

Children's liturgy – Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

Preparation of the worship space

Colour: green

Props: coloured pens or pencils

Song suggestions: Christ be beside me (910, Laudate)

O Lord all the world belongs to you (847, Laudate)

Welcome: Today Jesus talks about how we have all done things that are wrong. Instead of picking on the tiny mistakes of others, we should change the things that are not so good about our own behaviour. Let's think a bit more about this.

Opening prayer: Loving God, help us to see when we are doing something that hurts or upsets others. Help us to say sorry and to make a change. Fill our hearts with your love and goodness. Amen.

First reading (optional): Ecclesiasticus 27:4-7

Psalm: Psalm 91:2-3, 13-16 r cf. v. 2

Gospel acclamation: *everyone stands and sings the acclamation together.*

Gospel: Luke 6:39-45

And Jesus told them this parable: "One blind man cannot lead another one; if he does, both will fall into a ditch. No pupil is greater than his teacher; but every pupil, when he has completed his training, will be like his teacher.

"Why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but pay no attention to the log in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Please, brother, let me take that speck out of your eye,' yet cannot even see the log in your own eye? You hypocrite! First take the log out of your own eye, and then you will be able to see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

"A healthy tree does not bear bad fruit, nor does a poor tree bear good fruit. Every tree is known by the fruit it bears; you do not pick figs from thorn bushes or gather grapes from bramble bushes. A good person brings good out of the treasure of good things in his heart; a bad person brings bad out of his treasure of bad things. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of."

(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation® and used with permission, see details below)*

Gospel reflection: What do you remember from the reading today?

Jesus is talking to the disciples – he talks about seeing a tiny speck of dust in someone else's eye, but not seeing the great wooden log in our own. Can anyone guess what Jesus means here?

Jesus is saying it is much easier to notice the mistakes that others make, than it is to realise when we have made a mistake or done something wrong ourselves.

What does Jesus tell the disciples they must do?

He says they must take the log out of their own eye before they can take the speck out of someone else's. He is saying we must change the way we act before we can expect anyone else to change.

If we cannot be good and do what is right, how can we ask other people to do the same?

Think quietly for a moment about something you might have done wrong. How could you change that? Could you share more? Be kinder or more helpful to others? Could you stop teasing a brother, sister or friend? Could you keep your room tidy? Or switch off lights when they're not needed?

It's not always easy to change the way we act but perhaps we can all try this week.

Who do you think can help us to make this change?

God can help us. If we let him, God will fill our hearts with goodness and love, hope, courage and generosity.

Filled with these things we will not be able to stop ourselves from wanting to share them with others.

Jesus says in today's reading that good people have a store of goodness in their heart. That the words someone says come from what is in their heart.

So if we let God fill our hearts with goodness and love, we will be able to speak words that share that goodness and love with others.

Lots of children around the world speak up for what they think is right. There are all kinds of problems in our world, like poverty and hunger and climate change, but we can all speak from what is in our heart and make our voices heard for change.

58,000 children in England and Wales joined CAFOD's Eyes of the World campaign last year and called on our government to keep the world's poorest people at the heart of the climate change talks (COP26).

These voices were heard. The tide is turning. But there is still more work to do. So let's keep going. By speaking up for our earth and keeping our global brothers and sisters in our prayers, we can build a better world.

How will you use the store of goodness in your heart? How will you speak out and make changes to be the best person you can be and make the world a better place for others?

For more children's liturgy resources and illustrations see cafod.org.uk/childrensliturgy

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Intercessions *You may want to ask the children to offer their own prayers or you can use the suggestions below.*

We ask God to fill us with his love as we pray together:

We pray for the Church throughout the world: that we may be an example of the goodness and love of God in our world. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for world leaders: that the words that they speak and the things that they do may come from a heart filled with goodness. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, our family and friends: that we may all be willing to open our hearts to God, to admit our mistakes, to make a change, and to speak up for what is right. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer: Generous God, lead us to be the people you know we can be. Fill us with courage and goodness. Help us to make a change so that the world may be a better place for all people. Amen.

Activity suggestions

Invite the children to colour in the accompanying illustration of a person with a heart filled with love and goodness. Encourage them to write or draw in the speech bubble what it is they think the person is saying, or what they would most like to speak up about to make a change in our world.

Invite the children to pray to God to fill their hearts with goodness, love and courage to help them in these changes. You could use our special children's prayer video for global neighbours, available at cafod.org.uk/kidzzone

Encourage the children to share all that they have heard and thought about today with the people at home. Remind them to try to make a change in the coming week and to speak out with love for the change that they would like to see in the world.

*Gospel passage taken from:

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