

Fifth Sunday of Lent

21st March 2021

Preparing the prayer space

Place a purple cloth on the table or floor (purple – the colour for Lent)

Place a cross, bible and candle on it. Light the candle or use a battery-operated candle for safety. Add any other symbols relevant to your family.

Prepare materials

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



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Gather around the prayer space as a family

Parent/Caregiver:

Today, Jesus speaks to his disciples knowing what is in store for him. He gives the example of how planting a grain of wheat can grow into something more. Jesus uses this example to help us understand how like the seed, we can do something small, but our small act can grow into something bigger and better.

Opening prayer: Father in heaven, give us courage to be more like Jesus. We pray that we can also do things that will bear fruit not only in our lives but for other people's lives too. Amen.

Gospel: A reading from the holy gospel according to John (12:24-26).

All: Glory to you O, Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples: "I tell you for certain that a grain of wheat that falls on the ground will never be more than one grain unless it dies. But if it dies, it will produce lots of wheat.

"If you love your life, you will lose it. If you give it up in this world, you will be given eternal life.

"If you serve me, you must go with me. My servants will be with me wherever I am. If you serve me, my Father will honour you."

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)

Watch the video together

Think about Jesus words while watching this video,

"I tell you for certain that a grain of wheat that falls on the ground will never be more than one grain unless it dies. But if it dies, it will produce lots of wheat."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ECibetK2EYI>

Scripture reflection and time of sharing:

I wonder why Jesus told the disciples these things...
I wonder if the disciples understood Jesus' words...
I wonder what the disciples were thinking...
I wonder why Jesus used the example of a grain of wheat...
I wonder what Jesus was feeling as he was talking about this...
I wonder what small acts I can do to make a difference...

Let us sing together our beliefs as Christians:

I Believe- John Burland ft. Genevieve Byant

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mvYbfojVkJGQ> (3:51 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 Patrick O'Regan, all Church and for world leaders: that their kind acts will bear fruit for the wider community.
Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

2 We pray for more people to listen to Jesus' words so that their actions and words will make a positive change in their hearts and will inspire others to do the same.
Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

3 We pray for our churches that they will continue to be places where people can feel encouraged to act in kindness, to share Jesus' love with all the people they meet.
Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

4 We pause for a moment and pray in our hearts or aloud for any intentions or people we would like to pray for at this time (*pause*)
Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

6 We pray for all people who have died recently and or are suffering at this time. May they find comfort in knowing that Jesus has promised a place for them, with him.
Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

Closing prayer: Heavenly Father, we thank you for the example of Jesus who knew that his act of love would make a big difference in the world. May we continue to do small acts of love for others too. We as make this prayer through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Closing song: *Go Make a Difference* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WDjQEoltGzQ> (3:02mins)

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

- Write a prayer to Jesus in your prayer journal (special notebook).
- **Plant a Seed**
Jesus spoke about planting seeds. Plant your own seed and notice it's size. Care for it by watering it and providing it with sunlight then watch how it can grow into something greater than it was before.
- **Make a Note**
Small acts can make a difference to someone's day. Draw a picture, write a card or make a special note to someone you don't get to speak to often, would like to thank or get to know better. Include a message e.g. why you think they are special, special memory or simply that you are thinking of them.