

Liturgical Resources for Respect Life Sunday 2019

Children's Liturgy

Respect Life Sunday: 13 October 2019

Children's liturgy: Suggestions for leaders with children under 7

This material was prepared for a children's liturgy group aged approximately 5-7 years old.

Today we're going to think about how we care for everything.

God made everything and gave it all to us to look after.

What are some of the things God has given us to protect and care for?

Share.

Invite children to be seated still and ready to listen to a prayer which you will read slowly and expressively.

Listen in silence as I read to you a prayer from Pope Francis.

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe
and in the smallest of your creatures.

You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.

Fill us with peace, that we may live
as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

Bring healing to our lives,
that we may protect the world.

(Simplified extract from Prayer for the Earth in *Laudato si'*)

Key words to use in discussion:

Protect; Care. Healing. Respect

Questions

- What do we mean when we say we need to PROTECT someone or something?
- How do we show we CARE about someone or something?

Another way we show we care about people and all living things is to show we RESPECT them. One way people do this is to bow when they meet/hongi/shake hands...

When we come to church you see people showing respect by kneeling down or genuflecting with one knee.

- Can you show me how you kneel? Can you show me how you can kneel with just one knee?
- Who are we respecting when we do this in Church?

Commentary

Display one of the *Respect Life Sunday* poster images which can be downloaded from www.nathaniel.org.nz



Look at the poster we have for today. What do you see?

The hands are showing how careful the people are. Can you show me being careful with your hands?

We are going to pass some things around our circle, and you'll show how CAREFUL you are with them. You need to be tender and gentle. We don't want to spill or drop anything.

Children seated in a circle on the floor.

Activity

Dur: 10 minutes

Pass around one at a time the following items:

Examples only...Tiny mustard (or similar) seed; a tablespoon (or scoop) of soil; a full jar of water; an uncooked egg; a baby doll.

The last person hands each item carefully back to the leader who places them in a visible safe spot. If this activity is done respectfully/gently tell the children how well they did.

Questions

- What did we do to make sure we were CAREFUL?
- Did you notice anyone PROTECTING any of the things? How?
- Why did we need to be so protecting and careful?

This is how God wants us to show that we care for every created thing.

Things like seeds, plants, earth, water, food, families ...

When these things show signs of sickness or brokenness we can help to restore them back to be strong and healthy again.

- What are some examples of helping to make things better?
- Why should we help to restore and care for all living things?

Because everything has been created out of love.

God loves us THIS MUCH. Gesture with wide open arms – everyone copies.

Concluding Prayer

Creator God, you care for all living things. They are a gift to us.

You gave us all these gifts because you love us.

We know how some living things need healing to become well again.

We see how living things are healthy when they are protected and respected.

Help us to remember that when we care for people and all living things we are respecting your gifts to us.

Thank you loving God for protecting and caring for us every day. Amen

Liturgical Resources for Respect Life Sunday 2019

Children's Liturgy

Respect Life Sunday: 13 October 2019

Children's liturgy: Suggestions for leaders for children 7-10 years

This material was prepared for a children's liturgy group aged approximately 7-10 years old.

Introduction

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

What are some signs we've noticed of 'respect'?

Why do we 'respect' other people? Ourselves?

Today we are going to think about and try an activity that uses some keywords about *Respecting Life*. The Key words are: Protect; Restore; Care: Respect. Connected.

Choose a Reader

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

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(pp. 1211).

Commentary

In the times and places of Scripture, leprosy was a feared and dreaded disease.

People with leprosy were isolated. They had no hope of healing or re-admittance 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 future of the planet on which we live. Planet Earth itself is in 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 all of life human and other-than-human. This is the message we'll now explore.

Key words to use in discussion:

Protect; Restore; Care: Respect. Connected.

Questions

- What are some ways we respect the environment?
- Why do we 'respect' other than human life on our planet Earth?
- How do you feel about valuing the earth? Especially the earth that you most often walk, run, and play on?
- Do you agree we need to value the earth as a provider of our food?
- What would happen if earthworms no longer existed? Or pollinating bees?

Activity

Dur: 30 minutes

This activity is called the *Six Thinking Hats*. Many children should be familiar with this teaching technique. Decide how you will approach this to suit your particular facilities and group dynamic.

These 'hats' represent six different ways of approaching a particular problem. Organise your whole group to work in six smaller groups to discuss the following problem. One group is allocated one of the six hats and to take 5 minutes to have a response ready. Allow about 4 minutes per 'hat' for sharing time. Encourage children to use some of the keywords in their responses.

(See separate page suitable for copying)

Closing Prayer

Creator God, we have been learning about protecting and caring for all living things.

We are learning how to grow a deeper respect for life on earth. We are noticing how living things survive when they are protected. We have noticed amazing things when they are cared for. Help us to remember that when we care for people, places and all living things, we are caring for your gifts to us. You gave us all these gifts because you love us.

Thank you loving God for protecting and caring for us every day.

Amen

The Six Thinking Hats in Action

Problem: The health of the earth is under threat.

How do we grow a deeper respect for all of life on earth?

<p>White hat FACTS</p>	<p><i>For example: Name 5 major threats to the health of the earth</i></p>
<p>Red hat EMOTIONS</p>	<p><i>For example: How do some people you know, feel when they see rubbish lying all around the school or the beach or the local playground?</i></p>
<p>Black hat NEGATIVES</p>	<p><i>For example: Think of two common reasons people give for <u>not bothering</u> about respecting our environment.</i></p>
<p>Yellow hat POSITIVES</p>	<p><i>For example: List 3 positive actions people can take to care and restore the health of our earth home.</i></p>
<p>Green hat NEW IDEAS</p>	<p><i>For example: Create a practical solution to restore and protect one 'other-than-human' ecosystem such as a stream, a neglected fruit tree, a fence line etc</i></p>
<p>Blue hat SUMMING UP</p>	<p><i>For example: Can you think of a slogan that neatly sums up your responses to the problem. An example of a slogan using this enviro context might be 'SMALL ACTS. BIG IMPACTS.'</i></p>