

Dining Room Prayer Time

Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

“WE ARE THE SHEPHERD”

Child/teen to lead by following purple instructions and reading the blue instructions.

Setup Sacred space

Before the prayer. Spend 20 minutes collecting 3 or 4 items to set up the sacred space. Such as a candle, cross, image and flower or some greenery. Set this up on the dining table in your house. Choose a time that everyone can come together. You will also need colouring-in-pencils for the prayer. Print this worksheet for each person in your house. Ask an adult to light the candle at the start.

1. Start

Let us put ourselves in God’s presence by focusing on our breathing.

Breath in..... Breath out..... *(repeat this 4 times)*

As we light the candle we make the sign of the cross.

ALL – “In the name of the father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen”

2. Gospel

Matthew Chapter 18 verse 15 to 20

Child/teen to read -

Jesus said to his disciples:

"If your brother sins against you,
go and tell him his fault between you and him
alone.

If he listens to you, you have won over your
brother.

If he does not listen,
take one or two others along with you,
so that 'every fact may be established
on the testimony of two or three witnesses.'

If he refuses to listen to them, tell the church.

If he refuses to listen even to the church,
then treat him as you would a Gentile or a tax
collector.

Amen, I say to you,
whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in
heaven,
and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed
in heaven.

Again, amen, I say to you,
if two of you agree on earth
about anything for which they are to pray,
it shall be granted to them by my heavenly
Father.

For where two or three are gathered together in
my name,
there am I in the midst of them."

3. Gospel Reflection

Child/teen to read -

The reading just before this passage is the story of the Lost Sheep. If a shepherd has 100 sheep and one of the sheep goes missing, the shepherd goes in the wilderness to find her. In the Gospel today, Jesus has us being the shepherd also. Jesus wants us to care for the other. To seek out those who are lost. To seek out those who are going through a tough time. We can provide healing and support for this lost sheep.

However, Jesus realises that sometimes things can get in the way. Things like sin, addiction, hurts or grudges we have for others, can get in the way of our relationships. God does not want us to be apart, but together. Jesus gives us a strategy and use evidence to support our argument. This evidence is the testimony of trusted friends. But if the lost sheep still does not listen, look at what Jesus suggests, “treat them like a tax collector”. In our modern day context we might say “be resilient and stick up for the things that really matters”. This seems rather harsh. But Jesus is encouraging us to use a bit of tough love.

There is a degree of discernment needed. Where are we to be inclusive and flexible or set limits, and fix our boundaries? The answer is not something we can easily come to. We must pray about and ask God to help our discernment. Ultimately it is not just up to us, but God.

4. Second Reading

Child/teen to read the Gospel a second time

5. Colour

Colour in the following picture

6. Questions



Spend a few minutes completing the following questions, write and the discuss.

7. Prayers of the Faithful

We ask that God receives the following prayers:

A. We pray that we might be called to follow Jesus. Lord hear us.

ALL : Lord hear our prayer.

B. We pray that we might trust Jesus and look for a wider vision of seeing God in life. Lord hear us.

ALL : Lord hear our prayer.

C. Does anyone else have a prayer they would like to share?

..... **PAUSE**.....

ALL : Lord hear our prayer.

8. Final Prayer

Dear God we ask that you receive all our prayers as we pray the Our Father together.

ALL - Our Father who art in Heaven. Hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins. As we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

As we blow the candle out we ask that God remains with us.

We make the sign of the cross.

ALL – “In the name of the father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen”