

PRAYING *With* CHILDREN

SUNDAY LITURGY



25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

18 September 2022 - Year C

"You cannot be slaves both of God and of money."

Something to Think About

What are some ways that people can serve God?

As you go about your day, how do you show your love for God?

The Story

In today's gospel story, Jesus calls the disciples to think about their priorities, about the things that are most important to them. He warns the people that if they focus too much on money and wealth, then they won't be able to serve God well. Jesus tells the disciples, as he tells us, that we need to make a choice about what is most important in our lives... and we need to put God first.

The Scriptures

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

16:10-13

Jesus said to his disciples:

"Anyone who can be trusted in little matters
can also be trusted in important matters.

But anyone who is dishonest in little matters
will be dishonest in important matters.

If you cannot be trusted with this wicked wealth,
who will trust you with true wealth?

And if you cannot be trusted with what belongs to someone else,
who will give you something that will be your own?

"You cannot be the slave of two masters.
You will like one more than the other
or be more loyal to one than to the other.
You cannot serve God and money."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Video

[Driven By Purpose](#)



Group Discussion

Who is God for you? Invite the children to share their ideas and images of God.

Be sure that, as the group leader, you also share your own image of God with the children.

Praying For Others

Leader: Let us pray now for the leaders of our Church, our world, for those in our community and for our own needs.

Reader 1: We pray for leaders who are honest. Lord hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 2: We pray for sad and lonely people. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 3: We pray that we will serve God with our whole heart. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 4: We pray that we will value things that truly matter. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 5: We pray that we may learn to love like Jesus. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Invite the children to pray for their own special intentions.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Leader: Loving God, listen to the prayers we make in the name of Jesus.

All: Amen.

Prayer



Dear God,
Teach us to put our energy into
things that will make us
truly happy.
Help us to stay close to you always.
Amen.

Group Activity

Serve God by Serving Others

You will need: a template for each child, coloured markers.

1. Talk to children about ways in which they can serve God by doing loving, generous things for others.
2. Encourage children to write or draw one kind action on each of the fingers of the hand template.
3. Encourage children to place this somewhere they can see it at home, to remind them to serve God this week.



WHEN I SERVE OTHERS,



On each finger, write
or draw one thing
you could do to serve
God by loving others
this week.

I SERVE GOD.

A STORY ABOUT PINOCCHIO

Once upon a time, there was a carpenter who made wooden toys for the children of his village. His name was Geppetto. One day, he made a wooden puppet. As soon as he had finished, the puppet began to dance and sing. Geppetto called him Pinocchio.

The next day, Geppetto said, 'You must go to school.' On his way, Pinocchio wandered here and there. He stopped to see a puppet show. He began dancing with the puppets. The boss paid Pinocchio five gold coins and said, 'Give these to your father.'

When he got home, Pinocchio made up stories about school and did not tell his father where he had been or about the five coins he had earned. That night he noticed his nose had grown quite long.

Next day on the way to school, Pinocchio met a cat and a sly fox. They told him if he planted the coins under a tree, they would grow into a money bush. So Pinocchio planted the coins in the ground. But while he was asleep under the tree, the cat and the fox took the coins and ran away.

Pinocchio was crying about the coins he had lost, when a kind blue angel asked him what was wrong. Pinocchio began making up a story that was not true. But again this strange thing happened. The more he spoke and the more lies he told, the more his nose grew longer and longer.

The blue angel took him home but his nose was so long that he could not fit through the door. Geppetto came out to see him, and Pinocchio told him the whole story. He told the truth. He told his father he did not go to school but went to a puppet show. He told his father about the gold coins and how they had been stolen by the cat and fox. He said to his father that he had told lies to the blue angel.

As he spoke the truth, his nose grew shorter and shorter until it was back to its normal size. Geppetto and Pinocchio gave each other a hug. Pinocchio worked hard at school and made his father soup when he was sick. Together they lived happily ever after.

Jesus said, "Anyone who can be trusted in little things can also be trusted in important matters."

ASK SOMEONE TO READ THIS STORY TO YOU.

PINOCCHIO: TELL THE TRUTH

