

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

21 OCTOBER 2018

Notes for Children's Liturgy

Ethiopia

Together we can build a future of hope

What is World Mission Sunday?

World Mission Sunday is celebrated annually in every Catholic parish around the world. Our prayers and donations on World Mission Sunday support the Church in countries that need our help to reach out to those living in poverty and who are in need of our care.

Introduction

Inform the children that World Mission Sunday is a special day when Catholics around the world pray for each other and celebrate the fact that we are all children of God.

In today's Gospel we hear two of Jesus' disciples, James and John, ask Jesus if they can be given the best seats in God's heavenly kingdom. The other disciples are angry at James and John's request. Let's listen to the reading now, thinking about why the disciples became upset, while paying attention to what Jesus says in response.

The Gospel according to St Mark 10:35-45

(New Jerusalem Bible, adapted)

James and John approached Jesus. 'Master,' they said to him, 'We want you to do us a favour.' Jesus said to them, 'What is it you want me to do for you?' They said, 'When you reach your Kingdom, let us have the best seats; one of us at your right hand and one of us at your left.'

When the other ten disciples heard this they began to feel angry with James and John, so Jesus called all of them together and said, 'There are some rulers who think they are greater than everyone else, and who love to boss people around. Among you this must not happen. Anyone who wants to become great among you must be a servant, and anyone who wants to be first, must serve everyone. For the Son of Man himself came not to be served, but to serve and to give his life to save many.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Let's think about today's Gospel message

Q In the Gospel we hear how James and John asked to be seated at the best seats in God's kingdom. Why do you think this made the other disciples angry?
[Prompt: Jesus' reply about some people wanting to be the greatest gives us a clue].

Leader's response: It can make us feel upset when we are pushed aside or made to feel like we are not as good as others. By asking for the best seats, James and John ignored the other disciples' feelings and only thought about themselves and what was best for them.

Jesus knew that the other disciples felt angry with James and John, but he also knew how easy it is to want to feel better than others and how sometimes this can make us bossy and mean. So he gathered his disciples together, including James and John, and taught them an important lesson about how we can become truly great.

Q Can you remember what Jesus said they must do if they wanted to be truly great?

A They must serve others; they must be servants of all.

Q What does it mean to serve others or to be a good servant?
[Prompt: Think of a nurse].

Leader's response: A good nurse pays attention to what the patient needs. They won't feel some are not good enough to help. No! A good nurse knows that everyone is equally important, puts the patient first, and does their best to help.

Jesus said that when we serve others like this we become truly great because we are following His example and loving others as God our Father asks us to.

Jesus taught us through his words and actions that all people are children of God and that no one is better, greater, or more important than anyone else.

Sadly in the world around us we often see examples of people looking down on others and treating people unfairly in order to look big and powerful. Jesus is clear that his followers must not be like this. We must never look down on others but do all we can to help everyone understand how special and loved they are by God.

Extension material for older children

There is a place far away in a country called Ethiopia, where a nun called Sister Karlo shows God's love to others through serving a special group of people.

Q Does anyone know where Ethiopia is and can tell us anything about it?

A Ethiopia is in eastern Africa and can be a very difficult place to live in. Sometimes it gets very hot and for many there is not enough water, food, jobs or money. Most people live in poverty and struggle to get by each day.

There is a small group of people in Ethiopia called the Menja. For them, life in Ethiopia is even harder. The Menja people have traditions that many people do not follow and do not understand. As a consequence, the Menja people seem strange and are often looked down upon.

Following the example of Jesus, who reached out to welcome, serve and love **all** people, Sister Karlo has made it her mission to help.

Through serving and making friends with the Menja, Sister Karlo is helping other Ethiopians to see that although the Menja may be different, they are no less important than they are. They are children of God, just like everyone else.

Sister Karlo is also helping the Menja to learn new skills, like farming coffee beans, so that they can earn money, take care of their families, and build a better future for their community.

We can help and serve too, by praying for Sister Karlo's work with the Menja and by reaching out to serve those in need as Jesus did.

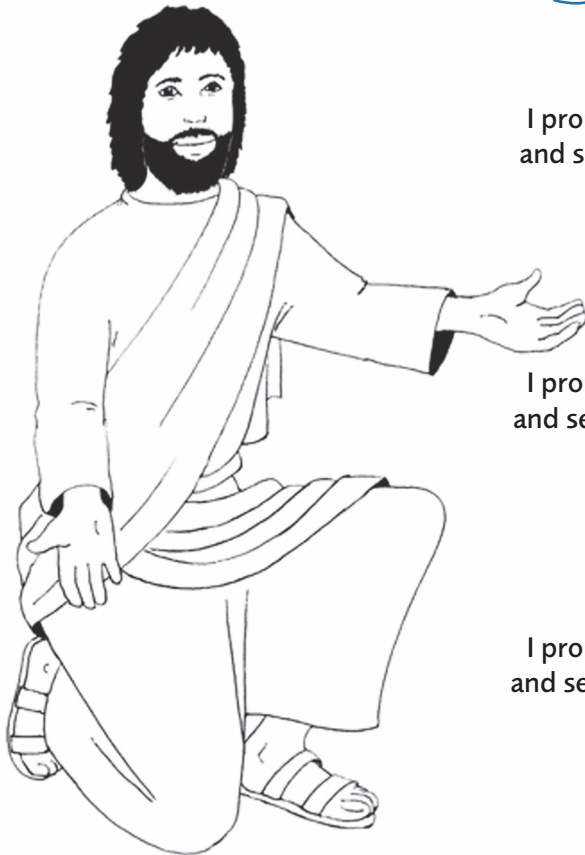
Let's think about ways we can do this.

Q What are the ways we can serve others and show them God's love? What about at home? How could you be a good servant and help:
1) at home 2) at school 3) at church?

Ask for a few responses and then distribute the Children's Liturgy Activity Sheet.

You can also download this from missio.org.uk/wms

TO LOVE AND TO SERVE



I promise to show God's love and serve others **at home** by:

I promise to show God's love and serve others **at school** by:

I promise to show God's love and serve others **at church** by:

Missio
23 Eccleston Square
London SW1V 1NU

Telephone: **020 7821 9755**
Email: worldmissionsunday@missio.org.uk
Web: missio.org.uk



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