

Liturgy of the Word with Children

Children Celebrate!



SPRING 2020 (YEAR A)

MARCH 1, 2020 First Sunday of Lent
through

MAY 24, 2020 Ascension/Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 17, 2020

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

Today's Readings

Acts 8:5–8, 14–17
Psalm 66:1–3ab, 4–5, 16, 20
John 14:15–21



We Pray

Jesus, we love you. We will do our best to do what you ask. Amen.



The Word of God This Week

Jesus Sends the Holy Spirit to Help Us

Jesus told his disciples, "If you love me, do as I command. Then I'll ask the Father to send you the Holy Spirit who will help you and always be with you.

"I won't leave you like orphans. I will come back. People won't be able to see me, but you will see me.

"If you love me, you will do what I've said, and my Father will love you because he and I are one."



Activity

Spreading the Word of God makes miracles happen in the hearts of people. Find the words from today's readings.



BAPTIZED

DISCIPLES

ORPHANS

SAMARIA

MIRACLE

FATHER

PHILIP

JERUSALEM

HOLY SPIRIT

JESUS

Family Corner

Faith Focus

How is the Spirit of God present in your home? Is it obvious to anyone who visits your home that God has a place? Do you have Christian art displayed anywhere? Is there a crucifix on your wall that acts as a reminder that your household is dedicated to Jesus?

Visual expressions of the importance of the Spirit of God can help remind your family that God is always with them.

Family Activity

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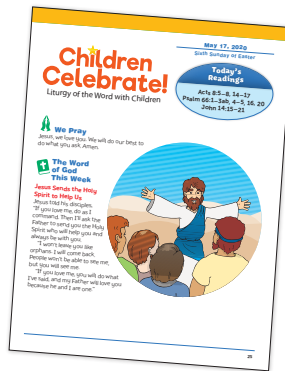
Today's Readings

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John 14:15–21

Preparation

Children's Leaflet

Have on hand copies of the Children's Leaflet for this Sunday. Distribute copies either at the start of the session or before the children return to the assembly.



Prepare with Prayer

All of you people, come praise our God! Let his praises be heard. God protects us from death and keeps us steady. (Psalm 66:–9)

Scripture Background

Today's reading from Acts follows last week's account of seven assistants selected to help the Apostles minister to the Church in Jerusalem. One of the seven, named Philip (not to be confused with the Apostle of the same name), decides to carry the Good News to the people of Samaria.

He preaches, heals, casts out demons, and baptizes. His baptisms, however, are not accompanied by the usual signs of the Holy Spirit's presence, which do not occur until the Apostles Peter and John arrive to lay their hands upon those whom Philip had baptized.

What results is an unleashing of the Spirit sometimes called "Samaritan Pentecost." This story illustrates Luke's point that the full power of the Holy Spirit rests only upon the Apostles and their ordained successors. While an important lay assistant in the early Church, Philip was not an ordained minister, and he had acted on his own when he undertook his missionary journey to Samaria. Luke often emphasizes the Apostles' role in the early Church, suggesting that the full power of the Spirit resided peculiarly in them and in their ordained successors.

Today's excerpt from John's Gospel continues Jesus' discourse at the Last Supper. When our Lord promises to return

Prepare the Meeting Space

In the worship area, on a table draped with a white cloth, place:

- ▶ a Lectionary
- ▶ a battery-operated candle
- ▶ a live green plant or fresh flower arrangement

For use during the Gathering activity, have ready the following materials:

- ▶ a few cartoon fish images printed out from the internet
- ▶ sheets of paper, one for each child
- ▶ a sponge
- ▶ crayons only in black, white, and the warm colors (red, orange, yellow, etc.)
- ▶ a dish of watered-down blue tempera paint or poster paint

Suggested Music

See page 64 for more information.

Gathering: "The Spirit Song" (Seeds CD-1, Track #15) or "Holy Spirit, Live in Us" (Promise & Good News CD-2, Track #10)

Gospel Acclamation: "Alleluia" (Promise & Good News CD-2, Track #24)

to the Apostles after his Death and Resurrection, he is speaking mostly of his continued presence through the Holy Spirit within and among them.

Children's Connections

Ever since the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) was first developed some years ago, it has been a gold-mine for teachers of every academic subject at every grade level, including teachers and catechists in our Catholic schools and parishes.

One part of the personality test shows if someone is an extravert or an intravert (terms with a slightly different emphasis from the more familiar terms of extrovert and introvert). More than half of all young learners, for example, are extraverts. They learn best when engaged with other people. They enjoy chances to interact, discuss, ask, and answer questions. Because extraverts tend to think fast and say whatever is on their minds at the moment (which might be something completely different in the next moment), they benefit from group discussion that is somewhat free-flowing while also carefully guided.

When conducting a dialogue Homily among child extraverts, then, sometimes you will need to gently correct the incorrect ideas they blurt out without thinking. Other times you will need to help them polish ideas that are basically correct but need further clarification. Sometimes a guiding question or two will alert extraverts to details they need to add to their answer or include in their thinking about a given subject. A dialogue with an extravert about the Sacrament of Baptism, for example, might go something like this:

You: Besides special words, every sacrament includes special actions. What is the most important action in the sacrament of Baptism?

Child: Putting on the white garment!

You: Yes, that's important, but not as important as what goes before it. What does the priest do while he says, "I baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit"?

Child: Oh. He pours water on the person.

You: Right, so that's the most important action. How many times does he pour the water?

Child: Um—once?

You: Actually, three times. Why that many, do you suppose?

More About ...

Designing Dialogue to Include Intraverts

Dialogue homilies need not exclude the contributions of young intraverts. These children, however, prefer time to think before giving answers, and they often will not speak without being singled out even if they have good ideas worth sharing. To adjust to the learning style of these particular children, experts recommend a technique called the Nominal Group Method. It involves these steps:

- Before asking a question, tell the children that you are going to give everyone a few moments of silence to think it over before taking their answers.
- If the group is small, have everyone answer in round-robin fashion. If it's large, call on three or four children to share their answers with the group. (Single out those children who usually don't raise their hands.)
- After listening to the various answers, identify one or two of the better responses and explain what was good about them.

Such non-threatening exchanges keep extraverts actively engaged in their learning.

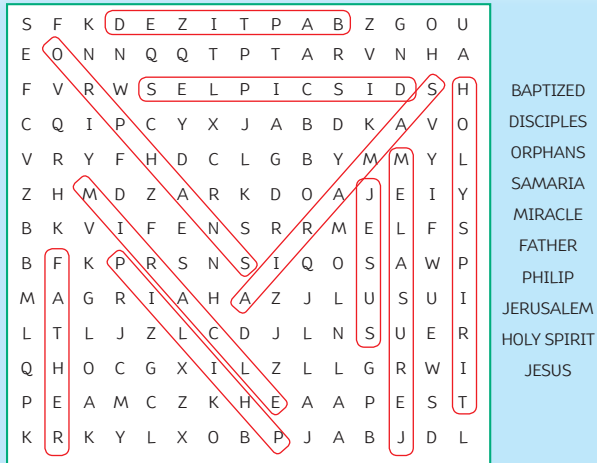
The Children's Leaflet

The leaflet for this week helps children learn about Jesus sending the Holy Spirit, through a prayer, a summary of the Gospel, and a creative activity.

You may distribute the leaflet now, for use during the session, or before the children return to the assembly. If you distribute the leaflet now and time permits, you may wish to read with the children the summary of the Gospel in "The Word of God This Week" after you have read the Gospel. Point out the artwork and ask the children what is happening in the picture.

Leaflet Activity

The family activity this week suggests a mobile hanging of symbols of the Spirit. The children have a Word Search to solve. For your convenience, the solution to the puzzle is reproduced here.



we live because you live.” You have given us the words of everlasting life. Lord, we live because you live.

Children: Lord, we live because you live.

Leader: If we love you, we do as you command. Lord, we live because you live.

Children: Lord, we live because you live.

Leader: When we do as you say, you are one with us and we are one with you. Lord, we live because you live.

Children: Lord, we live because you live.

Invite the children to be seated. Light the candle and begin the First Reading.

First Reading

Leader: Today’s First Reading tells about how the people of Samaria first heard about Christ and received the Holy Spirit.

Read Acts 8:5–8, 14–17. Then say, “The word of the Lord.”

Children: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

The psalm may be either sung or spoken. Before beginning, sing or announce the response.

Leader: Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

Children: Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

Leader: *Read Psalm 66:1–3ab, 4–5, 16, 20.*

Gospel Acclamation

Invite the children to stand. Sing the suggested Acclamation or another familiar one. If you choose not to sing the Gospel Acclamation, proceed to the proclamation of the Gospel.

Proclaim the Gospel

Leader: In today’s Gospel, we hear Jesus promise his disciples that he will send them the Holy Spirit after he returns to his Father.

The Lord be with you.

Children: And with your Spirit.

Leader: A reading from the Gospel of John.

Children: † Glory to you, O Lord.

Leader: *Read John 14:15–21.* Then say, “The Gospel of the Lord.”

Children: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Liturgy of the Word

Gathering

Have the children gather around a table or on an open floor space where they can draw. Show them sample images of cartoon fish—not so that they can copy the images when they do their own drawings but so that they can see there are many different ways to draw fish. Then give them sheets of drawing paper and tell them to sketch all types and sizes of fish swimming across the page. They should press hard with the crayons and leave the background blank for you to fill in. As each child finishes, dip a sponge in a dish of watered-down blue tempera or poster paint, and cover the drawing with blue paint to create a crayon resistance drawing. Set aside the painted paper to dry.

When all the drawings are finished, invite the children to go to the worship space and be seated for the opening prayer.

Collect

Leader: Today’s readings say that the gift of the Holy Spirit makes us all, in a sense, “swim in the waters of Christ.” But before we begin the readings, let’s take a moment to remember our sins and ask for God’s forgiveness. *(Pause.)* Please answer each short prayer with the words, “Lord,

Homily

Base a Homily on these ideas and questions.

- ▶ According to Jesus, what are some things the Holy Spirit will do for his followers? (Help them, stay with them, show them what is true, teach them how to live, make them one with God, etc.)
- ▶ When you think about it, what the Holy Spirit does for Christians resembles the things that water does for fish. (Water helps them, stays with them and in them, gives them what they need for life, makes them one with the sea.)
- ▶ Can a fish live out of water? (No.) In the same way, we cannot have eternal life without God.
- ▶ When we sin, we try to live without God. We are like fish jumping out of the very water that keeps us alive.
- ▶ Look at this drawing of fish in the sea. (Hold up a drawing made by you or one of the children.) Where do you see the color blue, which represents water? (Great swaths all around the fish and flecks of blue inside each fish.)
- ▶ The color blue is like the Holy Spirit that lives with and in us through the Sacrament of Baptism.
- ▶ Nothing can separate us from the Holy Spirit except sin, and that's why we always begin every Mass by recalling our sins and asking God's forgiveness.
- ▶ When Saint Catherine of Siena thought about the fish that live in the sea, she saw a beautiful symbol of the existence we have in God. She wrote that every human being is both surrounded by God and filled with God "like the fish in the sea and sea in the fish."

Profession of Faith

Leader: Please stand for the Profession of Faith. Respond to each question with the words, "I do." Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, who loves us with a special love when we listen to Jesus and do as he says?

Children: I do.

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, who promised never to leave us, but to send his Holy Spirit to stay with us?

Children: I do.

Leader: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who helps us and shows us what is true and how to live?

Children: I do.

Prayer of the Faithful

Leader: As one people joined together by the Holy Spirit living in and among us, let us pray for the good of the Church and the world. Our response to each petition will be, "Hear us, O Lord."

Leader: Lord, send the truth of your Holy Spirit to Church leaders, that they may be good shepherds of your people, we pray.

Children: Hear us, O Lord.

Leader: Lord, send the truth of your Holy Spirit to world leaders, that they will make peace and not war, we pray.

Children: Hear us, O Lord.

Leader: Lord, send the truth of your Holy Spirit to the families of our parish, that we will live together in peace and find solutions to our family problems, we pray.

Children: Hear us, O Lord.

Leader: *Invite the children to pray their own petitions. Then pray:*

Loving God, through your Son's Death and Resurrection, you sent us the Holy Spirit to teach us your truth and fill us with your own everlasting life and goodness. Keep us free from sin, that we might live with you forever and ever.

Children: Amen.

Return to Assembly

The Liturgy of the Word ends with the Prayer of the Faithful. Prepare the children to return to the assembly in a respectful manner. If you haven't already done so, distribute the leaflets. Remind the children to take the leaflets home and share them with their families. Encourage them to complete the Family Corner activities as a family.

Exceptionally, the Summer 2020 edition of Children Celebrate is available for purchase as a downloadable product.

<< **PLEASE CLICK HERE** >>