



Children's liturgy – 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Welcome: Today Jesus warns us that life will be difficult. The world will face wars and disasters, but we mustn't lose hope. We must trust in God who will guide us and save us.

Opening prayer: All-powerful God, nothing is greater than your love, so may we trust in you whatever difficulties and challenges we face. Amen.

Gospel: Luke 21:5-19

Some of the disciples were talking about the Temple, how beautiful it looked with its fine stones and the gifts offered to God. Jesus said, "All this you see—the time will come when not a single stone here will be left in its place; every one will be thrown down."

"Teacher," they asked, "when will this be? And what will happen in order to show that the time has come for it to take place?"

Jesus said, "Be on guard; don't be deceived. Many men, claiming to speak for me, will come and say, 'I am he!' and, 'The time has come!' But don't follow them. Don't be afraid when you hear of wars and revolutions; such things must happen first, but they do not mean that the end is near."

He went on to say, "Countries will fight each other; kingdoms will attack one another. There will be terrible earthquakes, famines, and plagues everywhere; there will be strange and terrifying things coming from the sky. Before all these things take place, however, you will be arrested and persecuted; you will be handed over to be tried in synagogues and be put in prison; you will be brought before kings and rulers for my sake. This will be your chance to tell the Good News. Make up your minds beforehand not to worry about how you will defend yourselves, because I will give you such words and wisdom that none of your enemies will be able to refute or contradict what you say. You will be handed over by your parents, your brothers, your relatives, and your friends; and some of you will be put to death. Everyone will hate you because of me. But not a single hair from your heads will be lost. Stand firm, and you will save yourselves.

Gospel reflection:

What do you remember from today's reading?

Jesus was with his disciples in the temple. He told them that the temple would one day be destroyed and that there would be wars, earthquakes, and people hungry for food.

Can you think of places in the world today where there are wars, earthquakes and people are hungry for food?

Here is one example:

In Kenya, Ethiopia, Somalia and South Sudan, up to 20 million people are facing extreme hunger. The situation is so bad that people are being forced to spend their life-savings or to leave their homes.

Through local Church aid workers, CAFOD is helping these families to get the emergency food and clean water that they need.

But just giving people food doesn't solve the problems. There are lots of reasons why people around the world are struggling to get enough food.

The coronavirus pandemic, climate change and the war in Ukraine have all made food more expensive.

So CAFOD is also working to encourage the government to fix the broken food system, and to take action on the climate crisis.

Jesus told the disciples not to be afraid. He promised that he would be with them always and that they wouldn't be harmed if they put their trust in him.

Jesus is with us always, even in the hardest times. Often Jesus comes to us in the people who help us.

Next time you hear about an earthquake, flood or drought on the news what will you do to help the people affected? How will you help them to know that they haven't been forgotten and that Jesus is always with them?

Activity

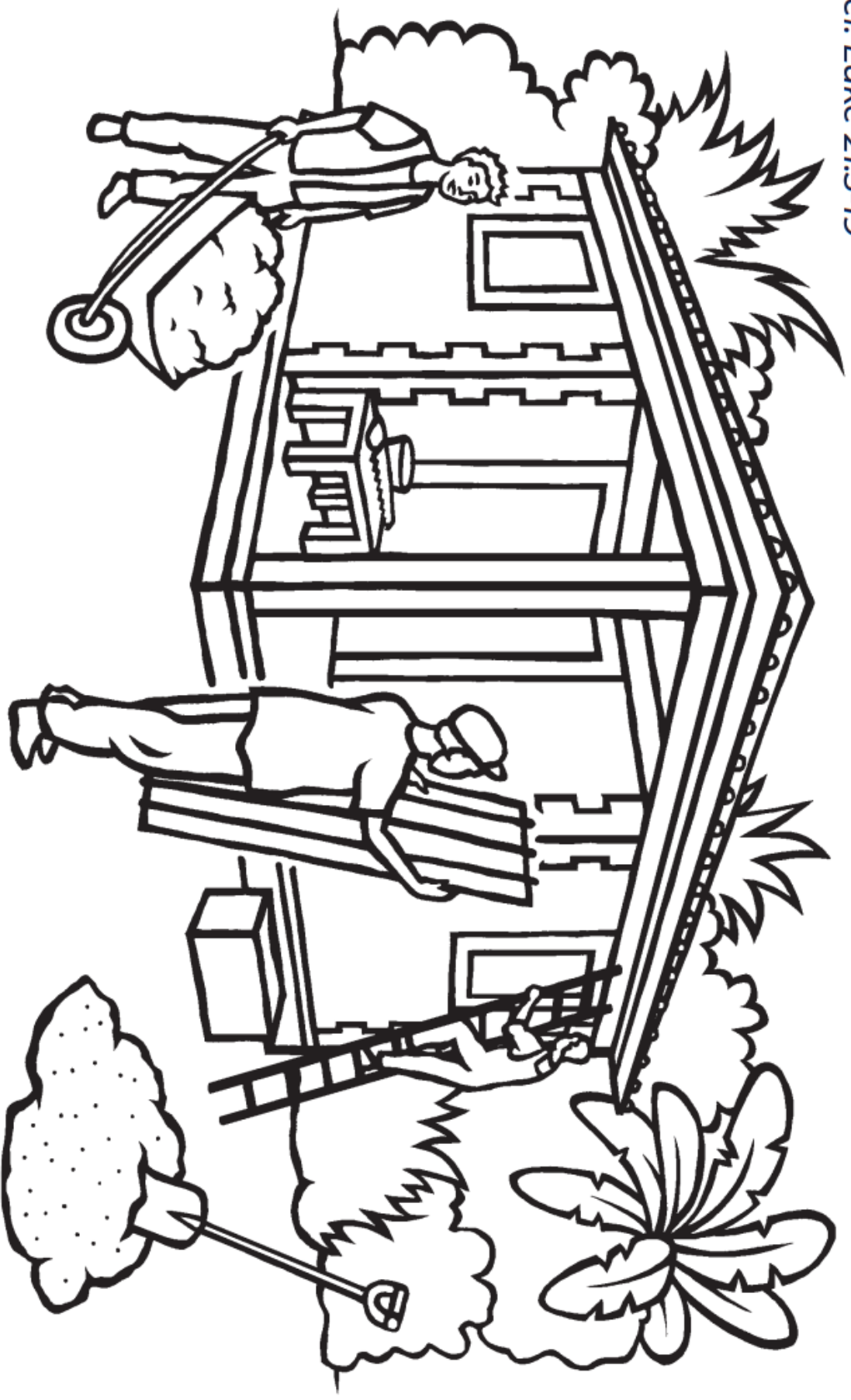
Colour in the accompanying illustration of people repairing their house after it has been damaged by a natural disaster.

Find out more about CAFOD's work in emergency situations at cafod.org.uk/emergencies and share some of this with the children

Find out more about CAFOD's campaigning work and how you can get involved at cafod.org.uk/campaign

Remember to share all that you have heard and thought about in today's liturgy with your grown ups. Think about what you can do to help and support people locally or around the world who face droughts, flooding, earthquakes or other natural disasters.

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Gospel: Luke 21:5-19



Find prayer activities and ideas to share at home at cafod.org.uk/familyprayers