

Liturgy of the Word with Children
Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year A
3 May 2026
John 14:1-12

Catechist Background

Like last Sunday's Gospel, this scene took place at the Last Supper, after the washing of the feet. It is one of the speeches that form a quasi 'last will and testament', in the scriptural traditions of Moses and Jacob. Here, Jesus said he was going to prepare a place for us with God. At that time, a son needed permission from his father, the ruler of the household, to bring his bride to the family home. Before she could come the son built a room attached to the house for him and his wife. When the father declared the room ready, they could wed and the bride be brought home.

Prior to Jesus' ministry, his followers would have followed very specific rules about how to keep themselves on right terms with God: laws about diet, Sabbath-observance, types of sacrifice and many other topics take up much of the first part of the Bible. Jesus was especially concerned in the Gospels with the Sadducees, Pharisees and the scribes who kept the letter of the Law perfectly, but missed the broader picture of loving others as part of their worship of God.

Setting the Scene

For the activity below, you will need a path of footprints, either drawn on a roll of paper or on individual A4 sheets of paper. Write on each footprint an action which Jesus taught us to do (e.g., 'Put others first,' 'Be kind,' 'Forgive others,' 'Pray to God').

We Say Sorry

Leader: Lord, you are the Way for us to follow, Lord have mercy.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: You are the Truth in all things, Christ have mercy.

All: **Christ, have mercy.**

Leader: You offer life in its fullness to us, Lord have mercy.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Gloria

We Pray (1)

Father, help us to live freely and full of joy by following your Son, Jesus. Amen.

Gospel Intro

Remind the children about last Sunday's Gospel's reading, about following the shepherd. Tell them that in this Gospel reading which follows last week's, Jesus says he is the Way to the Father.

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel John 14:1-12

Reflecting on the Gospel Reading with Children

In the Gospel, Jesus said he is 'the Way, the Truth and the Life'. Let's talk about what he meant.

- If we follow Jesus' example, can we get to know God more? (yes)
 - Can you give an example?
- Do you think that the way we speak to others is important? (yes)
 - If yes, why? (What we say can be loving or hurtful, like our actions)
- Is it usually okay to tell lies? (No)
 - Will people believe us if we always tell lies?
- Does it make sense to say we follow Jesus and then to be mean and grumpy always? (No)

The disciples were confused by what Jesus said, but they soon realised that Jesus:

- wanted them to do and say the sort of things he had said and done.
- was acting like God the Father when he said and did these things.

Response

Lay the 'footprints' out on the floor, with the writing face down so you can't see it.

Ask if anyone has ever walked in the snow and seen footprints there.

- If snow is deep, it is easier to walk if someone has gone before you, packing down the snow!
- Similarly, in long grass, it is easier if someone has trampled the grass first.

Jesus' life is like that: Jesus shows us the way to God. If we live the way he lived and love others the way he did, we will get to know God more and more.

- Ask the children to turn over a footprint one at a time and read out what is written on it.
- Allow the children to walk the 'Way' you have laid out, thinking about how to follow Jesus.

[If you have time]

We too can be like God the Father when we follow Jesus' way.

- Can we see God the Father in the actions of people around us? (Yes)
- Can you give an example (e.g., when someone is kind, patient, fair, even when it is hard.)
- How can others see God through our actions?

We Believe

Relate the Creed to what you have shared with the children by asking these questions and inviting them to reply, 'I do, Alleluia, Alleluia!'

- Do you believe in God the Father, who created all of us out of love?
- Do you believe in Jesus, God the Son, who is the Way to the Father?
- Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit, who lives in us to help us see God?

We Pray (2)

Again, relate the Prayer of the Faithful to the Gospel reading by saying, 'God's love is present in our concern for each other, and so we pray...'

Leader: We pray for leaders in the Church, that they may do Jesus' work. Lord, in your mercy,
All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for prime ministers, presidents and all world leaders, that they may lead their people wisely. Lord, in your mercy,
All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for people who are living in places where there are wars or natural disasters. Lord, in your mercy,
All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for anyone in our parish who is struggling to follow you. Lord, in your mercy,
All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Lord, help us to remember that sometimes you ask us to act as you would. Show us how to bring others to you. We make all our prayers through Christ our Lord.
All: **Amen.**

