

# Children's Liturgy of the Word



12<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A MATTHEW 10:26-33  
YOUNGER CHILDREN

## BACKGROUND

In the Liturgical Calendar, we have come to the end of Easter and return to Ordinary Time. To reflect this, you will notice that the priest this Sunday will be dressed in green. Green is for hope and growth, a time to reflect on Jesus' life and teachings.

This week, Jesus knows that the disciples will face difficulties. Many people will not listen to them, even in their own land. Even family members will turn away.

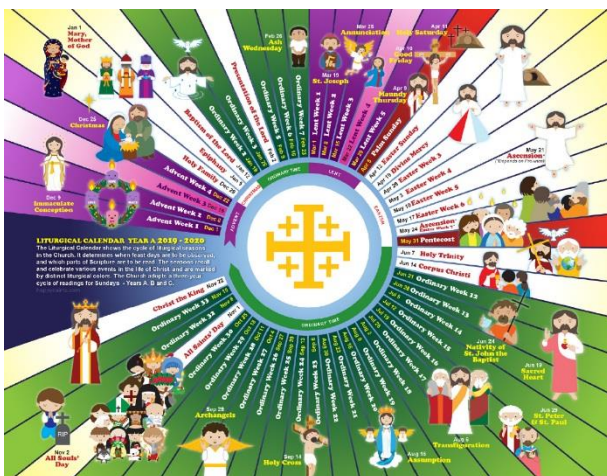
Today's Gospel offers the disciples consolation against this difficult truth.

We might not face the same type of persecution as the early church, but we do experience difficulties as we try to live a Christian life. Sometimes we let the opinions of others stop us from doing what we know to be right. But it is good to remember that what God thinks about us is more important. We are reassured by the promise that God cares for us and protects us.



## PREPARATION

Prepare a prayer focus with a green cloth (Ordinary Time) a place to receive the Children's Liturgy Candle and the Children's Lectionary. You may like to include a nest of sparrows, or a bird feeder. Set up a 'table' with a green cloth on the floor for the children with the worksheet for each placed around the edges.



Activity materials:

- Poster "Do not be afraid: Put yourself in God's hands".
- Liturgical Year Calendar on the wall.
- Little people, two for each child, cut out.
- coloured pencils and blue-tac.
- You may have decorated the noticeboard with a flock of sparrows!
- A gift of a small packet of seed each to feed the birds this week.

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## SETTING THE SCENE

To help the children know they are still part of the Mass, ask what Father talked to them about before they came into the Children's Liturgy room. Ask what colour he is wearing (green). This is because Easter is over, and now we are in Ordinary Time. Show on the Liturgical Calendar.

Ask the children if they can remember any of the disciples names.

Let the children know that this Gospel is about Jesus getting the 12 disciples ready to go and tell everyone about how much God loves them. Some people won't want to listen to them. He's telling them to not be afraid, because God loves them very much.

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## WE SAY SORRY

Leader: You cover us with your protection, Lord have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: You entrust us with your work, Christ have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: You give us all we need, Lord have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

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## WE PRAY

God, help us to hear you and to follow you in whatever we do. Amen.

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## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Praise the Lord** (*to the tune of Row, Row, Row Your Boat*)

Praise, praise, praise the Lord

Praise our Father dear.

As we listen to His Word,  
feel his Spirit near.

Let the children know they are going to need to sit quietly so all the parents can also hear the reading. (Parents need spiritual nourishment too.)

Gospel: MATTHEW 10:26-33 (*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 increasingly difficult questions, such as these:

*How many fingers do you have? Have many toes? What colour are your eyes?*

*How many hairs are on your head?*

Feign surprise and say: *What?! You don't know how many hairs are on your head?*

*Who does? Your teacher? Your sisters or brothers? Your parents? Your friends?*

*Well I know who knows!*

Re-read the Gospel - the part about hairs and sparrows.

Ask: *Who knows the number of hairs on our head? (God does!)*

*That's right, God does. God loves us so much, and knows us so well that he even knows how many hairs we have on our head!*

*We can always trust God to take care of us, no matter what!*

*Who else does he love? ... AND HE LOVES US EVEN MORE THAN THE SPARROWS.*

*(based on [www.loyolapress.com](http://www.loyolapress.com) )*

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## RESPONSE

Give the children two of the cut-out people. Ask them to colour them in and put their name on one, and a friend's name on the other. As they finish, invite them to put them in God's hands on the poster. As they do, delight in saying, "Put yourself in God's hands!"

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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 the Father?
- Do you believe in God the Son, Jesus, who came to call people to God?
- Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit, who inspires people today to follow Jesus?

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

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## WE PRAY

Conclude in prayer together. Invite the children to name ways in which they or their friends need God's help.

Respond to each prayer with: God, we trust you because you know us so well.

Conclude with the Glory Be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit...

All: Amen

Give the children a small bag of birdseed each to feed the birds. The children return to the pews during the Offertory Procession.

