

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

### Preparing the worship space

Colour: green

Props: newspapers and magazines

**Song suggestions:** When I needed a neighbour (888, Laudate)

**Welcome:** Today Jesus asks us to love our neighbours and to share generously all that we have. Let's think about sharing as we listen to the reading.

**Opening prayer:** Generous God, you share all that you have made with us. Help us to love each other and to share all that you have given us. Amen.

**First reading (optional):** Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18

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

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

**Gospel:** Matthew 5:38-48

"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.' But now I tell you: do not take revenge on someone who wrongs you. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, let him slap your left cheek too. And if someone takes you to court to sue you for your shirt, let him have your coat as well. And if one of the occupation troops forces you to carry his pack one kilometre, carry it two kilometres. When someone asks you for something, give it to him; when someone wants to borrow something, lend it to him.

"You have heard it said, 'Love your friends, hate your enemies.' But now I tell you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may become the children of your Father in heaven. For he makes his sun to shine on bad and good people alike, and gives rain to those who do good and to those who do evil. Why should God reward you if you love only the people who love you? Even the tax collectors do that! And if you speak only to your friends, have you done anything out of the ordinary? Even the pagans do that! You must be perfect – just as your Father in heaven is perfect!"

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

**Gospel reflection:** What do you remember from this reading?

Jesus says that if someone asks to have something like a shirt, we should give them a coat as well. Or if they ask us to walk one kilometre with them, we should walk two. What do you think Jesus means?

Jesus is asking us to share generously with other people by not just lending them what they ask for, but by giving them even more than they need.

Can you think of a time when someone shared something with you? What was it? How did it make you feel?

Has anyone ever refused to share with you? How did that feel?

Jesus tells us that we should love everyone, not just our friends and family. It is easy to love the people we like and who are nice to us. But we are also asked to love those people we find difficult, the people who annoy us, and who aren't always so nice.

This is how God loves us. Even when we have made the wrong choices, God loves and cares for us. God never stops loving us and wants us to love all the other members of our global family.

God calls us to share with each other so that the world is a fairer and better place for everybody, so that everyone has enough to eat and drink, a safe place to live and can go to school.

The members of our global family live in all the different countries in the world. Can you name some other countries?

The members of our global family speak many different languages. Can you say hello in any other languages? (*some examples include, bonjour, bom dia, hola, jambo, konichiwa etc*)

How do you think we can share with people here and in other countries? What will you share this week and who with?

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

Jesus asks us to love one another and to share what we have. Thinking of others around the world we pray together:

We pray for world leaders: that they may use their power wisely and share generously so that the lives of people who are poor are changed for the better. Lord, hear us...

We pray for people who are poor around the world: that we may work with them to make the world a better place, and that they may find hope for the future. Lord, hear us...

We pray for our parish, families and friends: that we may be moved to share what we have with our global family around the world. Lord, hear us...

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For more children's liturgy resources and illustrations see [cafod.org.uk/childrensliturgy](http://cafod.org.uk/childrensliturgy)

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**Closing prayer:** God of love, help us to share generously with all those who do not have enough in our world, to love one another wherever we may be, and to make the world a fairer place for everyone. Amen.

### **Activity suggestions**

Invite the children to colour in the optional accompanying illustration. Discuss with them whether they think it is more generous to share a whole plate of cakes, or like the girl in the picture, to share the only cake that you have. Encourage them to draw a picture of what they will share this week on the back and to think about how to be as generous as possible.

Invite the children to draw different people to make into a “Neighbour collage”. They could include pictures of people from around the world cut out of magazines and newspapers as well. Encourage them to also write or draw on the collage what they feel they can share with these neighbours.

Remind the children to go home and share all that they have heard and thought about today with their grown-ups. Remind them to share generously with others in the coming week. Perhaps they could donate some of their toys to the local hospital’s children’s ward or to another good cause.

### **\*Gospel passage taken from:**

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