

Family Liturgy – 15th Sunday of Ordinary Time (Year A) Sunday 12 July 2020

Preparing the prayer space

Place a green cloth on the table or floor (the colour for Ordinary time)
Place a cross, bible and candle on it. Some holy water if you have some or a bowl with water as a reminder of our baptism. Light the candle or use a battery-operated candle for safety. Place some seeds or plant on the table or any other symbols relevant to your family.

Prepare materials

You tube as listed on sheet: Scripture story and song
Suggested activities: your choice or other related activity on sheet
Print out sheet if required



<http://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/gnpi-049-parable-sower/>

Gather around the prayer space as a family

Parent/Caregiver:

Today, we come together to celebrate the 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A.
We ask God to help us today to prepare our hearts and be the 'rich soil' so that we can hear his Word to us clearly and follow him closely.

Opening prayer: God of love and abundance, help us to listen to you in the Gospel story and to follow you closely. Help us to be the 'rich soil' where your love can grow in us and we can make a difference to the people around us. Be with us as we listen to the words of Jesus and help us to join our hearts with his heart. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gospel: A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew (13:1-9)

All: Glory to you O, Lord.

Jesus went out beside Lake Galilee, where he sat down to teach.
Such large crowds gathered around him that he had to sit in a boat
While the people stood on the shore.
Then he taught them many things using stories.

He said: 'A farmer went out to scatter seed in a field.
While the farmer was scattering the seed,
Some of it fell along the road and was eaten by the birds.
Other seeds fell on thin, rocky ground and quickly started growing
because the soil was not very deep.
But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched and dried up
because they did not have enough roots.

Some other seeds fell where thorn bushes grew up and choked the plants.
but a few plants did fall on good ground
where the plants produced a hundred or sixty or thirty times as much as was scattered.'

'If you have ears, pay attention!'

The gospel of the Lord. **All:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

(Gospel text © Lectionary for Masses with Children (1993) Catholic Book Publishing Co. New York)

Prayerfully watch the video together <https://youtu.be/guDeSYcwRYg> (3 mins)
or <https://youtu.be/ZSS8huDbriM> (2 mins)

Scripture reflection and time of sharing:

I wonder if you have planted seeds in the garden and what you did to prepare the soil so that the plant would grow?

I wonder what would have happened if you planted the seeds in rocky soil or near the weeds?

I wonder if you remember where the farmer sowed his seeds in the story and how they grew?

I wonder how we can prepare our hearts so that the Word of God planted in our hearts can grow?

I wonder how we can be 'the rich soil' that allows God's word to take root and grow strong?

I wonder what this means for us in action?

I wonder what words you hear Jesus speaking to you in your hearts as you prepare to meet him in the Sacraments?

I wonder what the message of this story is for you and your family?

Let us sing together our beliefs as Christians:

Yes Lord I Believe by John Burland <https://youtu.be/7MR2iGDyUtE> (3 mins)

Intercessions: Let us now spend some time in prayer asking God to listen to our needs.
(We respond to the prayers by saying the words 'Lord, hear our prayer')

1 We pray for Pope Francis, Archbishop Pat and all Church and world leaders: that they will listen to the Word of God in their hearts and lead all people closer to the Heart of Jesus.
Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

2 We pray for people in our world who are suffering in any way at this time: that they may feel the love and care of others who help to relieve their suffering and to know that they are not alone.
Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

3 We pray for all people in our parishes and in our communities: that they will hear the Word of God in their hearts and allow the Holy Spirit to lead them in being true followers of Jesus.
Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

4 We pray for all people, especially for children, who are looking forward to receiving the Sacraments for the first time: that they will prepare well to receive Jesus into their hearts and grow closer to God as they hear God's word to them. Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

5 We pray for all the intentions in our heart for our family, community and world. We name them here if we wish (pause) Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

6 We pray for all people who have died recently and especially for people we know and love: that they will now be united with Jesus and share in his joy.
Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

Closing prayer: God who welcomes us, we believe in your love - you are the Creator of the world. We believe in your love – you sent Jesus to show us how to listen to your word. We believe in your love – because of the Holy Spirit who breathes life through us and guides us. Amen.

Closing song: *Open my Eyes* by Jesse Manibussan <https://youtu.be/eo6gZAUuQ3E> (2 mins)

Follow up activity suggestions after the time of prayer has come to a close.

- Write a prayer in your prayer journal (special note book).
- Ask the children to write a prayer to Jesus to thank him for bringing us God's message of love. Let us tell him how we want to show him our love. Add to this prayer journal each day.
- Make a choice to do something loving today
- Take some time to plant some seeds and look after them while they grow.
Write about or draw what this was like for you in your journal.
- Download and print crossword *Parable of the Sower*
<https://www.pinterest.com.au/pin/220043131779421723/>
- Draw a story picture board of what happened in this story with captions
- Explore how people before us have spread God's message of love to other people
https://www.catholic.org/saints/fun_facts_arch.php