

October 14, 2018

Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

Preparation

Children's Leaflet

Have on hand copies of the Children's Leaflet for this Sunday. Distribute copies either at the start of the session or before the children return to the assembly.



Prepare with Prayer

Because you have the Lord for your refuge and have made the Most High your stronghold, No evil shall befall you, no affliction come near your tent. For he commands his angels with regard to you, to guard you wherever you go. (Psalm 91:9-11)

Scripture Background

In both the Old and New Testaments, wisdom is an inherent characteristic of God. For the ancient Hebrews, it was in a spirit of wisdom that God created the world. To their way of thinking, wisdom was a kind of practical intelligence; it necessarily manifested in deeds of wisdom. Solomon ruled Israel during its most prosperous time in history, and for that reason he was honored as a king even wiser than his father David. His people honored him because everyone benefited from his good management of Israel's resources.

Today's Gospel focuses on two actions necessary to walking the path of life, which for a believer is the path of wisdom: keeping God's commandments and giving generously to people in need. It's on the second point that the rich man stumbles. There is great irony here. He is worried about giving up his worldly possessions of land and property, yet they cannot compare to what Christ gave up in order simply to be born in Bethlehem some 30 years earlier. As Saint Paul writes in Philippians 2:7-8:

Today's Readings

Wisdom 7:7-11

Psalm 90:12 & 14, 16-17abc

Hebrews 4:12-13

Mark 10:17-27

The Rich Man and His Possessions

Prepare the Meeting Space

In the worship area, on a table draped with a green cloth, place:

- ▶ a Lectionary
- ▶ a battery-operated candle
- ▶ a plant or flowers

Suggested Music ♫

See page 62 for more information.

Gathering: "Like Jesus" (Seeds CD-1, Track #6) or "Come and Follow Me" (Promise & Good News CD-2, Track #14)

Gospel Acclamation: "Gospel Acclamation; Alleluia" (Promise & Good News CD-2, Track #24)

"Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross."

Yet in the end Christ became King of Heaven and earth! We, too, will receive an unimaginable reward if we imitate Christ and follow him on the path of life.

Children's Connections

Educators assert that there are three main types of students in a classroom: visual learners, who learn best by seeing; auditory learners, who learn best by hearing; and kinesthetic learners, who learn best by doing. Today's liturgy offers good opportunities to appeal to all three types of children in presenting the readings of the day. The gathering activity incorporates song for the auditory learners and movement for the kinesthetic learners. If you wish to add a visual element, construct an actual path in the meeting room by running a line of masking tape along the floor for you and your children to follow.

An even better way to appeal to visual learners, though, would be to enlist the aid of a partner when you present the First Reading. The person, dressed in a kingly robe and crown, could pantomime King Solomon rejecting or turning his nose up at each item or quality that is called inferior to the gift of wisdom. These could be represented by real objects or by images downloaded from the internet and printed on stiff paper. Simply go to images.google.com and search for the following:

- ▶ scepter and throne and treasure chest for Wisdom 7:8
- ▶ diamond ring, gold bars, and pile of silver for Wisdom 7:9
- ▶ beautiful woman and burning candle for Wisdom 7:10

Practice the reading ahead of time with the person doing the pantomime to coordinate timing. (If you are under time constraints, a good alternative would be simply to hold up pictures of the rejected items as you go through the First Reading.)

More About ...

Styles of Learning

The website education.com is chock-full of helpful articles on the different learning styles of children. The essays listed here offer a good starting point for you. Shannon Hutton includes hints for recognizing a particular child's learning style and suggestions for educational activities best suited to that child. Sue Douglass Fliess reports that some experts say it's important to also examine a child's learning weaknesses.

Shannon Hutton, "Helping Auditory Learners Succeed."

Shannon Hutton, "Helping Kinesthetic Learners Succeed."

Shannon Hutton, "Helping Visual Learners Succeed."

Sue Douglass Fliess, "Learning Styles: Working With Strengths and Weaknesses."

You also may wish to explore information about learning styles that have been posted online by some of the nation's colleges and universities. Here are two links to investigate.

web.cortland.edu/andersmd/learning/Introduction.htm

cft.vanderbilt.edu/guides-sub-pages/learning-styles-preferences/

Children will greatly enjoy the accompaniment to the reading and will remember its central message for a long time to come.

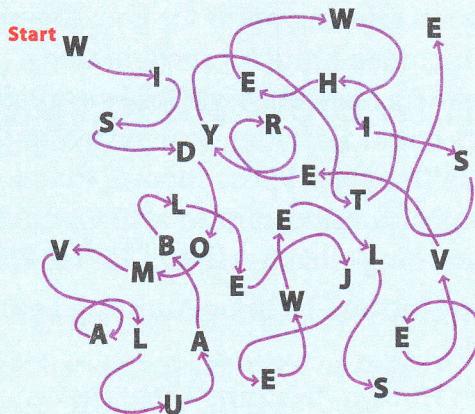
The Children's Leaflet

The leaflet for this week helps the children think about the difference between wants and needs.

If you distribute the leaflet now and time permits, you may wish to read with the children the summary of the Gospel in "The Word of God This Week" after you have read the Gospel. Point out the artwork and ask the children what is happening in the picture.

Leaflet Activity

This week, children will learn to follow the path to Heaven that Jesus has laid out for them. We must all be faithful and share our gifts and talents with others. The solution is shown here for your convenience.



WISDOM IS MORE **VALUABLE**
THAN PRICELESS **JEWELS**. **EVERY** GOOD
COMES TO **THE** ONE WHO IS **WISE**.

The Liturgy of the Word

Gathering

Before passing through the door of your meeting place, tell the children that you are going to lead them to the worship space along an imaginary path. You will do this while the opening song plays. The children are to follow you in single file as you wind your way around the room while bouncing or dancing in rhythm with the song. However, whenever the song's chorus begins, you will stop and dance in place while waving your hands in the air. At the words "path of life," clap your hands twice very fast to emphasize the words "path" and "life."

Try to arrive in the worship space sometime near the end of the song. When it's finished, invite the children to be seated for the opening prayer.

Collect

Leader: Invite the children to bow their heads.

Then pray:

Loving God, we have come together today so that you can tell us more about the path of life. With you leading us on that path, we will never take a

wrong turn or step into danger. Please forgive us for the times we have forgotten about you and strayed away from the path of life. May you be loved and trusted by your people forever and ever.

Children: Amen.

Invite the children to be seated. Light the candle and begin the First Reading.

First Reading

Leader: In order to follow God on the path of life, we need to be filled with the spirit of Wisdom. In today's First Reading, King Solomon speaks of Wisdom as if it were a wonderful and wise woman walking with him on the path of life.

Read Wisdom 7:7-11. Then say, "The word of the Lord."

Children: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

The psalm may be either sung or spoken. Before beginning the psalm, sing or announce the response.

Leader: Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy!

Children: Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy!

Leader: Read Psalm 90:12, 14, 16-17abc.

Second Reading

Leader: We often say that God is almighty, which means "full of might and power." But God is also all-knowing, which means "full of wisdom and knowledge." In today's Second Reading, the author talks about God's wisdom and knowledge. *Read Hebrews 4:12-13. Then say, "The word of the Lord."*

Children: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Invite the children to stand. Sing the suggested Acclamation or another familiar one. If you choose not to sing the Acclamation, proceed to the proclamation of the Gospel.

Proclaim the Gospel

Leader: In the First Reading, we heard King Solomon say that wisdom is more important

than anything else on earth. In today's Gospel, Jesus meets a man who has trouble deciding what is most important. Listen to what Jesus tells him. The Lord be with you.

Children: And with your Spirit.

Leader: A reading from the Gospel of Mark.

Children: **T** Glory to you, O Lord.

Leader: Read Mark 10:17-27. Then say, "The Gospel of the Lord."

Children: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

Build a homily on the following ideas and questions:

1. What did the man ask Jesus in today's Gospel? ("Good teacher, what can I do to have eternal life?")
2. The man was really asking about the path to Heaven.
 - We find our way to Heaven by following Jesus along the path of life.
 - When we follow Jesus, we do all the same things he does.
3. From today's Gospel, we learn that there are two things we must do to imitate Jesus.
 - The first requirement is to keep God's commandments. Do you know what some of them are? (Verse 18 says, "Do not murder. Be faithful in marriage. Do not steal. Do not tell lies about others. Do not cheat. Respect your father and mother.")
 - The second requirement is to give to the poor. What are some ways we can give to the poor right here where we live? (Donate our lightly used clothes and shoes, help with food drives, give money to special church collections like Rice Bowl, etc.)
4. In short, God calls us to keep the faith and share our love. When we do that, we walk the path of life that leads us right into Heaven.

Profession of Faith

Leader: Please stand for the Profession of Faith and respond "I believe." Do you believe in God the Father, almighty and all-knowing, who created us to follow the path of life?

Children: I believe.

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, who was sent to earth to show us the path of life?

Children: I believe.

Leader: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit, Spirit of wisdom and truth, who reminds us every day to keep the faith and share our love?

Children: I believe.

Prayer of the Faithful

Leader: Now let us pray for the gift of wisdom that is so urgently needed in our world today. Our response to each petition will be, "Hear us, O Lord."

Children: Hear us, O Lord.

Leader: For all leaders of the Church, that together with them we will keep God's commands and share our riches, let us pray to the Lord.

Children: Hear us, O Lord.

Leader: For countries torn apart by hatred and war, that the Holy Spirit will give their leaders the wisdom to seek the ways of peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Children: Hear us, O Lord.

Leader: For all the world's poor and needy, that the rich will share their wealth to help them, let us pray to the Lord.

Children: Hear us, O Lord.

Leader: *Invite the children to pray their own petitions. Then pray:*

Let us pray. All-knowing and all-loving God, your Son, Jesus, has shown us the path of life. May we always keep your commands and share our love, just as he always did. This we ask through the same Christ our Lord.

Children: Amen.

Return to Assembly

The Liturgy of the Word ends with the Prayer of the Faithful. Prepare the children to return to the assembly in a respectful manner. If you haven't already done so, distribute the leaflets. Remind the children to take the leaflets home and share them with their families. Encourage them to complete the Family Corner activities as a family.