

## Family Liturgy – 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) Sunday 27 September 2020

### Preparing the prayer space

Place a green cloth on the table or floor (green, for ordinary time). Place a cross, a bible, and a candle on it. 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. Add any other symbols relevant to your family.

### Prepare materials

You tube as listed on sheet: Gospel stories and songs.  
Suggested activities: your choice or other related activity on sheet. Print out sheet if required



<https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/rq-two-sons-obedience/>

### Gather around the prayer space as a family

**Parent/Caregiver:** Today we hear a story about two sons. Jesus tells this story to teach us that sometimes actions speak louder than words. We must keep trying to do what is right even if at times we fail because Jesus knows what is in our hearts. We join ourselves to Jesus and listen to what he is asking of us today.

**Opening prayer:** God of families and togetherness, we give you thanks for sending Jesus to us. Help us to hear Jesus' words to us and to understand and believe in them so we may love you more. Help us now to listen to your Word to us. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Gospel: A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew (21:28-32)

**All:** Glory to you O, Lord

Jesus said: "I will tell you a story about a man who had two sons. Then you can tell me what you think.

"The father went to the older son and said, 'Go work in the vineyard today!' His son told him that he would not do it, but later he changed his mind and went. The man then told his younger son to go work in the vineyard. The boy said he would, but he didn't go. Which one of the sons obeyed his father?"

"The older one," the chief priest and leaders answered.

Then Jesus told them:

"You can be sure that tax collectors and bad women will get into the kingdom of God before you ever will! When John the Baptist showed you how to do right, you would not believe him. But these evil people did believe. And even when you saw what they did, you still would not change your minds and believe."

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 clip about Jesus telling the Parable of two sons.

<https://youtu.be/pEz1rkZj7dU> The Parable of the Two Sons - Matthew 21:28-32 (2.04 mins)

### **Gospel reflection and time of sharing:**

- I wonder why the older son told his father he would not go work in the vineyard...
- I wonder how the father felt when he said he wouldn't go...
- I wonder why the older son later changed his mind and went to work...
- I wonder why the younger son told his father he would go to work and then he didn't...
- I wonder how you feel about being asked to do jobs...
- I wonder which response you give when asked to do jobs...
- I wonder if you do your jobs as soon as you are asked...
- I wonder if you moan and then do them later like the older son...
- I wonder if you are like the younger son and say yes, promise to do it later, and then forget...
- I wonder where you are in the story or what part is about you...
- I wonder what part of the story is the most important...
- I wonder what Jesus is saying to each one of us with this story today...

### **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 teach us to serve others and make right choices like Jesus.

*(We respond to the prayers by repeating the words 'Lord, hear our prayer')*

1 We pray for our Church, Pope Francis, and Archbishop Pat: may our Church, be an example of how to welcome and serve others with love, patience, and humility. Lord, hear us.

2 We pray for all people in our parishes: May our communities be places where everyone feels included and all migrants and refugees recognise Jesus' embracing love for all in our actions. Lord, hear us.

3 We pray for our world especially during the current COVID-19 pandemic: May people everywhere focus on Jesus who teaches to trust in God always. Lord, hear us.

4 We pray for all the children who are preparing to celebrate the Sacraments for the first time: may their lives be blessed with families and sponsors who show them how to make good choices in their daily lives. Lord, hear us.

5 We pray for our families and friends: May people who have died recently and especially the people we know and love, experience God's mercy. Lord, hear us.

**Closing prayer:** God of families and togetherness, we believe in your love – your love created the world. We believe in your love – your love sent Jesus to live with us on earth. We believe in your love – your love sent the Holy Spirit to breathe life through us. Amen.

**Closing song:** [https://youtu.be/JHaZ0\\_uGqRI](https://youtu.be/JHaZ0_uGqRI) Right or Wrong Song (2.17 mins)

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

- Write a prayer or draw a picture thanking God for teaching us how to forgive one another.
- Act out the Gospel story of the two sons
- Decide to think about the choices you make today as a follower of Jesus
- Draw a cartoon story of what happened in this story with captions
- Go to the following links to find crosswords & other children activities on the topic:
- <https://www.sundayschoolsources.com/lessons/twosons.htm>
- <https://childrensbiblelessons.blogspot.com/2015/03/lesson-parable-of-two-sons.html>
- <https://www.pinterest.com.au/pin/155092780893322069/>
- <https://youtu.be/rGHEATytCBo> Gospel reading and reflection for kids
- **Art Activity:** Help children write and draw coupons to give to family members, redeemable for caring, helpful things like a hug, setting the table, folding laundry, reading a story, etc. It may be helpful to brainstorm ideas for the coupons as a group before you begin the project. While working on the project, discuss how these coupons could be ways to learn how to act more like Jesus. Ask whether the children think it's more important to give someone a card or to actually fulfil what the coupon offers.