

PRAYING *With* CHILDREN

SUNDAY LITURGY



25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

22 September 2024 - Year B

“All who wish to be first must make themselves the servants of all.”

Something to Think About

In this week's gospel, the disciples argue about who is the 'greatest'. What does it mean to be a 'great' person? How do people show they are good by their actions?

The Story

The disciples are walking along discussing and arguing, probably in loud boisterous voices. When Jesus asks what they are talking about, they go very quiet. They have been caught out, like a bunch of naughty children. They have been arguing about who is the greatest and the best! Jesus takes the chance to teach them a lesson. He tells them that true greatness comes from serving others.

The Scriptures

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

9:33-37

Jesus and his disciples went to his home in Capernaum. After they were inside the house, Jesus asked them, "What were you arguing about along the way?" They had been arguing about which one of them was the greatest, and so they did not answer.

After Jesus sat down and told the twelve disciples to gather around him, he said, "If you want the place of honour, you must become a slave and serve others!"

Then Jesus had a child stand near him. He put his arm around the child and said, "When you welcome even a child because of me, you welcome me. And when you welcome me, you welcome the one who sent me."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Video

Click to watch the video which retells today's Gospel story:
[I'm Awesome – Right?](#)



Group Discussion

Jesus uses the example of a child to teach his disciples. He tells them that even when they welcome a child, they welcome him. In the time and culture when Jesus lived, children had no status or social importance. Jesus then tells his disciples that they must be like servants, rather than trying to be the best or the greatest. Talk about what it means to serve Jesus in our lives. What sorts of actions show that we serve Jesus? Being kind, helpful, genuine, sincere, working for peace and striving for justice are some ideas.

Praying For Others

Leader: Let us pray now for the leaders of our Church, our world, for those in our community and for our own needs.

Reader 1: We pray that we will serve Jesus by serving others. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader 2: We pray that we will be friendly and gentle with our friends. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader 3: We pray that that we will work for peace and justice in our world. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader 4: We pray for God's blessing upon all children. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader 5: We pray that we will try to put others first. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Invite the children to pray for their own special intentions.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Leader: Loving God, listen to the prayers we make in the name of Jesus.

All: Amen.

Prayer



Dear Jesus,
Help us to serve you and to see
your face in other people.
Teach us to be kind, generous
and helpful.
Amen.

Group Activity

ACTS OF SERVICE

You will need: a blank piece of paper for each child, coloured markers.

1. Ask children to spend a few moments thinking quietly about some good deeds they have done in the past week. Perhaps they would also like to think about kind acts of service that others have done for them.
2. Invite children to write or draw these acts of service on their pieces of paper.
3. Children may wish to share these aloud for the group.
4. Encourage children to keep doing good deeds in the week ahead and assure them that even small acts of kindness make a huge impact.



WRITE THREE THINGS THAT WILL HELP YOU BE THE BEST PERSON YOU CAN BE



WHO IS THE GREATEST?

**GOD'S SPIRIT LEADS US TO BE PURE, FRIENDLY,
GENTLE, SENSIBLE, KIND, HELPFUL, GENUINE, SINCERE**