

**Liturgy of the Word with Children**  
**25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C**  
**21 September, 2025**  
**Luke 16:10-13 (long form, Luke 16:1-13)**

### **Catechist Background**

The long form of today's Gospel reading includes an account of a rich man and his steward. This parable is omitted from the Lectionary for Masses with Children. In order to appreciate its meaning, we would need to understand the method used in antiquity of managing one's assets, which is hard for us today to grasp, but this is not essential for the children's understanding of the meaning of the shorter form of the Gospel which we use. The point of today's (shorter) Gospel reading is that we are not the owners of our material goods. We are stewards called to use them in the service of God.

### **Setting the Scene**

For the activity described below, you will need 'banknotes' for each child with the words 'we are rich in love' on each one, and a basket for them to be passed around in.

### **We Say Sorry**

*Leader:* Lord Jesus, you are our Saviour, Lord have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

*Leader:* You lead us to the truth, Christ have mercy.

**All: Christ, have mercy.**

*Leader:* Your words bring us life, Lord have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

### **Gloria**

### **We Pray (1)**

Dear God, help us to love each other more and more each day. Amen.

### **Gospel Acclamation**

**Gospel:** Luke 16:10-13 (*this is the short form of today's Gospel reading*)

### **Reflecting on the Gospel reading with children**

- Ask the children to put their hand up if they would like to be rich/have lots of money.
- Ask: What would you do if you were given a million pounds? Invite some to answer out loud.
- Some may say altruistic things e.g., 'give money to those who need it,' but most will probably say they would like to buy video games, trips to Disneyland, etc.
- Choose a child (possibly an older one) who asked for something for themselves to enjoy;
- Ask them why they wanted it, and why they wanted that.
  - Your conversation might go like this:  
*Child:* I would buy a Nintendo DS (or a horse or...)  
*Leader:* Why would you want that?  
*Child:* Because some of my friends have one.  
*Leader:* Why do you want something that your friends have?  
*Child:* Because I want to join in with them.  
*Leader:* Why do you want to join in with your friends?  
*Child:* Because it is nice to have stuff that they have.  
*Leader:* Why is that nice?  
*Child:* Because I want people to like me.

*Leader:* Why do you want people to like you?

*Child:* Because it would make me happy.

*Leader:* A-ha!

- It may take a few more times of asking 'Why...,' and a little bit of prompting from the leader, but eventually you will probably come back to the issue of happiness.
- Conclude the conversation by pointing out that what they REALLY want is not the money, but the happiness. And happiness itself is free!

What does Jesus say about this?

- Does He say that money is bad? No, but we must use it to serve God, by serving the poor.

Do we need to wait until we are older and have a job to serve God? (No!):

- the first part of the Gospel talks about being trustworthy in little things.
- However old or young we are, we should take our small opportunities and big opportunities to do good and serve God always, looking out for others in all circumstances.

## Response

Pass around the children a 'reverse collection basket.' This basket contains 'banknotes' with the words: 'We are rich in love' on them.

Invite each child to take one out to take home, to remind them of today's Gospel reading.

Encourage them to draw or write on their 'banknote' some of their talents that they can share with others to serve God.

## We Believe

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

- Do you believe in God the Father, who created us and has given us many good things?
- Do you believe in God the Son, who teaches us how to serve God?
- Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit, who helps us use our gifts for good?

## We Pray (2)

Again, relate the Prayer of the Faithful to the Gospel reading by saying: "We should use our whole lives and hearts to serve those who need it and so we also now pray..."

*Leader:* We pray for the Pope and the bishops, that they lead the Church well. Lord in your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* We pray for leaders in our government, that they make laws that help people who don't have much money. Lord in your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* We pray for anyone who has lost their job, and for their families. Lord in your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* We pray for anyone we know who is sad, scared or unwell. Lord in your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* Lord, we want to serve you. Help us to serve the people around us. We make all our prayers through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

