

Liturgy of the Word with Children
Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B
7th July 2024
Mark 6:1-6

Catechist Background

The last portion of Mark's Gospel shows the power that Jesus has but we now move to a section of that Gospel that looks at the blinkered attitude of some people he met. The passage uses words often translated as Jesus' 'brothers and sisters' but this does not have to mean his actual siblings: it can mean half-siblings, cousins, or other relatives. In biblical times, craftsmen (like carpenters) had to spend time away from their families to trade and get the materials they needed. Great emphasis was placed on protecting one's "kin"; a man being away from home for too long was suspicious, as it left "his" women and children vulnerable. Jesus had just spent much time travelling around preaching and performing miracles, apparently without official approval. People in his hometown might have thought he was neglecting his trade and his family. The people of Nazareth made the mistake of thinking that knowing ABOUT Jesus the carpenter meant knowing HIM. In their minds, he couldn't be a prophet; he was too common, too familiar. If we are honest with ourselves, there are probably people in our lives who we think couldn't teach us anything about God because we are not expecting anything profound from someone who is so _____ [fill in the blank with 'common,' 'posh,' 'stupid,' 'uneducated,' 'arrogant,' or another term].

Setting the Scene

You may wish to have music to play during the 'Response.'

We Say Sorry

Leader: You are our King, Lord have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: You are our Saviour, Christ have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: You call us to you every day, Lord have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Gloria

We Pray (1)

God, help our faith to grow, so that we hear you in all our situations and see you in everyone we meet. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel: Mark 6:1-6

Reflecting on the Reading with Children

- Why do you think people in Nazareth didn't understand Jesus as someone special?
- What words might you use to describe someone who could tell you about God?
- If someone who you thought yesterday was naughty/selfish/boring today told you how to be holy, would you believe them? (Ask other questions as you see fit.)

Response

- Sometimes we are challenged to do what is right by someone that we don't expect it from. The people of Nazareth were when Jesus did this.
- Sometimes we may be challenged to help other be holy and they aren't expecting it from us, either!
- Now we will do an activity to help us to remember that we should follow anybody who points us to Jesus, and that we should point others to Jesus, too.
- Ask the children to get into pairs and line up facing each other, with space round them.
- Tell them that in a moment, they are going to act like mirrors, with one person leading and one person following. They should move at a speed so that nobody should be able to tell who is leading and who is following.
- (Go around and say which half of the couple should be first.)
- Before they begin, have everyone follow your lead first.
- After the first 'half' of the children have led, let the second 'half' lead.
- Be on the lookout for children who don't know what to do; you can stand behind the 'follower' and make actions for the 'lead' child to copy if they are struggling.
- Finish by having all the children follow the liturgy leader again, possibly by slowly making the Sign of the Cross and folding your/their hands.
- You may wish to play some soothing background music for this activity.

We Believe

To relate what you have shared with the children to the Creed, ask these questions and invite the children to reply, 'I do.'

- Do you believe in God the Father, creator of all that is good?
- Do you believe in God the Son, Jesus, who came to save the world from all evil?
- Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit, sent by Jesus to carry on God's work throughout the world?

We Pray (2)

Again, try to relate the bidding prayers to the Gospel reading by saying, "Jesus, we know you are more than just a carpenter from Nazareth and so we also now pray..."

Leader: We pray for the Church, that we are always ready to listen to the voice of God.
Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for people who own businesses and who employ people. May they treat their workers fairly and help the world to be a fairer place. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for anyone we know who needs a special prayer today. We spend a moment to think about them right now. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord, help us to see that we are called first to listen to you in the people around us, and then to speak your words to them. Help us grow in humility and courage to do your work. We make all our prayers through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

