



Children's liturgy – Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Welcome: Today Jesus uses story-telling to explain what the Kingdom of heaven is like. Let's think some more about this today.

Opening prayer: Jesus, our teacher, help us to listen and learn from one another. May we love one another as you teach us to. Amen.

Gospel: Matthew 13:24-30

Jesus told them another parable: "The Kingdom of heaven is like this. A man sowed good seed in his field. One night, when everyone was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. When the plants grew and the ears of corn began to form, then the weeds showed up. The man's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, it was good seed you sowed in your field; where did the weeds come from?' 'It was some enemy who did this,' he answered. 'Do you want us to go and pull up the weeds?' they asked him. 'No,' he answered, 'because as you gather the weeds you might pull up some of the wheat along with them. Let the wheat and the weeds both grow together until harvest. Then I will tell the harvest workers to pull up the weeds first, tie them in bundles and burn them, and then to gather in the wheat and put it in my barn.'"

Gospel reflection: What do you remember from today's reading?

Jesus tells a parable – a special story - about the Kingdom of heaven. He talks about a man who plants seeds of wheat in his field. But what happens next?

His enemy comes along and plants weeds in the field too. The man asks his workers to wait instead of pulling up the weeds straight away – he didn't want to lose any of his wheat. At harvest time though, it is easier to tell the wheat and the weeds apart and so the workers can burn the weeds and collect up all the wheat.

Why do you think Jesus tells us stories or parables rather than just saying exactly what God's Kingdom is like, or exactly what it is he wants us to do?

Jesus is a great teacher. He teaches people by telling stories. Stories keep people interested in what he has to say and help us to understand things that are complicated. Jesus wants us to learn from him so that we can know more about God.

And when people don't understand his stories he explains them, so that we can all understand.

Who explains things to you when you don't understand? Who do you learn from?

We learn from all sorts of people – teachers, friends, parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, cousins and more! Do they ever tell you stories to help you learn? Can you give me an example?

Why do you think it is important for us to learn?

Learning helps us to find out more about the world that we live in and to understand how we can work together to make it a better place.

Learning helps us to know more about Jesus and the things that Jesus asks of us - like loving one another.

Learning helps us to get the skills we need for the future. So that we can be all that God knows and wants us to be.

But there are lots of children around the world who do not get to go to school. This might be because a flood or an earthquake or another disaster means they can't go to school safely. Or it might be because their parents are poor and can't afford to send them, or to buy their books and uniform.

What do you think about this? Is it fair? Why/why not? Is there anything that we can do so that more children around the world have the chance to learn?

This week, let's give thanks to God for all the people we learn from. Let's try to listen carefully to our teachers and our grown ups at home. And let us try to learn more about Jesus and how he asks us to treat others.

Activity

Colour in the accompanying illustration and write or draw on the back you could write the names of or draw a picture of all the people that you learn from (it could be teachers, friends, family etc)

Watch the "At school" video (available from cafod.org.uk/onedayoneworld) and list some of the similarities and differences between Tuli's school day in Bangladesh and Josh's school day in England.

Perhaps write a prayer giving thanks for all the people in your lives who teach you, and for all the children around the world who do not have the chance to go to school.

Remember to share all that you have heard and thought about in the liturgy today with your family. Keep a list of all the things you learn this week and who teaches it to you, or of all the times someone explains something you don't understand. Try listening to or reading some more of Jesus' parables and to learn from them.

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Gospel: Matthew 13:24-43

