

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY 2019

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Environment

Create a prayer table/space that displays a globe or map of the world. Use a cultural cloth or colorful table cover. Display photos (include the World Mission Sunday poster), cultural artifacts, religious items or art from different countries of the world.

Preparation

Read the suggested text for the Children's Liturgy of the Word or Lectionary. Reflect on the message of Pope Francis in honor of **World Mission Day 2019**, which says, "The Church is on mission in the world. Faith in Jesus Christ enables us to see all things in their proper perspective, as we view the world with God's own eyes and heart...This missionary mandate touches us personally: I am a mission, always; you are a mission, always; every baptized man and woman is a mission. People in love never stand still: they are drawn out of themselves; they are attracted and attract others in turn; they give themselves to others and build relationships that are life-giving."

You will need a children's lectionary, paper and markers and/or crayons for each child.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Lectionary for Masses with Children: 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

Ask an older child to help with proclaiming the readings. Make sure to instruct or remind the children about the responses after each reading for the psalm and alleluia.

First Reading (2 Timothy 4:1-2)

*With God and Christ as witnesses, I command you to preach God's message.
Do it willingly, even if it is not a popular thing to do.*

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 96: 1-2a, 2b-3, 4-5)

Proclaim God's marvelous deeds to all the nations.

Gospel (Luke 18: 1-8)

Jesus told his disciples a story about how they should keep on praying and never give up.

Scripture Reflection

Remind the children about the message of the first reading and psalm. Jesus came to teach us the most loving and forgiving way to live. Jesus expects us to live that way all the time, even if it is not popular. We are to be patient with one another, but also ready to share God's message with joy.

In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples (friends) a story that also says something about God. In the story the judge is not fair but even he does the right thing because the widow bothers him so much. God is better than that! So, if we pray to God all the time, God will surely listen. And when we pray, we increase our faith!

World Mission Activity

"I am a Mission."

Ask the children, "When you have good news what do you do with it?" Give the children a scenario if they are unsure of their answer (someone is coming to visit, a good grade, receiving a wonderful gift, etc.). Ask them to think of their own good news and then to tell a partner. Ask them to pay attention to how they tell the good news. Is it with a smile or a frown? Do they have energy or are they tired when they speak? Telling others good news is natural because when we are happy, we want to share our joy with other people. Remind the children that the first reading commands (instructs) us to preach God's message. Ask the children, what is God's message? Is it good news? If they are unsure, remind the children of the Gospel when Jesus told the story about the judge. God is better than any judge on earth. God loves each of us, hears our prayers every time and protects all God's children. This is very good news!

Tell the children that it is World Mission Sunday and describe the images on the prayer table. On this day we remember that God's children live all over the world: in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, the Pacific Islands and here in North America. We know that people in all these places pray to God for protection too. We believe that God hears all our prayers, no matter where a person lives. World Mission Sunday is also a day to practice sharing the Good News of God's love with others. This is what a missionary does. Tell them what Pope Francis says in his Message for World Mission Sunday, "I am a mission, always; you are a mission, always; every baptized boy and girl is a mission." Ask the children to say out loud, "I am a mission!" and repeat as necessary.

Pope Francis wants everyone to know that God created us for a reason: to be a mission in the world. We have a responsibility (job) to share God's message of love and forgiveness – the Good News. On World Mission Sunday we pray for our brothers and sisters all over the world and ask them to pray for us. We also give gifts of money and works to help global missionaries who minister with people far away and who need help to build a safe home, teach in a school or give medicine to sick people. The money that is donated (given) on this day will serve the people who need the most protection.

Give each child a piece of paper and markers or crayons to draw a picture of the world or earth on the left side of the paper. If you have a globe or image of the world on your prayer table, this is a good example for them to follow. Then ask the children to draw a picture that shows the good news that God answers our prayers. It could be a picture of God listening to the prayers that come from the globe, an image of a person praying or an image of a person sharing good news with another person. They could also write at the top or bottom, "Good News." Remind them of what Pope Francis said, "I am a mission, you are a mission." This means we all have good news to share about the love of God for everyone.

Petition Prayer

Who needs our prayer?

Before the end ask the children to say out loud the names of people they know who pray to God for help. Make this a time for intercessory prayer and conclude the prayers by asking Jesus to hurry and help those who pray to God day and night.