

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

Preparation of the worship space

Colour: green

Song suggestions: Here I am Lord (865, Laudate)

Welcome: Today we hear about two sons who are both asked to help their father. Let's think a bit about how we listen to what God is asking us to do and how we can help other people at home and around the world.

Opening prayer: God of love, open our ears to listen to your word. Lead us to help one another and to live our lives as you ask us to. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

First reading (optional): Ezekiel 18:25-28

Psalm: Psalm 24:4-9. R. v.6

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

Gospel: Matthew 21:28-32

The following passage contains some difficult language for young children. Our reflection focuses on the first half of the reading.

Jesus said, "Now, what do you think? There was once a man who had two sons. He went to the elder one and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' 'I don't want to,' he answered, but later he changed his mind and went. Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. 'Yes, sir,' he answered, but he did not go. Which one of the two did what his father wanted?"

"The elder one," they answered.

So Jesus said to them, "I tell you: the tax collectors and sinners are going into the Kingdom of God ahead of you. For John the Baptist came to you showing you the right path to take, and you would not believe him; but the tax collectors and the sinners believed him. Even when you saw this, you did not later change your minds and believe him.

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

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

A man had two sons and he asked them both to go out and work in the vineyard. What did the sons say?

The first son said he would not go. But what happened next? He changed his mind and went as his father had asked him.

The second son said he would go. But what happened next? He did not go out to the vineyard.

Jesus asks a question about this story. Which one of the two sons did what his father asked him to do? The first son or the second son?

The first son went and did what his father asked, even though at first he did not want to.

Can you think of a time when someone asked you to do something? Did you do it? Or did you just say you would do it?

How did you feel afterwards? And how do you think the person who asked for your help felt?

What will you do the next time someone asks you for help? How will you help other people in the coming week?

Why do you think Jesus tells this story? What is he trying to teach us?

The man in the story is God. And we are all God's children. So Jesus is trying to tell us that we should listen to what God asks of us and then go and do what is asked.

It is not enough just to say that we will follow God in our lives. We actually have to go and do what is asked. We are called to live our lives as God wants us to.

How do you think we can do that today?

God asks us to take care of the world and the people in it and it is up to us how we answer.

Dr Nasha lives in Pakistan. She and her team of doctors and nurses have a special medical clinic packed with all they need to treat their patients. The difference is that this clinic has an engine and wheels so that they can get to wherever they're needed most.

Last year when there were bad floods in Pakistan, Dr Nasha and her team travelled hundreds of miles to help people who needed help.

That's how they met Meera whose house was destroyed by the floods. Meera and her family, including her brand new baby daughter, Marwi, moved to a camp by the side of the road. With little food or drinking water, people soon began to get ill. Meera had no medicine to give to her children. So when Dr Nasha and her team arrived in the village, Meera rushed to bring her children to the doctors and got them the medicine and care that they needed.

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

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Meera's baby, Marwi, is now a healthy one year old. Together, Meera and her husband have rebuilt their home and are working to recover what they lost in the floods.

Next Friday is CAFOD's Family Fast Day, a day when we can pray, give and eat simply to stand alongside our global family – people like Meera, Marwi and Dr Nasha.

There are lots of different ways that we can answer God's call, help other people and care for our world.

What will you do this week to help others at home? At school? In your local community? And around the world?

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 so we have the courage to pray together:

We pray for world leaders: that they may make decisions for the good of all our brothers and sisters. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for all our brothers and sisters throughout the world: that we may all help one another so that everyone can live happy and healthy lives, free from poverty. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, our families and our friends: that we may be moved to share what we have with others, especially those who are poor or in need. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer: Generous God, we thank you for all you have given us. Help us to live as you ask us to and to help others whenever we can. Amen.

Activity suggestions

Invite the children to colour in the accompanying illustration of children helping one another and to write or draw on the back what they will do this week to help others either at home or school, locally or globally.

Encourage the children to listen carefully to all that they are asked to do in the next week and to think about how they can help others at home, school, locally and globally.

Invite the children to sit quietly for a few moments and listen to God. What is God asking them to do? Can they try and follow what God wants for them this week?

See cafod.org.uk/kidzzone for more ways for children to get involved with Family Fast Day.

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*Gospel passage taken from:

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