

# Children's Liturgy of the Word

## World Mission Sunday

### October 23, 2016



**DISPLAY** Bible (open to Luke 18:9-14), globe, crucifix, candle, other prayer symbols (e.g., a *World Mission Rosary*, an icon, a prayer book). If you have time, explore some of the items with questions such as: What is it? What is it made of? What is it used for? How is it used?

**OPENING EXERCISE** Ask children to “Put your hand up if you have ever . . .”

- Seen someone praying (*How did you know they were praying? What were they doing?*)
- Prayed yourself (*When do you pray? What is your favorite prayer? Who/what do you pray for?*)
- Asked someone to pray for you (*Whom would you ask to pray for you? A friend, a parent, someone I trust*)

Explain that today is **World Mission Sunday**. God asks each of us to help share the Good News with others, especially those who do not know about God's love.

**Catechist:** We welcome the Gospel by making a small Sign of the Cross on our forehead, lips and heart, so that we may think like Jesus, speak like Jesus and love like Jesus.

**GOSPEL** Luke 18:9-14

*Read a simplified version of today's Gospel or use one of the Adaptations on the reverse side.*

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

**Catechist's notes:**

This is a story about friendship, about how we are friends of Jesus, and whom Jesus wants to be friends with. What do you think? Whom does Jesus prefer in this story? Why?

We can hear from that story that Jesus does not want the man who is boastful and proud. He wants the person who is humble—one who can really listen to what God wants him to do. We know that it's not always easy. We make mistakes, but we turn to God again to listen and to do our best! Why? Because that's what real friends do. What sort of friend can you be for Jesus?

We do not need to show off or boast about our love for Jesus but as baptized Christians we are called to spread stories of Jesus and show the love we have for Him.

People who tell others about Jesus and His love for us are called **Missionaries**. For some adults, this means traveling overseas and away from home but we can also be missionaries right here in our parish or school. How can you be a **Missionary** in your own life? We can pray for missionaries and for children in Mission Dioceses. We can share with others or help those in need, both in our own neighborhoods and in countries far away.

**CLOSING PRAYER**

**Catechist:** (*light candle*) God, our Father, teach us to pray faithfully for one another. Help us never give up trying to live together as members of your family. We trust in your loving care and protection.

Today, we pray especially for the children of Mission Dioceses around the world, their families, and the Missionaries who teach them about Jesus... (*children can offer their own prayers individually*)

**GOING FORTH**

**Catechist:** Let us go out and pray as Jesus teaches us so that we can become His faithful friends. *Our Father ...*



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## ***The following dialogues are based on Luke 18: 9-14***

### ***Simplified Version***

Reader 1: Jesus told a parable to those people who thought they were the only ones pleasing God and who hated everyone else.

Reader 2: Once, a Pharisee and a tax collector went up to the Temple to pray. The Pharisee stood out in front of everyone. "Thank you, God," the Pharisee prayed silently. "I'm not like other people who are liars, sinners, cheaters, or even like this tax collector. I usually fast twice a week. And I usually give money to charities from everything I earn."

Reader 1: But the tax collector stood alone and stared at the floor. He looked like he was very sorry for what he did. "God, have mercy on me. I'm a sinner," he kept saying.

Reader 2: I tell you the tax collector went home at peace with God, not the Pharisee. For, the proud will be humbled. But the humble will receive great honor.

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### ***Role-play Version***

**Materials:** A real or pretend microphone, fancy coat for Pharisee

**Characters:** Narrator, Reporter, Pharisee, Tax collector

Narrator: Today we come to you live from Israel. It is the country in which Jesus lived and spoke to the people. Our Reporter is on site. He/she interviews people on their way to the temple.

Reporter: I greet you warmly from Jerusalem. Many people are now on the road. They are on their way the temple to pray. Here comes a man, probably a Pharisee, judging by his fine clothes.

Narrator: Pharisees are deeply religious people. They adhere rigidly to all the laws, commandments, and religious rules.

Reporter: You are on the way to the temple?

Pharisee: Yes, I'm on the way to the temple. My faith is very important to me. So I pray, fast twice a week and donate a tenth of my income to charity. In no way do I want to be like other men, the robbers, cheaters, adulterers, or even the tax collectors. I wish to thank God. My prayer is, "God, I thank you that I am not like other people. I will do everything to follow the laws very carefully and comply to the letter."

Reporter: Here is a man who is very confident in his own righteousness. However, he looks with contempt upon all people who do not keep the commandments, laws and regulations. There are still more people on the move. Hi, are you also going to the temple?

Tax collector: Yes, I would also like to go to the temple. I have taken time off from work to make a visit. Today, someone else is sitting at the city gate collecting the taxes.

Reporter: Oh, you're a tax collector!

Narrator: This profession is very unpopular among the population. Nobody likes to pay taxes, and many people suspect the tax collectors of over-charging to make themselves rich.

Tax collector: Yes, unfortunately. I also do not always do the right thing. Therefore it is important that I go to the temple. When I go inside, I do not go to the very front. I'd rather stay in the background. I need to ask God forgiveness for my mistakes. My prayer is, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner."

Reporter: Two very different voices. I leave you with these two views of Jerusalem.

*Translated and adapted from MISSIO, the Pontifical Mission Societies of Germany*