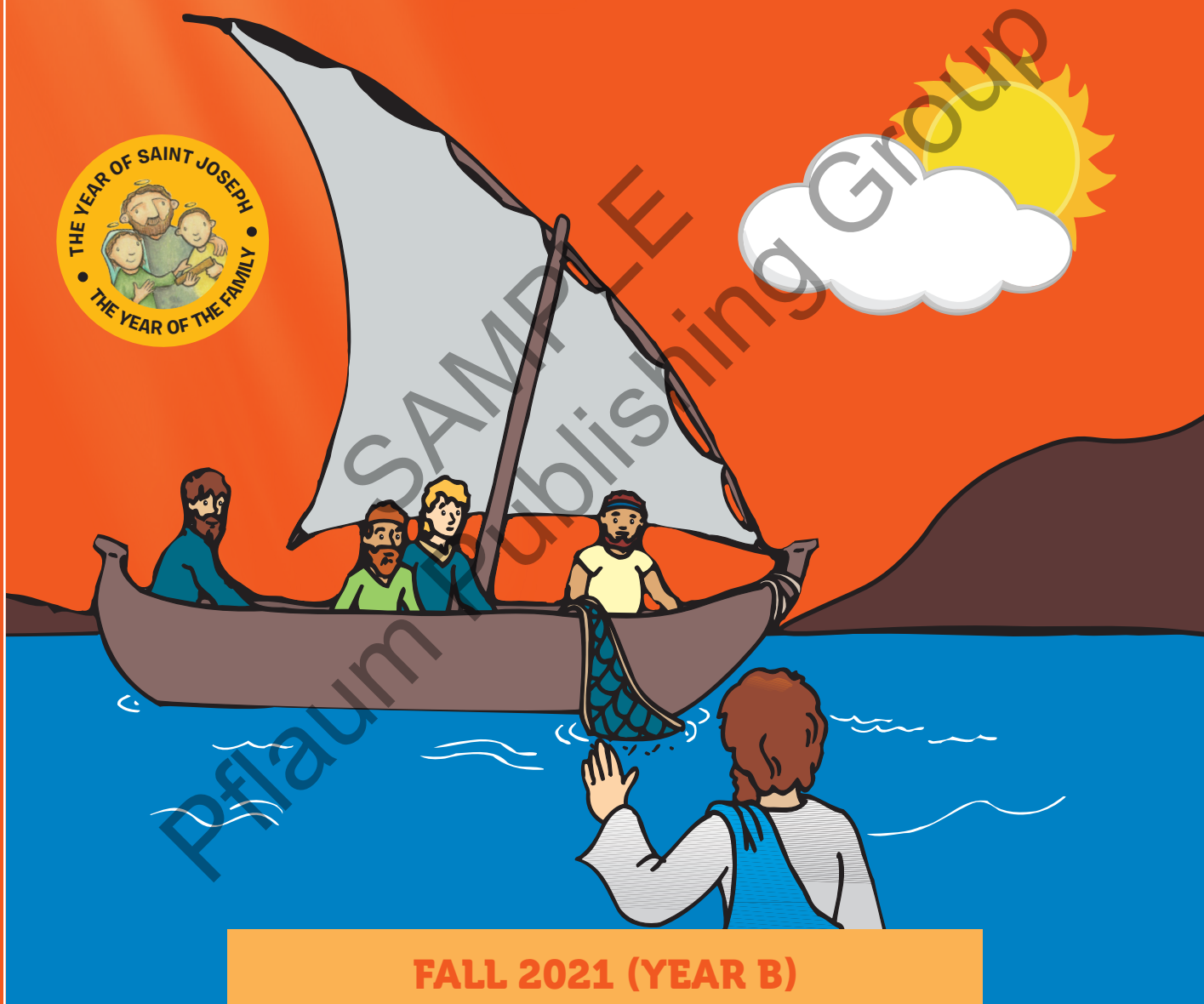


New! Weekly Gospel  
Reflection Videos

CHILDREN'S LEAFLETS

Liturgy of the Word with Children

# Children Celebrate!



**FALL 2021 (YEAR B)**

**AUGUST 29, 2021** 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time  
through

**NOVEMBER 21, 2021** Solemnity of Christ the King

August 29, 2021

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

# Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

## Today's Readings

Deuteronomy 4:1–2, 6–8  
Psalm 15:2–3a, 3bc & 5ef  
James 1:17–18, 21b–22  
Mark 7:1–5, 14–16, 21–23



## We Pray

God our Father, help us to follow your Law in our lives each day. Amen.

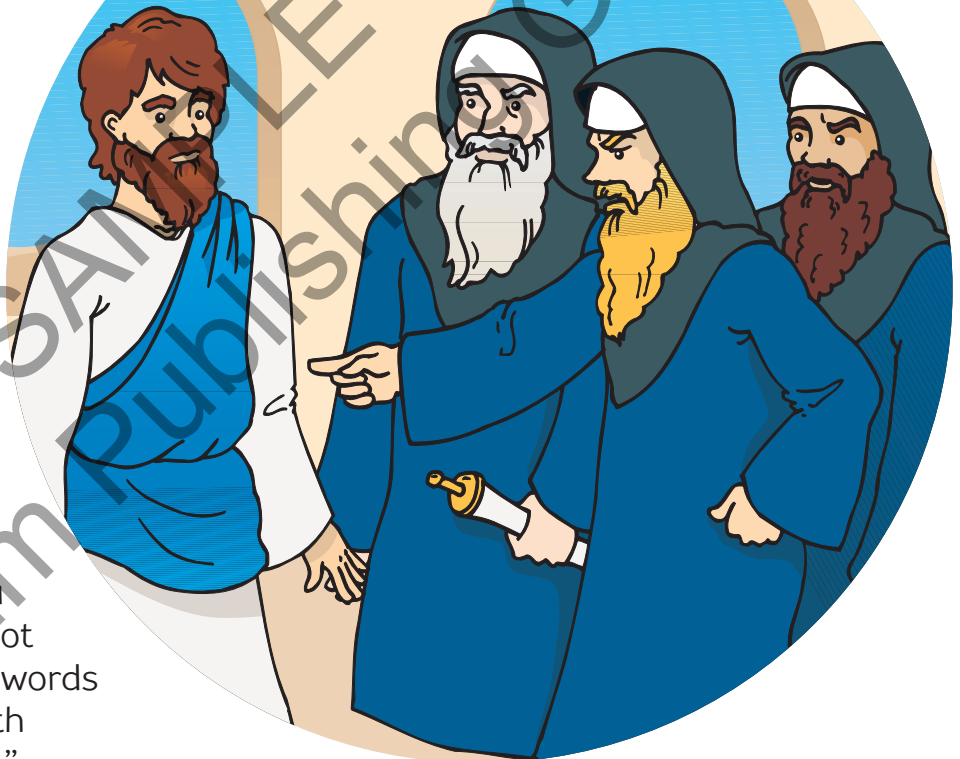


## The Word of God This Week

### We Follow God's Law

Some Pharisees and teachers noticed that some of Jesus' disciples ate without first washing their hands. They asked Jesus, "Why don't your disciples obey what our ancestors taught us to do? Why do they eat without washing their hands?"

Jesus said, "The food you put into your mouth does not make you unclean. The bad words that come out of your mouth are what make you unclean."



Visit <https://bit.ly/32dnE2q> for this week's Gospel Reflection, Saint Spotlight, and more.

## Activity

It is important to follow the laws of God and rules given to us by our parents. Today, Jesus tells us that the most important thing is to keep God's Law.

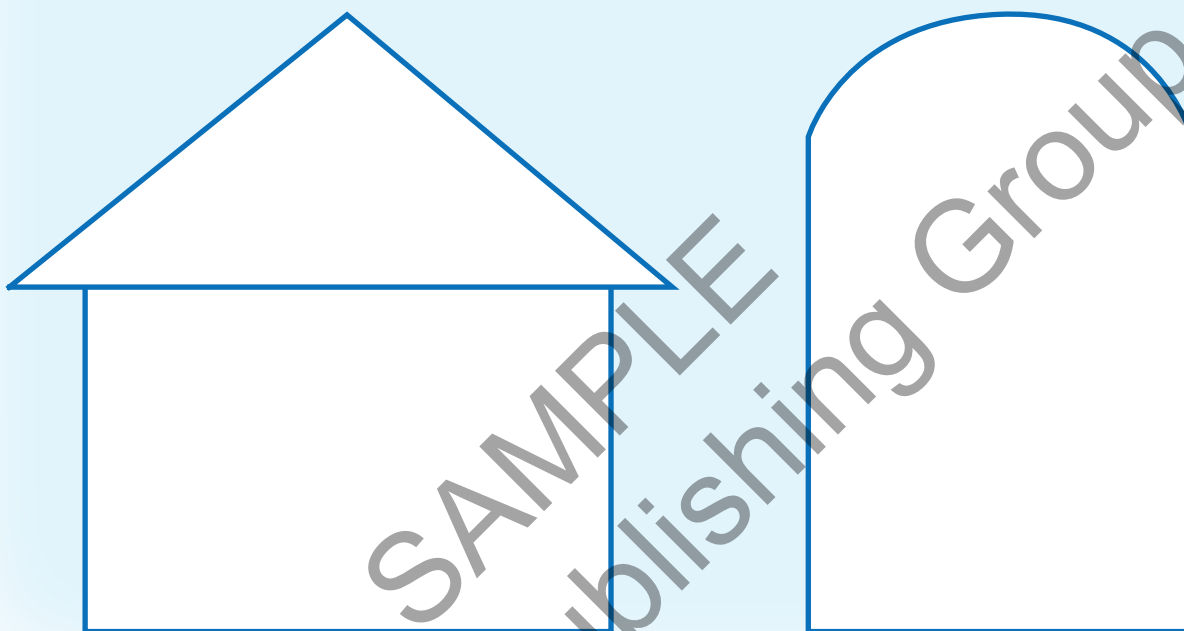
Read the laws of God and rules given to us by our parents in the box. Write all of God's laws on the stone tablet and write all of the rules parents give you in the house. Write them in both places if they come from both your parents and from God.

Scan here  
for family  
resources.



Clean your room.  
Do your homework.  
Obey your parents.

Go to Mass on Sunday.  
Say please and thank you.  
Don't lie.



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## Family Corner

### Faith Focus

You are speeding and get pulled over. You explain that you're late for your child's school concert because you had to work overtime. Instead of a summons, the police officer only gives you a warning.

In today's Gospel, Jesus points out that it's more important to keep the *spirit* of the law than the *letter* of the law. Sometimes, compassion, understanding, and forgiveness are more appropriate than punishment.

### Family Activity

In teaching your children to be responsible, remember that the *spirit* of the law is more important than the *letter* of the law. This week, try putting this idea into action.

Here are some ways:

- When your children misbehave, show compassion and understanding. Let the natural consequences suffice.
- If a child is "acting out," listen to what he or she says—even if you don't like what you hear.

New! Weekly Gospel  
Reflection Videos

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# Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

## Leader's Guide

Fall 2021

Year B

August 29, 2021

*Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time*

through

November 21, 2021

*Solemnity of Christ the King*

# Additional Resources at Pflaum.com

## Sunday Readings

For your convenience, each Sunday's Lectionary readings for the Liturgy of the Word with Children can be downloaded from pflaum.com. It's as easy as 1-2-3!

1. Go to pflaum.com/readings for a list of Sunday readings (updated at the end of each month).
2. Click on the date you want. That Sunday's readings will open in a PDF.
3. Print or download the file.

*For more about the Sunday Readings, see the Introduction to this Leader's Guide.*

## New! Available to subscribers of *Children Celebrate!*

Visit pflaum.com for weekly Gospel reflection videos. These videos can be used within your Children's Liturgy of the Word program or shared with parents and families to view at home.

## Children Celebrate! Director's Manual

For an easy-to-follow Director's Manual, go to pflaum.com/liturgy-of-the-word and click on "Bonus Resources" and then "Program Directors." There you will find a manual that outlines practical steps for establishing a program, recruiting and training volunteers, and creating the proper environment and liturgical flow.

In addition, you will learn how to most effectively incorporate *Children Celebrate!* materials into your program. Additional resources are also suggested.

## Celebrate the Year of Saint Joseph

Pope Francis describes Saint Joseph as a father who was beloved, tender, loving, obedient, accepting, creatively courageous, working, and in the shadows. We honor him as patron of the universal Church during this Year of Saint Joseph (12/8/20–12/8/21). To access free resources to celebrate this special year, scan the QR code or visit Pflaum.com.



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# This Issue's Themes

Date	Sunday	Theme
August 29, 2021	Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time	We Follow God's Law
September 5, 2021	Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time	Jesus Heals the Deaf Man
September 12, 2021	Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Jesus Calls Us to Follow Him
September 19, 2021	Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	The Greatest Is the One Who Serves
September 26, 2021	Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time	God's Love Is for All People
October 3, 2021	Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time	Jesus Welcomes the Children
October 10, 2021	Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time	The Rich Man and His Possesions
October 17, 2021	Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Jesus Teaches About True Greatness
October 24, 2021	Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Jesus Heals the Blind Man
October 31, 2021	Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time	Jesus Teaches the Great Commandment
November 7, 2021	Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time	The Poor Widow Gives All She Has
November 14, 2021	Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time	Jesus Returns to Gather His Followers
November 21, 2021	Solemnity of Christ the King	Jesus Is Our King



August 29, 2021

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

# Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

## Today's Readings

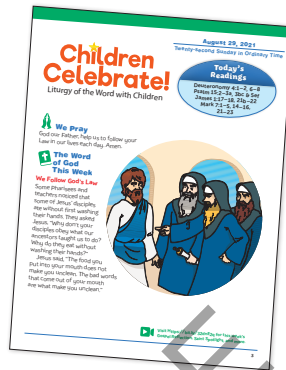
Deuteronomy 4:1–2, 6–8  
Psalm 15:2–3a, 3bc & 5ef  
James 1:17–18, 21b–22  
Mark 7:1–5, 14–16,  
21–23

We Follow God's Law

## Preparation

### Children's Leaflet

Have on hand copies of the Children's Leaflet for this Sunday. Distribute copies either at the start of the session or before the children return to the assembly.



## Prepare with Prayer

I bless the LORD who counsels me; even at night my heart exhorts me. I keep the LORD always before me; with him at my right hand, I shall never be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad, my soul rejoices; my body also dwells secure, For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, nor let your devout one see the pit. You will show me the path to life, abounding joy in your presence, the delights at your right hand forever. (Psalm 16:7–11)

## Scripture Background

Probably the five most important documents from early U.S. history are Thomas Paine's *Common Sense*, the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, the Federalist Papers, and Washington's Farewell Address—all written during the nation's infancy. The five books of Judaism's infancy, commonly called the Pentateuch, are Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

Today's passage from Deuteronomy is characteristic of the book as a whole, which is an extended discourse on the importance of the Law. Although written centuries after the time of Moses, it is presented as the final address Moses gave to his people before their entrance into the Promised Land. Moses reminds the Israelites that if they are to live in peace and keep their land for all eternity, they need to observe the Law for all eternity. They have made a covenant with God. Keeping it

## Prepare the Meeting Space

In the worship area, on a table draped with a green cloth, place:

- ▶ a Lectionary
- ▶ a battery-operated candle
- ▶ a white paper plate with a heart drawn on it and the words "Spirit of Love" written inside the heart.

## Suggested Music

See page 62 for more information.

**Gathering:** "God's Love Is..." (Seeds CD-2, Track #11) or "Take This and Eat" (Promise & Good News CD-1, Track #17)

**Gospel Acclamation:** "Alleluia" (Promise & Good News CD-2, Track #24)

will guarantee a harmonious relationship with the Lord and a continuation of his blessings. Breaking the covenant, on the other hand, will lead to the Israelites' destruction.

Today's Second Reading comes from the Epistle of James, written to correct the notion that faith in Jesus is all that is needed for salvation. Faith without good works, James counters, is dead. He reminds his audience that they must do more than just listen to God's Word and believe in it; they also must put it into action.

In today's Gospel, Jesus is questioned by a group that observes a strict code of unwritten laws, mostly focused on ritual cleanliness, in addition to the written laws found in the Pentateuch. While the intent of their pious practices is to increase their perfection in the eyes of God, Jesus warns that such rules can also have an opposite effect. People can become so focused on little observances that they grow neglectful of larger matters, such as loving their neighbor.

## Children's Connections

After you make some brief remarks about today's Gospel, the children will play a game called "Spirit of Love." It combines physical activity (catching a paper plate) with mental exercise (choosing a loving response to a common, everyday problem).

Each time a child catches the plate, say, "Congratulations! You've caught the spirit of love." Then ask a question beginning with the words, "Now what should you do if...?"

Encourage each child to recognize and choose a loving response rather than a selfish one. Below are sample questions, but add or substitute questions of your own, especially if you have noticed any bad behaviors in the children that should be pointed out to them. Keep playing until all the children have had a turn.

*Now what should you do if...*

- ▶ *your friend wants you to come outside and play, but your dad wants you to stay inside and clean your room?*
- ▶ *it's time for church, but your favorite TV show is just starting?*
- ▶ *you and your sister want to play with the same toy at the same time?*
- ▶ *your school is collecting money for the poor and your uncle just gave you \$10?*

## More About ...

### The Book of Deuteronomy

Deuteronomy is the fifth and final book of the Pentateuch. It focuses on the covenant between God and the Chosen People. Christians believe that just as God once called a people to him and made a covenant with them through Moses, God later made a new covenant through Jesus. The new covenant builds on the old one, but is superior and replaces the original. Deuteronomy can be outlined as follows:

- Chapters 1–4 recall the Chosen People's 40-year journey through the desert.
- Chapters 4–11 provide a discourse on the Ten Commandments.
- Chapters 12–26 prescribe laws for worship and the social order that God's people are to follow in the Promised Land.
- Chapters 27–28 contain various blessings and curses on keepers and breakers of the Law.
- Chapters 29–30 feature Moses delivering a final exhortation on obedience.
- Chapters 31–34 describe the death and burial of Moses, along with the installation of Joshua as his successor.

- ▶ *you are playing with some friends when they start making fun of a new boy in school?*
- ▶ *your mother asks if you walked the dog today, but you didn't?*

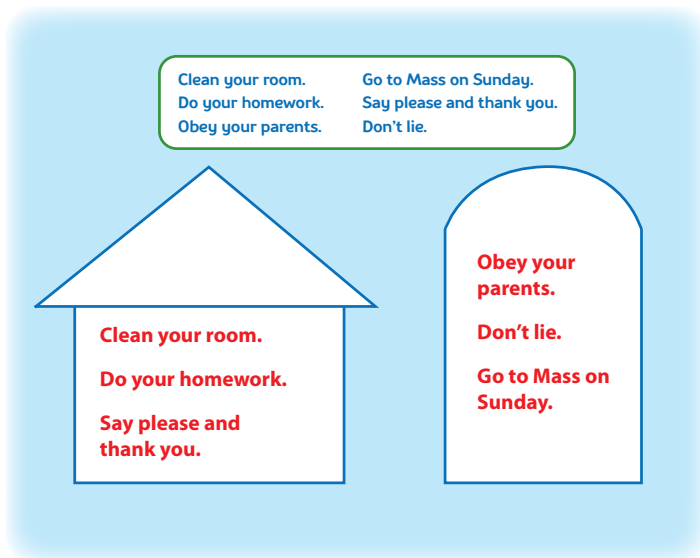
### The Children's Leaflet

The leaflet for this week helps children learn about God's Law through a summary of the Gospel, prayer, and a creative activity.

You may distribute the leaflet now, for use during the session, or before the children return to the assembly. If you distribute the leaflet now and time permits, you may wish to read with the children the summary of the Gospel in "The Word of God This Week" after you have read the Gospel. Point out the artwork and ask the children what is happening in the picture.

## Leaflet Activity

Recognizing the spirit of love in themselves is the focus for the children this week. The children will participate in an activity to help them discover loving choices.



## The Liturgy of the Word

### Gathering

After the children have gathered in the worship area, tell them that today you will begin with a little question-and-answer session on the subject of parents. Ask, "What does it mean to please your parents? What are some things you do to please them? What happens when you do these things? What are some things you do that displease them? What happens when you do those things?" Conclude by encouraging the children in their efforts to please their parents, and then tell them that it is also important to please God.

### Collect

**Leader:** Many Catholics, in their morning prayers, like to dedicate the coming day to the Lord. Today we begin with that kind of prayer. Please repeat each line after me.

O God, as the new day begins,

**Children:** O God, as the new day begins,

**Leader:** I offer you all my thoughts, words, and actions,

**Children:** I offer you all my thoughts, words, and actions,

**Leader:** My joys and sufferings of this day,

**Children:** My joys and sufferings of this day,

**Leader:** Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Children:** Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Light the candle and begin the First Reading.*

### First Reading

**Leader:** In today's First Reading, Moses gathers together the people of God and tells them what they should do when they begin their new lives in the Promised Land.

*Read Deuteronomy 4:1–2, 6–8. Then say, "The word of the Lord."*

**Children:** Thanks be to God.

### Responsorial Psalm

The psalm may be sung or spoken. Before beginning the psalm, sing or announce this response.

**Leader:** The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

**Children:** The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

**Leader:** *Read Psalm 15:2–3a, 3bc, 5ef.*

### Second Reading

**Leader:** In today's Second Reading, James tells the first Christians what they must do to please God.

*Read James 1:17–18, 21b–22. Then say, "The word of the Lord."*

**Children:** Thanks be to God.

### Gospel Acclamation

Invite the children to stand. Sing the suggested Acclamation or another familiar one. If you choose not to sing the Acclamation, proceed to the proclamation of the Gospel.

### Proclaim the Gospel

**Leader:** Today, both Moses and James have reminded us to always keep God's laws. Do you know what God's most important law is? It is the law of love. In today's Gospel, Jesus teaches us that other laws aren't nearly as important as that one.

The Lord be with you.

**Children:** And with your spirit.

**Leader:** A reading from the Gospel of Mark.

**Children:** † Glory to you, O Lord.

**Leader:** Read Mark 7:1–5, 14–16, 21–23. Then say, “The Gospel of the Lord.”

**Children:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

## Homily

*Begin by telling the children:*

Today, Jesus is reminding us to always keep a spirit of love in our hearts. If we do, then we won’t do bad things to our neighbors. We won’t be mean to them, we won’t say bad things about them, and we won’t lie to them or steal from them. We won’t do any of those things because we have caught the spirit of love.

*Continue:*

Today, we’re going to play a game called “Spirit of Love.” (Pick up the plate from the display.) Do you see this paper plate? It is our “Spirit of Love.” I am going to toss it like a Frisbee toward the group, and the person who catches it gets to answer a question about life. If the person’s answer shows a spirit of love, then that person gets to stand in the winners’ circle. (Designate an area of the room as the winners’ circle.) If the answer shows a spirit of selfishness, then that person stays put and waits for another chance to catch the “Spirit of Love.” When I have run out of questions to ask, we’ll see how many people are standing in the winners’ circle!

## Profession of Faith

**Leader:** Please stand for our Profession of Faith and respond, “Yes, I do believe.” Do you believe in God, whose laws make us wise and good?

**Children:** Yes, I do believe.

**Leader:** Do you believe in Jesus, who tells us to keep a spirit of love in our hearts?

**Children:** Yes, I do believe.

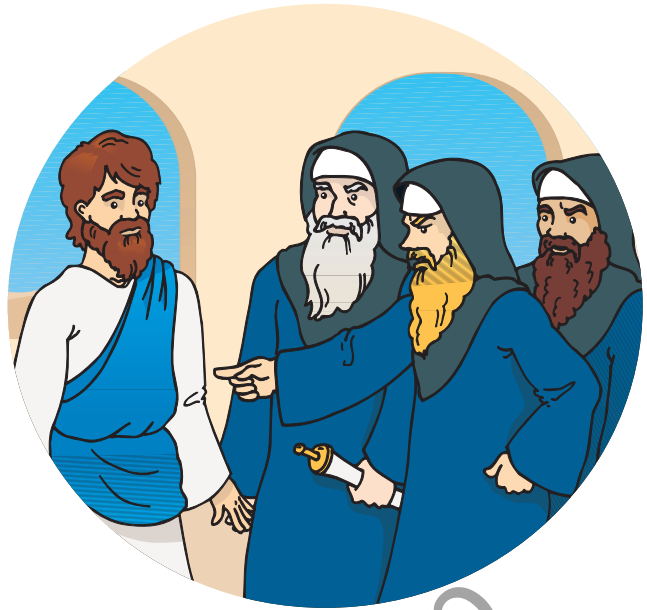
**Leader:** Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who is the spirit of love?

**Children:** Yes, I do believe.

## Prayer of the Faithful

**Leader:** Today, let’s ask the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with greater love. Our response to each petition will be, “Come, O Holy Spirit.”

**Children:** Come, O Holy Spirit.



**Leader:** For the Holy Father and all the leaders of the Church, let us pray to the Lord.

**Children:** Come, O Holy Spirit.

**Leader:** For our nation’s leaders and all world leaders, let us pray to the Lord.

**Children:** Come, O Holy Spirit.

**Leader:** For the people of our parish, let us pray to the Lord.

**Children:** Come, O Holy Spirit.

**Leader:** Invite the children to pray their own petitions. Then pray:

Let us pray. Loving God, we know that wherever your Holy Spirit lives, there is no room for fighting, name-calling, or selfishness of any kind. And so we ask you, dear Lord, to fill our hearts today with that same Spirit, through Christ our Lord.

**Children:** Amen.

## Return to Assembly

The Liturgy of the Word ends with the Prayer of the Faithful. Prepare the children to return to the assembly in a respectful manner. If you haven’t already done so, distribute the leaflets. Remind the children to take the leaflets home and share them with their families. Encourage them to watch this week’s Gospel Reflection video and complete the Family Corner activities as a family.



# Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

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