

Children's liturgy Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

Preparation of the worship space

Colour: green

Song suggestions: All that I am (600, Laudate)

Welcome: Today we hear that we must make the best use of the talents we have been given by God. Let's think about this now.

Opening prayer: Generous God, we give you thanks for the gifts and talents that you have given us. Help us to make the best use of them that we can and to serve you in all that we do. Amen.

First reading (optional): Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31

Psalm: Psalm 127:1-5. R. v.1

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

Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

Jesus said: "At that time the Kingdom of heaven will be like this. Once there was a man who was about to go on a journey; he called his servants and put them in charge of his property. He gave to each one according to his ability: to one he gave 5,000 gold coins, to another he gave 2,000, and to another he gave 1,000. Then he left on his journey. The servant who had received 5,000 coins went at once and invested his money and earned another 5,000. In the same way the servant who had received 2,000 coins earned another 2,000. But the servant who had received 1,000 coins went off, dug a hole in the ground, and hid his master's money.

"After a long time the master of those servants came back and settled accounts with them. The servant who had received 5,000 coins came in and handed over the other 5,000. 'You gave me 5,000 coins, sir,' he said. 'Look! Here are another 5,000 that I have earned.' 'Well done, you good and faithful servant!' said his master. 'You have been faithful in managing small amounts, so I will put you in charge of large amounts. Come on in and share my happiness!'

Then the servant who had been given 2,000 coins came in and said, 'You gave me 2,000 coins, sir. Look! Here are another 2,000 that I have earned.' 'Well done, you good and faithful servant!' said his master. 'You have been faithful in managing small amounts, so I will put you in charge of large amounts. Come on in and share my happiness!'

Then the servant who had received 1,000 coins came in and said, 'Sir, I know you are a hard man; you reap harvests where you did not sow, and you gather crops where you did not scatter seed. I was afraid, so I went off and hid your money in the ground. Look! Here is what belongs to you.'

‘You bad and lazy servant!’ his master said. ‘You knew, did you, that I reap harvests where I did not sow, and gather crops where I did not scatter seed? Well, then, you should have deposited my money in the bank, and I would have received it all back with interest when I returned. Now, take the money away from him and give it to the one who has 10,000 coins. For to every person who has something, even more will be given, and he will have more than enough; but the person who has nothing, even the little that he has will be taken away from him. As for this useless servant—throw him outside in the darkness; there he will cry and grind his teeth.’

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

Gospel reflection: What do you remember from today’s reading? Jesus tells another parable. This time a man is about to go abroad and so he calls his servants to him and gives them each something to look after.

He gives the first servant 5,000 gold coins. He gives the second servant 2,000 gold coins. And the final servant 1,000 gold coins. What did the servants do with the money they had been given?

The first one used the 5,000 coins he had been given and made 5,000 more. So he gave the master back 10,000 coins all together. The second one used the 2,000 coins he had been given and made 2,000 more, giving the master back 4,000 coins all together.

The final servant hid his 1,000 coins in the ground. When his master came back he dug the money up and returned it to him.

How did the master react? Why do you think he was so angry?

In some versions of the story instead of talking about gold coins, it uses the word “talents”. A talent was a word for money in Jesus’ time. This story is sometimes known as the “Parable of the talents”.

But what do you think Jesus is trying to tell us in this parable?

Jesus is telling us that it is important to use the gifts that God has given us. We are all good at different things. We all have different skills and talents. What is your talent?

Some of us are good at singing, some of us are good at sport. Some of us are good at dancing, some of us are good at drawing. Some of us are good at baking, some of us are good at building Lego. Some of us are good at speaking out when we see that something is wrong or unfair, some of us are good at helping others.

Whatever your talent is, Jesus is saying that it is important not to hide our talents from others – to just keep them to ourselves and never let them grow. Instead, it is by going out into the world, by sharing our talents and using our skills to help others that we serve God.

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

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This summer, lots of children used their gifts, their skills and their talents to make a wonderful “Summer of hope.” Whether that was getting sponsored to camp out in their garden, to walk or to ride their bike, it was wonderful to see all those talents being shared to help people around the world who are poor. *You can find more examples of children using their talents and gifts to make the world a better place at cafod.org.uk/yourstories*

Children all around the world are using their talents to make the world a better and fairer place. By using our skills to help others in our world, we are also serving God.

How will you use your gifts, skills or talents to serve God 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 pray together for God’s help to use our talents wisely:

We pray for world leaders: that they may use their talents for the good of all people, making the world a fairer place for everyone to live. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for all children around the world: that they may all have the chance to learn new skills and to use their talents to make the world a better place. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may not hide our talents away, but instead use them to help others, especially people who are poor. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer: Generous God, you gave us a voice. Help us shout loud for what is right and fair. You gave us ears. Help us to listen to those in need. You gave us talents. Help us share and multiply them for the good of all your people. Amen.

Activity suggestions

Invite the children to colour in the optional accompanying illustration and to write or draw on the back how they will use their talents to serve God and make the world a better place in the coming week.

Encourage the children to demonstrate their talents – and to think about how they could use these gifts to make the world a fairer and better place for all people to live.

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

Encourage the children to try not to hide their talents away this week, but to use them to help others and serve God. If they have written a prayer, remind them to pray it at home during the week.

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