

# Children's Liturgy of the Word



18<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

MATTHEW 14:13-21

## BACKGROUND FOR PARENTS AND LEADERS



This is the familiar story of the miracle of the five loaves and two fish distributed to crowd of 5000. It is in all four Gospels, so it must have made quite an impact on his followers.

Last week we heard Jesus teaching through parables using simple farming and fishing imagery that the crowd can relate to. Here we have a continuation of the theme of abundance from small beginnings. The wheat in the parables has been harvested and bread is now the image; the haul of fish has been caught and two are available to share. But have we truly heard Jesus' promise of abundance, even from the

smallest of beginnings? How do we act as the people of the Kingdom of God?

Instead of telling another parable, Jesus demonstrates himself the miracle of the abundance of God's love and compassion to those who pray with faith. We can recognise the disciples' complaint that what they have to give is not enough. What treasures there can be in a smile, a kind word, a prayer, an offer of help. Also what abundance can grow from accepting small offers of help from unexpected sources.

We are reminded of the mana in the wilderness at Exodus. But even more, of the gift of Jesus himself in the Eucharist, the gift that nourishes and strengthens us, that will last forever, that satisfies our spiritual hunger.

As Jesus gave thanks to God before he blessed and broke the bread, so too we remember to stop and say grace before meals, and share trustingly what little we think we have.

## PREPARATION

Prepare a prayer focus table with a green cloth (Ordinary Time) the Children's Liturgy Candle and the Children's Lectionary. Include a basket with two fish and five small buns.

- Liturgical Year Calendar on the wall.
- Floorcloth
- Worksheets and pens/pencils

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

## SETTING THE SCENE

- Help the children remember they are still participating in the Mass by asking them a couple of questions about what colour Father is wearing, and if they remember anything he said to them about the Gospel today.
- Remind the children of last week's Gospel. Jesus described the Kingdom of Heaven as a precious pearl of great worth. What have we been grateful for over the week? How have we looked after our greatest treasure – our faith?
- Have you ever been asked to do something which seemed impossible, but then it worked out ok in the end?
- Show the children the basket of loaves and fish and ask how many people they think they would feed.
- In this Gospel Jesus asked the disciples something that seemed impossible, to feed over 5000 people. Listen to what Jesus did with the loaves and fish beforehand.

## GOSPEL

You may like to ask one of the older children (a good reader) to read the Gospel. As everyone stands for the Gospel Acclamation, the reader goes to the Lectionary Stand.

D G Bm A D G Asus<sup>4</sup> A



General: Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Fill us O Lord with your word.\_\_\_\_

Bm G D A G A D



Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Your word is life for our souls.

Gospel: MATTHEW 14:13-21 (*Read from the Children's Lectionary.*)

Reader: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

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

Children: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



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## REFLECTION ON THE READING

Ask the children what words they heard in the Gospel and build up a list on the board. Summarise the Gospel using the words/reflection they have given.

Here are some questions you may like to use:

- Why do you think the crowds followed Jesus?
- What did Jesus feel and do when he saw the crowds?
- What did the disciples ask Jesus to do?

- But what did Jesus ask the disciples to do?
- Who did Jesus ask to bless the loaves and fish?
- How many people did they feed?
- How much was left over?
- Imagine the scene – if you were one of the disciples, what would you have felt to have shared the food, and seen the 12 baskets of leftovers?

## RESPONSE

Jesus offered his disciples the opportunity of feeding, distributing, and then gathering the left-overs. They are involved in the process, and by joining in, they begin to understand the mission that was theirs. What do you think Jesus was teaching them?

How can we this week care and share this week at home, at school, in our communities?

This week let us continue to remember to stop and bless our food, with gratitude and thanksgiving:

“Bless us O Lord,  
and these thy gifts, which from thy bounty we are about to receive.”  
Amen



## WE BELIEVE

Say the little Creed together from the chart. 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 the Father, the creator who provides us with everything we need?
- Do you believe in God the son, Jesus who feeds us with himself in the Eucharist?
- Do you believe in God, the Holy Spirit, who fills us with faith to share our gifts?

**“I do, Alleluia! Alleluia!”**

## 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:

Dear Jesus,  
Thank you for sharing yourself with us.  
Help us to be sharing people,  
knowing that when we share our love and our time,  
our hope and our peace with others,  
we are also sharing with you.

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

The children return to their pews during the Offertory Procession.

## OTHER RESOURCES

### Videos

<https://youtu.be/S6rj9cAJrWE> Saddleback Kids - Jesus feeds 5000

<https://youtu.be/OfGjybUn5bE> Loaves and Fishes

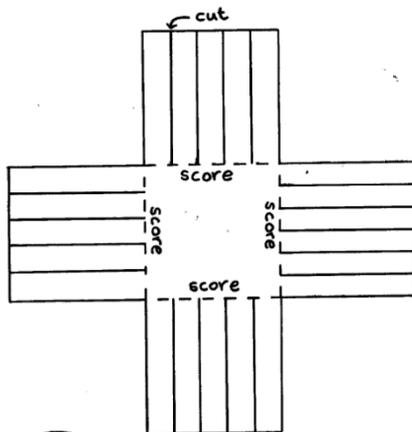
<https://youtu.be/jiB6ySr5PNI> St Martha (Feastday 29 July 2020)

<https://youtu.be/fEagBozmG9k> The Mass Box - making a basket of bread and fish



<https://youtu.be/NgkREe0wvkm> How to make bread (with recipe)

<https://youtu.be/o9o81fJn3FQ> another bread recipe



Basket template

