

Children's liturgy – Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

Preparation of the worship space

Colour: Green

Props: Coloured pens and pencils, white A4 sheets of paper for each child.

Song suggestions: The Kingdom of Heaven (816, Laudate)

Welcome: Today we hear how a group of religious leaders try to catch Jesus out but he shows them and us a different way of thinking.

Opening prayer: God of heaven and earth, your Kingdom has room for us all. May we see each other through your eyes. Amen.

First reading (optional): Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14

Psalm: Psalm 16:1, 5-6, 8, 15. R. v.15

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

Gospel: Luke 20:27-38

Then some Sadducees, who say that people will not rise from death, came to Jesus and said, "Teacher, Moses wrote this law for us: 'If a man dies and leaves a wife but no children, that man's brother must marry the widow so that they can have children who will be considered the dead man's children.' Once there were seven brothers; the eldest got married and died without having children. Then the second one married the woman, and then the third. The same thing happened to all seven—they died without having children. Last of all, the woman died. Now, on the day when the dead rise to life, whose wife will she be? All seven of them had married her."

Jesus answered them, "The men and women of this age marry, but the men and women who are worthy to rise from death and live in the age to come will not then marry. They will be like angels and cannot die. They are the children of God, because they have risen from death. And Moses clearly proves that the dead are raised to life. In the passage about the burning bush he speaks of the Lord as 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' He is the God of the living, not of the dead, for to him all are alive."

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

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

In today's story, we hear how the Sadducees asked Jesus a question. The Sadducees were a group of religious leaders who were from rich families, and they did not believe in resurrection - that people would be raised from the dead to be with God in heaven after they had died.

The religious leaders in today's story loved to obey rules. So they asked Jesus a

question to trap him, to catch him out. They asked him about who a woman would be married to in heaven, if she had been married seven times in her life.

But Jesus says that in heaven everything is different from on earth.

Jesus is showing us that our rules only go so far and that his Kingdom is bigger than this world. If we believe in Jesus we see things differently, we see people differently and we act differently. Because we believe that all people are special and loved by God.

How does Jesus help you to think and behave differently?

In this gospel story, Jesus is showing us that God sees things differently to us. We believe that in God's Kingdom everyone is treated equally and fairly, whether they are men, women, girls or boys. However, we know that this doesn't always happen in our world right now.

For instance, in many countries girls don't have the same chance to go to school that boys do. Girls – how would you feel if you lived somewhere the boys could go to school but you couldn't?

Boys – how would you feel if you lived somewhere where you could go to school but girls couldn't?

Do you think everyone should be allowed to go to school whether they are a boy or a girl? Why?

Let's think a bit more about treating each other equally.

Can you think of some things that we should all have wherever we live in our world, whether we're rich or poor, whether we're a boy or a girl? (*e.g. food, water, house, clothes, books, the chance to go to school, healthcare, toys, friends etc*)

Doesn't this show us that children in every country have the same needs? But does everyone around the world have the things that they need? Is that fair?

Apart from the things we need to live, how should we treat each other at home and at school? (*e.g. being kind to each other, sharing what we have, not excluding people from games, chatting and playing etc*).

This week can you make sure you treat everyone fairly and with respect, whether they are a boy or a girl, no matter what colour they are or where they come from?

If we all treat each other fairly and as we would like to be treated, perhaps we can start to reflect a little bit of God's Kingdom here on earth.

What will you do this week to reflect God's Kingdom of love and fairness here on earth?

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.*

Today as we learn about God's different way of seeing the world we pray together:

We pray for the Church: that it may work to reflect God's Kingdom on earth in all that it does. Lord in your mercy...

We pray for our brothers and sisters in every country: that we may respect each other and be kind to one another at all ages - as girls and boys, women and men. Lord in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may treat each other fairly and work together to bring peace upon this earth. Lord in your mercy...

Closing prayer: God of heaven and earth, in this life and the next you are with us. Thank you for protecting us and guiding us as we journey towards you. Amen.

Activity suggestions

Invite the children to colour in the accompanying illustration, which shows all children having the chance to go to school. On the back they can write or draw how they will try to reflect God's Kingdom in their lives in the coming week.

Encourage the children to talk about *how* they can reflect the Kingdom of heaven in their community using these questions:

Who do I need to treat fairly in my school/home/friendship group?

Who in my neighbourhood do I need to show love and care for?

Invite the children to write a prayer about treating boys and girls equally and then to say it before one meal time at home. Encourage them to add in the names of their sisters/brothers/friends/cousins etc as they say it.

Remind the children to go home and share all that they have heard and thought about in today's liturgy with their grown ups. Encourage them to try in the coming week to treat all people that they meet fairly, no matter whether they are a boy or a girl, old or young, rich or poor, what colour they are or where they come from.

*Gospel passage taken from:

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

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