



DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

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

Children's Liturgy of the Word

TENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The first reading from Genesis reminds us that God always looks out for us like a caring parent does for their child. Just as a loving parent, God is always interested in what we are up to and is dedicated to helping us learn from our mistakes. God protects us from potential dangers and challenging situations, taking on a protective and nurturing role.

The "fall" of the creation story shows that evil exists and was not intended by God. Like us, the story shows the effects of evil in the world and wants an explanation. The authors of Genesis knew that God created everything as good, so they concluded that humans' choices led to sin entering the world. Today's focus will be on the heart of the matter—our freedom of choice—rather than the story's details.

Jesus often taught about helping people feel at ease in God's presence and is known for his healing ability. St. Paul spoke about how connecting to Christ brings ongoing spiritual healing, using the metaphor of physical death as the folding up of our body like a tent so our spirit can live on with God forever. Jesus looked at people with the same love and care as he did for his family and recognized that God's love goes beyond blood and genes. Spiritually, we are all part of God's family, as close to Jesus as his own; showing love makes us part of God's family.

Objective

- † Introduce children to the story of Adam and Eve.
- † Jesus sees all of his disciples as brothers and sisters.

Background

Genesis 3:9-15 contains two creation stories that address questions about human existence and the presence of evil in the world. The stories are part of a strong oral tradition and are symbolic of broader human concerns. Unlike other ancient stories, Genesis introduces one God with whom people can have an intimate relationship. The reading for this Sunday is part of the second creation story, addressing the origin of evil and human choice.

Psalms 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 (7bc) Psalm 130 is a lament that cries out to God in frustration and desperation. It acknowledges personal sin but expresses confidence in God's past and future care. It reflects the cry of humanity after the devastation of sin and evil.

2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1 Paul's faith sustained him through difficulties and led him to proclaim his faith in Jesus Christ despite dangerous situations. Unlike his Greek contemporaries, Paul did not believe in the duality of human nature and appreciated the body as created and blessed by God. He believed in the eternal resurrection with his Savior, and this vision sustained him in all things."

Mark 3:20-35 describes a point in Jesus' ministry where he faces opposition from his family and religious leaders. They question his authority, and some even accuse him of being possessed by evil forces. Jesus responds by pointing out the logical flaw in their accusations and warns them about the consequences of persistently rejecting him and the presence of the Holy Spirit. The passage also emphasizes the importance of accepting Jesus, stating that this acceptance leads to a more significant relationship than blood relations and offers hope in difficult times.

Leader's Reflection Questions

- † How do you see Jesus as a brother?
- † Do you see other people as your brothers and sisters in Christ?

Suggested Focus

Prepare a focus for the area where the Children's Liturgy of the Word is to be held: green cloth, a Bible, a candle, a picture of a family, and a bowl of holy water.

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, sometimes we make decisions that are not how God would want us to act. We do our best. God always forgives and loves us. Go with your leaders and listen to God.

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 in sitting and preparing. **Begin with the Sign of the Cross.** Help the children think and connect their actions as they touch their foreheads, shoulders, and stomachs. The leader may say the following prayer in these or similar words.

O God,

Lord God, send the Holy Spirit to help us make good decisions.

Amen.

Invite the children to listen to the readings. Proclaiming all the readings is unnecessary; however, the Gospel is required.



First Reading

A reading from the book of Genesis.

The Lord called Adam and asked, "Where are you?"

Adam answered, "I was naked,
and when I heard you walking through the garden, I was afraid and hid!"

"How did you know you were naked?" God asked.

"Did you eat from the tree I told you not to?"

Adam said, "The woman gave me some fruit, and I ate it."

God then asked her, "What have you done?"

The woman answered,

"The snake tricked me into eating some of that fruit."

God said to the snake,

"Because of what you have done,
you will suffer a greater curse than the cattle
and the wild animals.

For as long as you live, you will crawl
on your stomach and eat dirt from the ground.

You and this woman will hate each other.

Your descendants and hers will always be enemies.

One of them will crush your head, and you will
bite him on the heel."

The word of the Lord.

At the end of the reading, the Minister of the Word proclaims, "The word of the Lord."

Children: Thanks be to God.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

Responsorial Psalm

R. With the Lord, there is steadfast love,
and fullness of redemption.

Out of the depths, I cry to you, O Lord.
Lord, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my supplications! **R.**

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?

But there is forgiveness with you
so that you may be revered. **R.**

I wait for the Lord,
my soul waits, and in his word, I hope;
my soul waits for the Lord
more than those who watch for the morning. **R.**

For with the Lord, there is steadfast love,
and with him is great power to redeem.

It is he who will redeem Israel
from all its iniquities. **R.**

Second Reading

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.

Brothers and sisters: We never give up.

Our bodies are gradually dying,

but we ourselves are

being made stronger every day.

These little troubles are getting us ready for eternal glory

that will make all our troubles seem like nothing.

Things that are seen don't last forever, but things that are not seen are eternal.

That's why we keep our minds on the things that cannot be seen.

Our bodies are like tents that we live in here on earth. But when these tents are destroyed, we know that God will give each of us a place to live.

These homes will not be buildings that

someone has made. But they are in heaven and will last forever.

The word of the Lord.

At the end of the reading, the Minister of the Word proclaims, "The word of the Lord."

Children: Thanks be to God.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

Gospel

The children stand for the Gospel, which the leader proclaims. They sign themselves on the forehead, lips, and chest.

✠ **A reading from the holy Gospel, according to Mark.**

Children respond: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus went back home,
and once again, such a large crowd gathered
that there was no chance even to eat.
When Jesus' family heard what he was doing,
they thought he was crazy and went
to get him under control.

Jesus' mother and brothers came and stood outside.
Then they sent someone with a message
for him to come out to them.

The crowd that was sitting around Jesus told him, "Your mother
and brothers and sisters are outside and want to see you."

Jesus asked, "Who are my mother and my brothers?"

Then he looked at the people sitting
around him and said,

"Here are my mother and my brothers.

Anyone who obeys God is my
brother or sister or mother."

At the end of the Gospel, the Minister of the Word proclaims, "The Gospel of the Lord."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Children: Glory to you, O Lord.

Reflection

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

An excellent place to begin is the question:

What did you hear? Allow each child to respond to the Word of God in their own words. Then, begin a general discussion, building on these responses, using some prepared questions, like the following, to stimulate ideas.

What are some things you are expected to do as part of your family? [chores, helping siblings, respecting parents, encouraging family members in work and play, etc.]

In today's Gospel, Jesus discusses the nature of family. When people tell him that his mother, brothers, and sisters are outside and want to speak to him, he replies, "Who are my mother and my brothers?"

Do you think Jesus forgot who the members of his family were?

No, Jesus took this moment to teach us something important about our relationship to God. He said all of the people were his family.

Why?

Anyone who obeys God belongs to his family. They are considered his sisters and brothers.

Jesus wasn't only talking to the people close to him long ago but also to us today. The Gospel reminds us that if we obey God, we can call Jesus our brother and become part of God's family. That is a great honour! And he loves and cares for them just as much as he loves and cares for his family.

Does it make you happy to know you're part of Jesus' family?

When you were baptized, you became a member of the Christian family.

What are some things you must do as part of the Christian family?

What sorts of "chores" do you have as a member of the Christian family?

Who are your "brothers and sisters" in this family?

Are they just the ones you live near or can see?

Are they people who live all around the world?

How are you expected to help them? [We can pray for them or give of our time to them.]

We have responsibilities in God's family, but we also have blessings. Just as your parents and siblings love you, God loves all who belong to his family.

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

Recite the Creed or use the sample below to ask the children to respond.

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: I believe.

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

All: I believe.

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

All: I believe.

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

Prayer of the Faithful

Leaders may begin the intercessions by announcing the needs they know. It may be necessary for the leader to repeat and paraphrase the petition and conclude it with the cue for the response: we pray. All respond to each petition by saying: **Lord, hear our prayer**. Sample intercessions are below.

Leader: Let us pray to our saving God with our needs: R./

Lector: For the Church, that we cherish each member, we pray: R./

Lector: For peace in the world, we pray: R./

Lector: For the lonely, the sick, and the hungry, we pray: R./

The leader may invite other intercessions from the children.

Leader: God of Resurrection and Life, hear your children's prayers through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Ask the children to return to the main assembly. Ask them to return quietly and think about what they have heard and are now doing. Be mindful of children having difficulty finding their families.



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