

# Liturgical Resources for Respect Life Sunday 2019

## Youth Groups

Respect Life Sunday: 13 October 2019

### Youth Groups: Suggestions for leaders of youth groups

*This material was prepared for a youth group aged approximately 12-15 years old*

#### Introduction

*Respect Life Sunday* has been designated for Catholics to reflect on and respond to a core pillar of our faith. We are being asked to think deeply about what *Respecting Life* means.

Consider how a cloak-korowai wraps around the human person. That image helps remind us that RESPECT is a moral principle that wraps around us, protecting us from the elements that could hurt or destroy. All of life must be cared for and respected as a gift from a loving Creator God. So, *Respect Life Sunday* reminds us that all of life – human and other-than-human is to be protected.

Listen to the gospel of the day as (name) proclaims the Word.

#### Choose a Reader

##### **A Reading from the Gospel of Luke 17:11-19**

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, "Jesus, Master have mercy on us." When he saw them he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God, with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? But the other nine where are they? Was none of them found clean to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

*The Catholic Youth Bible pp1211.*

#### **Commentary**

In the times and places when Jesus walked this earth, leprosy was a feared and dreaded disease. People with leprosy were isolated. They had no hope of healing or readmittance back into society. These days, advances in medical science means that leprosy is no longer a hopeless medical condition, but one that can be treated.

However, the hopelessness and fear with which Jesus's society regarded leprosy, compares to the perception of many people today regarding the precarious future of the planet on which we live. Planet Earth itself is need of healing and protection. People are being asked to get involved in restoring our home and to care for it so that generations to come after us will have a healthy place to live and bring up their own families.

Today is *Respect Life Sunday* – and that means respecting all of life – human and other-than-human.

**Key words to use in discussion: Heal; Restore; Care; Respect; Relationships.**

### **Questions**

- Based on the Gospel story and commentary, what is the key message we are going to work on? (Encourage use of the keywords as above)
- How might our group encompass those ideas using Freeze Frames? (Drama technique that many will be familiar with).
- One idea that is to be incorporated into your Freeze Frames is showing how healing and restoration changes despair into hope and hope into action. What are some gestures we could include that show those emotions? Practice 'despair' 'hope' - Share.

### **Activity**

Dur: 30 minutes

In small groups (5-6 is a useful number) use the gospel story of Jesus and the lepers to interpret as three sequential freeze frames.

1. The lepers cry out in despair to Jesus for healing.
2. Jesus heals and restores the lepers to good health, so they are no longer outcasts.
3. One leper (an outsider) who is healed, gives thanks and praise to God.

Allow 8 minutes for each group to create their sequence. Share with the other groups.

As each group perform their three freeze frames, ask the audience to close their eyes while the group quickly changes shapes and positions. When ready in their frozen positions (should only take 10 seconds) ask everyone to open their eyes again. Invite the audience to **identify how** the group depicted some of the keywords: Heal; Restore; Care; Respect; Relationships.

### **Questions**

What would happen if we changed the story from the cry of the lepers to the cry of the earth? How might we reinterpret the story through an ecological Christian lens?

### **Follow up Activity**

Dur: 10 minutes

In small groups use the keyword from that gospel story and re interpret as three sequential freeze frames. For example:

1. Human and other-than-human cry out in despair at the brokenness on planet Earth.
2. As co-creators humans heal and restore a part of life on earth that is in need of care.
3. Humans recognise that it is only in relationship with our all loving God and each other that healing and restoration can happen.

Allow 5 minutes for them to create their sequence. Share with the others as above.

Reflect in silence.

### **Closing prayer**

E Te Ariki

Thank you for all the people who care deeply about protecting and caring for the earth and all that it sustains. We ask your blessing on our efforts to heal, restore, care and respect all of life on earth. We thank you for the chance to work creatively with your gifts.

May we always love the land that feeds us and always be mindful of those who struggle to find enough to eat. Help us to remember we are all connected to each other, to the earth and to other-than-human life on this our only home. Bless our efforts in caring for creation so that we will continue to be respectful of the environment.

Whakarongo mai ki a mātou – Lord hear our prayer.