

Children's Liturgy of the Word – 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

Theme: Jesus Sees People and Calls Helpers

Gospel: Matthew 9:36 – 10:8

Main Message:

Jesus loves people, cares for them, and invites us to help bring others closer to Him.

1. Welcome & Gathering

(Gather the children calmly.)

Leader:

Good morning everyone.

Today we hear about Jesus looking at lots of people.

Some were sick.

Some were worried.

Some were confused.

Some were struggling.

And when Jesus saw them, He cared about them very much.

Today we will learn that Jesus still cares for people today and wants us to help others know His love.

Let us begin with the Sign of the Cross.

**In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Leader: Lord Jesus,

Thank You for loving us. Thank You for caring for us.

Help us listen to Your word today

and help us become Your helpers. Amen.

2. Opening Conversation

Ask:

- Have you ever helped someone?
- Have you ever seen someone who was sad?
- Have you ever helped someone who was hurt or lonely?

Allow answers.

Then say:

Helping others is important.

Today we hear that Jesus looked at people and wanted to help them.

And He asked His followers to help too.

3. Gospel (Simplified)

Leader reads slowly and clearly:

Jesus looked at the crowds.

He saw that many people were worried and struggling.

They were like sheep without a shepherd.

Jesus felt great love and compassion for them.

Then He said to His disciples:

"The harvest is rich, but the labourers are few.

Ask God to send workers into His harvest."

Jesus then called His twelve apostles.

He sent them out to help people,

to heal the sick,

and to tell everyone that God's Kingdom was near.

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

Children: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

4. Reflection

Today Jesus looks at lots of people.

What does He see?

Does He see strangers?

No.

Does He see problems?

No.

He sees people He loves.

He sees people who need help.

He sees people who need God.

And His heart is full of compassion.

That means He cares deeply.

Imagine a good shepherd.

If one sheep gets lost,
the shepherd goes looking.

If one sheep is hurt,
the shepherd helps.

If one sheep is frightened,
the shepherd protects it.

Jesus is our Good Shepherd.

He never stops caring for His people.

But then Jesus does something surprising.

He asks for helpers.

He sends the apostles.

He sends ordinary people.

Why?

Because God often works through people.

A kind friend.

A loving parent.

A helpful teacher.

A faithful priest.

A caring grandparent.

God uses ordinary people to help others.

And Jesus still does that today.

He wants all of us to be helpers too.

We may not preach to huge crowds.

We may not travel around the world.

But we can all show people the love of Jesus.

Built-In Activity 1: Who Needs Jesus?

Leader asks:

Who needs Jesus?

Only priests?

(No)

Only adults?

(No)

Only saints?

(No)

Who needs Jesus?

Children:

Everyone!

Leader:

That's right.

Jesus loves every person.

Built-In Activity 2: The Good Shepherd

Ask:

What does a shepherd do?

Possible answers:

- feeds sheep
- protects sheep
- finds sheep
- guides sheep

Then say:

Jesus does all those things for us.

Deepening the Gospel

Jesus says:

"The harvest is rich."

A harvest is when crops are ready to be gathered.

Jesus means there are many people ready to hear about God's love.

Many people need hope.

Many people need prayer.

Many people need kindness.

Many people need Jesus.

And Jesus asks His followers to help.

Not because He needs help.

But because He wants us to share in His work.

Built-In Activity 3: Helping Hands

Ask:

How can children help Jesus?

Allow answers.

Suggestions:

- pray
- share
- be kind
- help at home
- forgive
- include others

Then say:

Every act of kindness helps spread God's love.

Built-In Activity 4: Jesus Sends Us

Leader:

Jesus sent the apostles.

Who does Jesus send today?

Children:

Us!

Leader:

That's right.

Jesus sends all His followers to bring His love into the world.

Quiet Prayer Moment

Leader:

Let us be quiet for a moment.

Jesus,

thank You for loving me.

Pause.

Jesus,

thank You for caring for me.

Pause.

Jesus,

help me bring Your love to others.

Pause.

Amen.

Living the Gospel This Week

Leader:

This week,

try to be one of Jesus' helpers.

You can:

- say your prayers every day
- help at home without being asked
- be kind at school
- forgive someone
- include someone who is lonely
- thank God for His blessings

Every small act of love matters.

Built-In Activity 5: Kindness Harvest

Leader:

Let's think of ways to grow God's harvest.

What kind thing can you do this week?

Allow answers.

Then say:

Every act of kindness is like planting a seed for God.

Children's Intercessions

Leader:

Jesus loves His people and cares for them.

Let us bring our prayers before Him.

For the Church,
that she may help people know the love of Jesus.

Lord, hear us.

For Pope Leo, Bishop Patrick, priests, and deacons,
that God may bless their work.

Lord, hear us.

For families,
that they may be filled with love and peace.

Lord, hear us.

For people who are sick, sad, or lonely,
that Jesus may comfort them.

Lord, hear us.

For our parish,
that we may help others come closer to God.

Lord, hear us.

For ourselves,
that we may become good helpers of Jesus.

Lord, hear us.

(Optional Hail Mary.)

Closing Prayer

Leader:

Lord Jesus,

thank You for loving us.

Thank You for caring for us.

Help us to be kind.

Help us to pray.

Help us to bring Your love to others.

And help us become faithful helpers in Your harvest.

Amen.

Sending Back

Leader:

Today we heard that:

Jesus loves people.

Jesus cares for people.

Jesus calls helpers.

This week let us be one of His helpers.

Now let us return quietly to Mass.

**In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Additional Optional Activities

(Use one or two only. These support the liturgy rather than replacing it.)

1. Lost Sheep Discussion

Best place: After the Gospel

Leader:

Have you ever lost something important?

What did you do?

(Look everywhere, ask for help, keep searching)

Then say:

Jesus says people can be like sheep without a shepherd.

That means people can get lost spiritually too.

Jesus came to find them and bring them home.

2. Who Needs Jesus?

Best place: During Reflection

Leader asks:

Who needs Jesus?

Only priests?

Only saints?

Only adults?

Children answer:

Everyone!

Then explain:

Everyone needs Jesus because everyone needs God's love and forgiveness.

3. Harvest Actions

Best place: During Reflection

Leader:

When I say "harvest", pretend to gather crops.

When I say "labourers", pretend to work.

When I say "Jesus", place your hands together in prayer.

Repeat several times.

Then explain:

Jesus says there is important work to do in God's kingdom.

4. The Good Shepherd Game

Best place: After Reflection

Leader:

What does a good shepherd do?

Children answer:

Finds sheep.

Protects sheep.

Feeds sheep.

Leads sheep.

Then say:

Jesus does all those things for us.

5. Follow the Shepherd

Best place: Midway through Reflection

One child walks slowly around the room.

Others follow.

Leader says:

Following the shepherd helps sheep stay safe.

Following Jesus helps us stay close to God.

6. Jesus Sees Me

Best place: Before Quiet Prayer

Leader:

Jesus saw the crowds.

Jesus saw the sick.

Jesus saw the lonely.

Jesus sees you too.

Then repeat together:

Jesus knows me.

Jesus loves me.

Jesus stays with me.

7. Helping Hands Activity

Best place: Before Living the Gospel

Ask:

How can we help people this week?

Suggestions:

- be kind
- share
- help at home
- pray for someone
- include others

Then say:

When we help people, we help Jesus.

8. Twelve Apostles Challenge

Best place: After Gospel

Leader:

Jesus chose twelve apostles.

Can anyone name one?

(Peter, Andrew, James, John, Matthew etc.)

Then explain:

Jesus used ordinary people to do extraordinary things.

9. Jesus Sends Us Too

Best place: Reflection

Leader:

Jesus sent the apostles.

Who does Jesus send today?

Children:

Us!

Then explain:

We may not travel the world,

but we can show people Jesus by how we live.

10. Kindness Harvest

Best place: Before Living the Gospel

Leader:

Let's think of ways to grow God's harvest.

Every act of kindness is like planting a seed.

What seeds can we plant this week?

11. Eagle's Wings Activity

Best place: Connection to First Reading

Leader:

God says:

"I carried you on eagle's wings."

Stretch your arms out wide like eagle wings.

Then explain:

God protects us and cares for us.

12. God Carries Us

Best place: During Reflection

Leader:

When a child gets tired on a walk, what does a parent sometimes do?

(Carry them)

Then explain:

God helps us when life feels difficult.

13. Labourers Echo Prayer

Best place: Before Intercessions

Leader:

Jesus calls—

Children:

We will follow!

Jesus teaches—

We will listen!

Jesus sends—

We will help!

14. Saints in the Harvest

Best place: Near Ending

Leader:

The saints helped gather God's harvest.

St Francis.

St Thérèse.

St Patrick.

St Mother Teresa.

They loved Jesus and helped others know Him.

15. Prayer for Workers

Best place: Before Intercessions

Leader:

Who works in God's Church?

Priests.

Deacons.

Religious sisters.

Parents.

Teachers.

Catechists.

All God's people.

Then pray:

Lord, help us serve You.

16. Rescue Mission

Best place: Reflection

Leader:

If someone fell into a river, would we ignore them?

(No)

We would help them.

Jesus came to rescue souls and bring them back to God.

17. The Lost Lamb

Best place: Early Activity

Leader:

If one sheep wandered away from one hundred sheep,

would the shepherd care?

(Yes)

Jesus cares about every single person.

18. Mission Action Challenge

Best place: Living the Gospel

This week I will:

- pray for someone
- help someone
- forgive someone
- invite someone
- thank God every day

Children choose one.

19. Harvest Repeat Prayer

Best place: Before Closing Prayer

Leader:

Jesus loves people.

Children repeat.

Jesus calls people.

Repeat.

Jesus sends people.

Repeat.

Jesus wants me to help.

Repeat.

20. Final Memory Line

Best place: Sending Back

Repeat together three times:

**"Jesus loves people.
Jesus calls disciples.
Jesus wants me to help."**