits, talk to patients over the phone and share important information about how to stay healthy on the local radio.

Jesus healed all those who came to him for help. Although we cannot heal people the way Jesus did, we can help them by making sure that wherever they are in the world, they are able to reach a doctor, or that the doctor can reach them, and that they get the medicine that they need.

We can also show people here who are ill that we care about them by looking after them, taking them some food or drink, by sending them a card or letter in the post, by phoning them or perhaps by going to the shops for them if they can't get out.

What will you do to show someone who is sick that you care this week?

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

We believe in Jesus who loves and cares for us and so we pray together:

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

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We pray for people who are sick around the world: that they may receive the care and comfort that they need. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for all doctors, nurses and healthcare workers: that they may find strength as they continue to treat their patients with love, compassion and care. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may care for one another when we are ill and work together to make sure that all people have the chance to get the care they need when they are sick. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer: God of love, help us all to follow Jesus' example of loving care, and to treat all those who are ill with kindness and tenderness. Amen.

Activity suggestions

Encourage the children to colour in the accompanying illustration of a health care worker who uses a bicycle to travel to those who need help in rural areas. On the back ask them to write a prayer for all those people in the world who are sick.

Invite one child to imagine that they are Jesus in this gospel reading, another to imagine that they are Simon's mother-in-law, while a third imagines they are Simon, or a member of the crowd who sees Jesus healing many people. Then invite the other children to ask questions of the characters in the reading eg "How does it feel to...", "What did you think when..." and any other questions that they might have to bring the reading alive.

Encourage the children to share all that they have heard and thought about today with others at home. Ask them to say the prayer that they have written together during the week.

*Gospel passage taken from:

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