

Children's liturgy – Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

Preparation of the worship space

Colour: Green

Props: Coloured pens and pencils. Name badges. Paper cups and plates.
'Welcome mats' or make 'welcome mats' out of cardboard.

Song suggestions:

Follow me, follow me. (863, *Laudate*), All are welcome (458, *Laudate*)

Welcome: Today we hear how Jesus calls 72 people to follow him and of how he prepares them for the journey. Let's find out what happens...

Opening prayer: Welcoming God, you call us to you with open arms and yet so often we find it difficult to answer you. Help us to hear you more clearly and to follow you always. Amen.

First reading (optional): Isaiah 66:10-14

Psalm: Psalm 65:1-7, 16, 20. R. v.1

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

Gospel: Luke 10:1-12, 17-20

After this the Lord chose another 72 men and sent them out two by two, to go ahead of him to every town and place where he himself was about to go. He said to them, "There is a large harvest, but few workers to gather it in. Pray to the owner of the harvest that he will send out workers to gather in his harvest. Go! I am sending you like lambs among wolves. Don't take a purse or a beggar's bag or shoes; don't stop to greet anyone on the road. Whenever you go into a house, first say, 'Peace be with this house.' If a peace-loving person lives there, let your greeting of peace remain on him; if not, take back your greeting of peace. Stay in that same house, eating and drinking whatever they offer you, for workers should be given their pay. Don't move round from one house to another. Whenever you go into a town and are made welcome, eat what is set before you, heal the sick in that town, and say to the people there, 'The Kingdom of God has come near you.' But whenever you go into a town and are not welcomed, go out in the streets and say, 'Even the dust from your town that sticks to our feet we wipe off against you. But remember that the Kingdom of God has come near you!' I assure you that on the Judgment Day God will show more mercy to Sodom than to that town!

The 72 men came back in great joy. "Lord," they said, "even the demons obeyed us when we gave them a command in your name!"

Jesus answered them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Listen! I have given you authority, so that you can walk on snakes and scorpions and overcome all

the power of the Enemy, and nothing will hurt you. But don't be glad because the evil spirits obey you; rather be glad because your names are written in heaven."

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

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

72 people are sent out on a mission by Jesus to towns and villages all over the place. They are sent on ahead to prepare the way for Jesus and his disciples.

Jesus tells these 72 people that there is much work to do, but not enough people to do it. "*The harvest is great, but the labourers are few.*" He is asking for their help.

Jesus tells them to travel light without a purse, bag or sandals and not to greet anyone they meet on the road as they are in a hurry. There is no time to waste.

Imagine you are one of these people - how do you feel about this mission? How do you think the 72 people felt when they heard Jesus' words and warnings?

The 72 followers are told that they may not be welcome in every town. Not everyone will want to hear their message. Why do you think this might be?

Making a change can be hard. People often like to stick with what they know. The disciples are asking them to change their lives and to follow Jesus now. But the people might be too busy to listen. Or not ready to change their ways.

Can you think of things in your life that stop you from spending time with Jesus? What are these things? (*e.g. latest toys, computer games, money, clothes, TV...*)

When we focus on *things* rather than *people* what happens? We can become greedy and selfish. We might not really be happy and we might upset others.

Do we always show welcome to other people? Or can we be like those who turned the 72 away?

Think about how you welcome visitors at home and at school. Do you offer them a drink or something to eat? Do you give them a special chair to sit in? What do you do?

Some people around the world are forced to leave their homes because of fighting, floods or because there is no food or work where they live. They travel to other countries in search of a safe home and a better life. Is it easy to be welcoming to people who come to our country in search of a safe home? What could we do to try to be welcoming?

This week try to make sure that you are always welcoming to others. What will you do? And how will you go out and follow Jesus, sharing his good news with others?

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

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

Jesus calls us to spread his word to others and so we pray together:

We pray for the Church: that it may follow Jesus' example and share his good news, while welcoming all people. Lord in your mercy...

We pray for world leaders: that they may work more closely together to meet the needs of all their people. Lord in your mercy...

We pray for our parish: that we may look for God in all people that we meet and treat them as we would wish to be treated. Lord in your mercy...

Closing prayer: Christ our Messiah, you call us to follow you. Help us to be welcoming to others and to spend time listening to and following your word. Amen.

Activity suggestions

Invite the children to colour in the accompanying illustration and to write or draw on the back how they will welcome others in the coming week.

Encourage the children to get into threes or fours and give them all name badges - write either 'disciple' on each badge if they are in pairs to travel about, or write their first name if they are the homeowner(s). Enact the scene of two people knocking on a door and being greeted happily by the homeowner(s) and being welcomed in to eat. Use the *welcome mat* to walk on as they enter the house and the plates and cups when they are eating.

Invite the children to write a prayer of welcome for people of different countries which can be said out loud or can be used later in the week at home.

Encourage the children to think about how they can follow Jesus more closely and the things that stop them from spending time with him. Can they spend a bit less time this week on one thing e.g. watching TV/computer games and a bit more time with God either alone or in helping someone else?

Remind the children to share all that they have heard and thought about at the liturgy this week with the people at home. Encourage them to try to follow Jesus closely in the coming week and be welcoming to others in all that they do.

*Gospel passage taken from:

Good News Translation® (Today's English Version, Second Edition)

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