

# Children's Liturgy of the Word



15<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME MATTHEW 11:25-30

YOUNGER

## BACKGROUND FOR LEADERS AND PARENTS



For the next three weeks, we hear Jesus speaking to the crowds. He tells several parables sitting in Peter's boat where he can be seen and heard by everyone. Parables were frequently used in Jesus' day; they are stories which use a familiar image to illustrate a point, they normally make use of repetition and have a surprising twist at the end. Sowing seed would have been a common activity in ancient times, one his audience would have been very familiar with. The surprising twist Jesus inserts is the abundance of the harvest. People would have considered a five-fold return on their crop a fortunate blessing; a thirty- sixty- or hundred-fold return is a sign of God's amazing abundance.

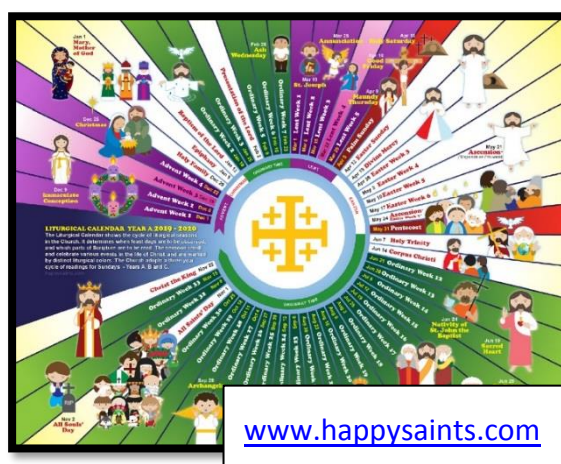
## PREPARATION

Prepare a prayer focus with a green cloth (Ordinary Time) the Children's Liturgy Candle and the Children's Lectionary. Include four small pots: one with **sand**, one with **rocks**, one with **good soil**, and one with **weeds**, and a handful of bean seeds.

- Liturgical Year Calendar on the wall.
- Floorcloth
- Worksheets
- Pictures of Sower and Seeds
- Small cards shaped like seeds
- Pencils, blue-tack

Set up a 'table' with a green cloth on the floor for the children with the worksheet for each placed around the edges so they feel welcome and at home in the room.

(This will also make clean-up easier.)



## SETTING THE SCENE

Ask what Father said to them before they came into the Children's Liturgy room.

Ask what colour he is wearing (green). Show on the Liturgical Calendar.

Green reminds us that it is the time of hope and growth.



Remind the children of last week's Gospel. Jesus asked us to rest with him. We can be like Jesus and lighten the load of others.

In the gospel this week Jesus told us that what the Kingdom of Heaven is like by using a story – a parable – that talks about soil and seeds.

Show the children the pots you have prepared, and discuss what would happen to your seeds if they were planted in each of the pots. Ask which would be the best for your seed to grow in. Congratulate them on how much they know about seeds.

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## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Praise the Lord** (*If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands*)

Alleluia, Alleluia, praise the Lord (*clap, clap*)

Alleluia, Alleluia, praise the Lord (*clap, clap*)

As we listen to the story

let us praise him for his glory

Alleluia, Alleluia, praise the Lord (*clap, clap*)

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Remind the children to sit quietly so their parents can hear too.

**All: Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Sign of the Cross on the forehead (God be in my mind)*

*sign of the Cross on the lips (God be in my words),*

*Sign of the Cross on the heart (God be in my heart)*



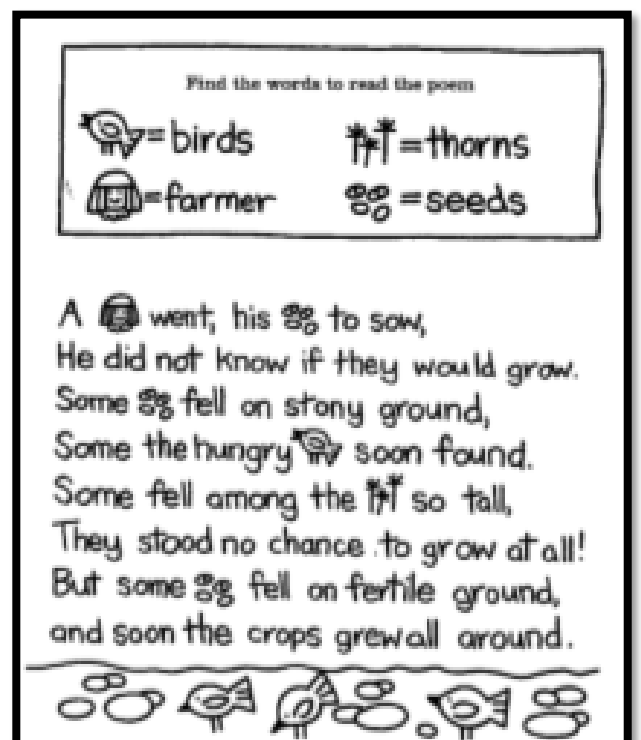
At the end of the Gospel: The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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## REFLECTION ON THE READING

Re-tell the story for the children, by reading together this poem. It is also in the worksheets.



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## RESPONSE

Our hearts can be like this healthy garden which has good soil for the plants to grow strong. Discuss some of the good seeds that God puts in our hearts: (gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit). As they are discussed, write them on a 'seed' and ask them to come and 'plant' them in the garden.



Ask the children which of God's 'seeds' they would like in their hearts this week.

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## WE BELIEVE

Relating to the creed what you have shared with the children, ask this series of questions and invite the children to reply, 'I do.'

- Do you believe in God, who plants the seed of faith in us and wants it to grow?
- Do you believe in Jesus, who helps our faith to grow?
- Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who helps us to understand what God is like?
- Do you believe in our holy, Catholic Church, where we come to learn about God?

**"I do, Alleluia! Alleluia!"**

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## WE PRAY

To help children to include others in their prayers, you may like to first ask who/what they would like to pray for. After each offering, repeat it, and add, "...and for all who...."

Here are some suggested prayers that the parents may like to hear:

- We pray for the Church all over the world. We especially pray for all Christians in places where people think it is wrong to believe in Jesus.
- We pray for people in the world who do not have enough to eat.
- We pray for all farmers, that their crops may be enough for both themselves and to feed the world.
- We pray for our neighbours who may be unhappy for any reason.
- Lord, we ask your Word to grow in our hearts and that Your Kingdom will come.

We make all our prayers through Christ our Lord. All: Amen.

The children return to the pews during the Offertory Procession



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## DURING THE WEEK AT HOME

Youtube videos of the Parable of the Sower and the Seed

<https://youtu.be/ZSS8huDbriM> Saddleback Kids

<https://youtu.be/LKZW4VXlrM> The Mass Box

[https://youtu.be/IZEO\\_Ls2ERs](https://youtu.be/IZEO_Ls2ERs) Saddleback Kids #2

Other sites:

<https://thekidsbulletin.com/> Another site with reflections/worksheets

<https://youtu.be/pg92cspLy0I> Time-lapse video of the growth of a bean seed...

Even though winter is here, you may enjoy a little time planting some seeds and watching them grow with your children.



SOMETIMES  
ALL IT TAKES  
IS A **BEAN** AND  
A **JAR** TO MAKE  
**WONDER HAPPEN**