



DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

700 King Street West, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8P 1C7

Children's Liturgy of the Word



Thirty-Second Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A.....	2
Theme: Preparing for Jesus.....	2
Summary.....	2
Objectives	2
Leader's Preparation:.....	2
Environment and Materials	2
Background	3
Prayer Leader Reflection Questions.....	3
Images from the Readings.....	3
The Liturgy.....	3
Procession from the main Church	3
Welcome.	4
Lectionary Readings	4
Reflection	6
The Creed	7
Prayer of the Faithful	7

Thirty-Second Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A

Theme: Preparing for Jesus

Summary

- † Once again, we have the imagery of the wedding banquet where God invites everybody.
- † But only those with an open and ready attitude may enter.
- † This parable stresses the need to live in the present with an eye on the future.
- † Recall a time when you have had to invest a lot of time and energy into preparation for an event. Did this effort pay off?
- † Can you also recall when you neglected to do the necessary preparation? What happened, and how did you feel during this occasion?
- † No matter how well we plan, the unexpected will often throw off all our efforts.
- † Sometimes, the unexpected can bring better things than we could have imagined. Do you find it easy to deal with the unexpected in your life?
- † How well do you balance your life's spiritual and practical aspects?
- † Think about the priorities in your life during this week and evaluate whether they need to be adjusted.

Objectives

- † Consider how to stay vigilant for the kingdom of heaven.
- † To help children name ways to live a Christian life.

Leader's Preparation:

- † Pray the Lectionary readings.
- † Prepare the Environment and Materials.
- † Review the background.
- † Reflect upon the reflection questions.

Environment and Materials

- † Two screened adult leaders.
- † Liturgical space.
- † Candle, table, liturgical colours, and any other visual aids.
- † Bookmark the readings in the Bible.
- † Place a Bible in a prominent location for the children to see when they enter the space.
- † Prepare any hymns that the children will sing as they gather in the space.
- † Select volunteers (older children or adults) to proclaim the readings.
- † Display the responsorial psalm refrain lyrics, if possible and desired.
- † Display the Creed, if possible and desired.

Background

Wisdom 6:12-16

- † The book of Wisdom was written about 100 BC.
- † Wisdom is an agent of creation, the breath of the power of God.
- † This reading declares how readily Wisdom may be found.
- † Wisdom is an attribute of God personified as feminine.
- † According to Scripture, the spirit of Wisdom sustains all human life and guides desirable actions.

Matthew 25:1-13

- † Matthew is concerned that Christ's delayed second coming is causing followers to lose vigilance.
- † He places Jesus' message "Be ready!" in an allegorical story about being wise.
- † Foolish ones believe they carry the "lamp" of Christ but fail to do actions to keep the fire of faith burning.
- † Wise followers continue to fuel their faith with prayer and Christian actions.
- † The parable of the ten bridesmaids paints a word picture.
- † The girls slept as they waited for the bridegroom (Jesus).
- † However, five brought additional oil.
- † Had they shared their supply with the five who were not as prepared, no one would have had enough to accompany the groom.
- † Oil is symbolic of the Holy Spirit.

Prayer Leader Reflection Questions

- † When the prepared young women refuse to give some of their oil to the foolish ones, do you see this as a selfish act?
- † Do you think that they should have shared their resources?
- † How have you prepared for the Lord's coming?

Images from the Readings

- † Ten girls took their lamps
- † Come to meet him!
- † Our lamps are going out.
- † Always be ready!
- † The Lord will return from heaven.

The Liturgy

Procession from the main Church

After the opening prayer, when all are seated, the leaders come forward and stand facing the altar.

Priest: Dear children, God gives us gifts and wants us to use them for others. Take to heart this teaching of the Lord, who loves you very much.

One of the leaders carries the Book of God's Word, held high for all to see. The second leader assists by directing the children. When most of the children have formed a procession, the leader with the book proceeds to the place of the celebration. The second leader usually walks behind the children. Upon arrival at the location of the celebration, the leader places the book on the prepared table.

Welcome.

The leaders assist the children to sit, welcome them and participate in the prayer.

The leader may say the prayer.

O God, allow our hearts to be open to your word so we may know your Wisdom. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Invite the children to sit and listen to the readings.

Lectionary Readings

One of the leaders (or an older child who has prepared the text) stands, takes the book from the table, stands behind the table, and proclaims the first reading. The reading ends with: The Word of the Lord. All respond: Thanks be to God.

FIRST READING Wisdom 6:12-16

A reading from the book of Wisdom

Wisdom is wonderful and everlasting. Anyone who wants wisdom will find her if they love and look for her.

Wisdom is always ready to help anyone who wants her. People who have wisdom know what is good and right. They are free from worry.

Wisdom will lead their thoughts to what is good, and she will guide them in all that they do.

The Word of the Lord.

The leader may teach the children to respond: Thanks be to God.

A period of silence follows the reading. Invite the children to think about some particular aspect of the reading during this time may be helpful.

Perhaps the gesture of bowing heads and closing eyes will foster the effective use of this silent period.

GOSPEL Matthew 25:1-13

The children stand for the Gospel. The leader proclaims the Gospel.

✠A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

All respond: Glory to you, Lord.

All sign themselves on the forehead, lips and breast.

Jesus told his disciples this story about the kingdom of heaven:

"The kingdom of heaven is like what happened one night when ten girls took their oil lamps and went to a wedding to meet the groom. Five of the girls were foolish, and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but no extra oil. The ones who were wise took along extra oil for their lamps.

The groom arrived late, and the girls became drowsy and fell asleep. Then, in the middle of the night, someone shouted, 'Here's the groom! Come to meet him!'

When the girls got up and started getting their lamps ready, the foolish ones said to the others, 'Let us have some of your oil! Our lamps are going out.'

The girls who were wise answered, 'There's not enough oil for all of us! Go and buy some for yourselves.'

While the foolish girls were on their way to get some oil, the groom arrived. The girls who were ready entered the wedding, and the doors were closed. Later, the other girls returned and shouted, 'Sir, sir! Open the door for us!'

But the groom replied, 'I don't even know you!'

So, my disciples, always be ready! You don't know the day or the time when all this will happen."

The Gospel of the Lord.

The leader concludes the Gospel with The Gospel of the Lord.

All respond: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The children sit to listen to the reflection.

Reflection

The leader may offer this reflection in these or similar words. Please consider the amount of time available to return to the main assembly. The leader may wish to reduce the number of questions.

Jesus gave his listeners a parable, a story with more than one meaning to teach them – and us. He tells us of ten girls who were waiting for a bridegroom to arrive at a great wedding feast. They kept watch at night but needed light to see in the dark. In this parable, there were no electric lights. To see at night, people used lamps that held small flames. The flames stayed lit if the lamps had enough fuel to continue to burn. Five girls were wise and brought extra oil for their lamps, but five did not have enough. When the groom arrived, those who didn't have enough oil missed him. They couldn't join the party because it was too late to recognize the one they had been waiting for.

Have you ever had to be ready for something important and then found that you didn't have something you needed?

Allow the children to share in some examples.

We want to join the great feast of heaven. We want to recognize Jesus, the bridegroom when he comes. The sacraments help us eliminate darkness and be full of Christ's light. We do good deeds that shine Christ's light on others. We want to have so much oil for our lamps that whether we wait a little or a long while, we will always be full of light to see Christ and join in the great feast in heaven.

How can you prepare for Jesus?

Allow the children to share in some examples.

Following the reflection, the prayer leader invites everyone to stand to profess our faith. Together, sing or recite the Apostles' or Nicene Creed. Refer the children to the words of the prayer that you have displayed.

Following the reflection, the prayer leader invites everyone to stand to profess our faith.

Together, recite the Creed.

The Creed

Depending on the time, a simple profession of faith may be made (see below).

Leader: Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth?

All: We do believe.

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, who became our brother and gave his life for us?

All: We do believe.

Leader: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit who lives in our hearts and gives us everlasting life?

All: We do believe.

Leader: This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it.

Prayer of the Faithful

Invite the children to think of the needs of others and to announce their petitions. The leaders may begin the intercessions by announcing the needs they know. It may be necessary for the leader to repeat and/or paraphrase the petition and conclude it with the cue for the response: For this, we pray. All respond to each petition by saying: Lord, hear our prayer. Sample intercessions are below.

Leader: We listened to God's word and now pray to our God who loves us. The response is: Lord, hear our prayer.

† That the love and peace of God will fill all who serve the Church.

Let us pray to the Lord. R Lord, hear our prayer.

† That the rulers of our nation, communities and schools will lead with wisdom and readiness.

Let us pray to the Lord. R Lord, hear our prayer.

† That God will heal the sick and give compassion to those who care for them. Let us pray to the Lord. R Lord, hear our prayer.

† *The leader may invite other intercessions from the children or add intercessions based on the Church's current needs, the world, or the local community.*

† For all those who have died, God's eternal happiness will be their treasure forever.

Let us pray to the Lord. R Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Loving God, you invite us to bring all our needs to you. Listen to the prayers of your children, which we bring to you through Jesus Christ, your Son.

The leader may invite other intercessions from the children or add intercessions based on the Church's current needs, the world, or the local community.

Ask the children to return to the main assembly. Ask them to return quietly and perhaps think about what they have heard and are now doing.

Be mindful of children having difficulty finding their families.



Text: Excerpts from the English translation of *The Roman Missal* © 2010, ICEL. All rights reserved.

Text: New Revised Standard Version of the Bible © National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA (NCCC). Adapted by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, Adaptations © 2009, NCCC. All rights reserved.

All Hymns and Mass Settings are Reprinted under One License.net 710963. All rights reserved

Prepared by the Diocese of Hamilton, Liturgy Office, © 2023



DIocese of HAMILTON