

Liturgy of the Word with Children
Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C
23 February, 2025
Luke 6:27-38

Catechist Background

Today's Gospel reading is a continuation of Jesus' teaching that began in last Sunday's Gospel. This is the Sermon on the Plain which, in Luke, parallels the Sermon on the Mount in the Gospel of Matthew. Essentially the passage focuses on what is often referred to the Golden Rule, 'treat others as you would like them to treat you.' The details of how we are to behave, however, are, perhaps some of the toughest challenges of living the Christian life – loving those who don't love us and forgiving those who hurt us. This is a radical love, to love others as God loves us. Jesus challenges those who follow him to be more like God.

Setting the Scene

For the activity listed below, you will need to prepare a poster or board with the words of the Golden Rule: 'Treat others as you would like them to treat you' written in the middle.

Also, prepare either some cards with good qualities written on them that show how we should treat others, or some blank cards on which children might write or draw.

We Say Sorry

Leader: You came to teach us how to live, Lord have mercy.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: You are always ready to show forgiveness, Christ have mercy.

All: **Christ, have mercy.**

Leader: You show us the way to God, our Father, Lord have mercy.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Gloria

We Pray (1)

God, help us to love you with our whole hearts and to love all people as you love them. Amen.

Gospel Intro

- Ask the children to think about how we want people to treat us. For instance:
 - if your friend had a new toy, would you want him or her to let you play with it?
 - if you did something at home that upset your mum or dad and you said sorry, what would you want your parents to say and do?
 - if you lost your lunch box or your sweets on the way to school and so had no lunch, what would you want your classmates to do?
- In today's Gospel reading we are going to hear Jesus teach us how we should treat others.

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel: Luke 6:27-38

Reflecting on the Reading with Children

Remind the children about some of the things Jesus tells his disciples to do;

Ask them:

- would you find it easy to do those things? (You could ask them to call out 'Yes' or 'No');
- Can you think of a time when you have done what Jesus asks us to do?
- Can you think of a time when you have not done what Jesus asks us to do?
- Does God like it when we forgive other people?
- What does Jesus say God will do? Will God forgive us if we forgive others?

Response

- Jesus asks us to treat others in the way we want to be treated.
- This is called "the Golden Rule."
- Before we listened to today's Gospel, we thought about how we wanted to be treated.
 - Let's now think about how we should treat others.
- Ask the children to think of times when people might make them angry or upset.
- How should we treat them in return, if we want to do what Jesus asks us to do?
- Think of a person that you don't know very well or someone that you think doesn't like you:
 - What does Jesus ask us to do about them? Should we be kind to them?
- If we want people to be kind and forgiving to us, then we must do the same to them.

- Invite the children to pick one of the good qualities on the cards for them to try to live out in the next week.
 - Some might like to choose their own qualities and write or draw it on the blank cards.
- Stick the cards on the poster or board surrounding the words of the Golden Rule.
- Either take the poster/board back into the church or display in your room.
- Encourage the children to remember their words – maybe ask them about it next week.

We Believe

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

- Do you believe in God the Father who made and loves us all?
- Do you believe in Jesus who showed us God's love and taught us how to love each other?
- Do you believe in the Holy Spirit who helps us treat each other with love, respect and dignity?

We Pray (2)

Again, relate the Prayer of the Faithful to the Gospel reading by saying: "We know that God loves everyone in the world and so we now pray...'

Leader: We pray for the Church throughout the world, that it may be faithful in living out your love. Lord in your mercy,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for people who give jobs to other people, that they act fairly and with justice. Lord in your mercy,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for members of our parish, especially those who are having a difficult time being generous to others in need. Lord in your mercy,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for people who do not have many friends to care for them. Lord in your mercy,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Lord, help us to take your love to us and to shine it to the world around us. We make all our prayers through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

