

Holy Spirit uses the “Sunday Book of Readings, The Lectionary Adapted for Children” and the Leader Guide to share the Liturgical readings with our children. This week you will find our readings for reflection are from Year A.

We have also used “The Catholic Children’s Bible,” by Saint Mary’s Press to help the children reflect.

## **Children’s Liturgy of the Word Reflection – Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Psalm 90**

**Response: “Fill us with your gift of love. Help us find our joy in you.”**

**Today’s readings focus on seeking the things that are of value.**

- **King Solomon is praised by God for seeking wisdom rather than riches or personal gain.**
- **He asks God for wisdom to better serve his kingdom.**
- **In the Gospel we continue to hear Jesus’ parables.**
- **The parables today are examples of doing everything possible to attain a treasure.**
- **The reign of God is the greatest treasure of all.**

### **Summarizing the readings for the children:**

**First Reading: 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12 (*This is a reading from the book of Kings.*)**

In today’s first reading, we hear that God appears to King Solomon in a dream. God says to Solomon, “Ask me for whatever you want”. Solomon is the son of King David. King David has died, and upon his death God made Solomon king. But Solomon is only a child and he tells God he does not know how to lead God’s chosen people. He asks God to give him the gift of wisdom. Wisdom will help him to know what is good and what is evil. Solomon believes with wisdom he will be a good king to the people. God was pleased. Solomon did not ask for riches or things that would make him strong against his enemies. God granted him his wish and gave him the gift of wisdom. King Solomon would be wiser than anyone who ever lived.

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 13:44-46 (*This is a reading from the Gospel of Matthew.*)**

In the Gospel reading today, Jesus tells the people two parables.

*Today’s parables are taken from “The Catholic Children’s Bible”, by Saint Mary’s Press.*

### **The Parable of the Hidden Treasure**

Jesus said, “The Kingdom of heaven is like this. A man happens to find a treasure hidden in a field. He covers it up again and is so happy that he goes and sells everything he has, and then goes back and buys that field.”

### **The Parable of the Pearl**

“Also, the Kingdom of heaven is like this. A man is looking for fine pearls, and when he finds one that is unusually fine, he goes and sells everything he has, and buys that pearl.”

### **Helping the Children to Reflect:**

Our reflection today is meant to help the children see how special the reign of God (Kingdom of God) is. Jesus uses examples like a treasure and a pearl to help us see. When we know how special it is, we will do anything for it. God’s Kingdom is far, far more valuable than any treasure or any pearl. In God’s Kingdom we will live in peace and love with Jesus forever. Belonging to this kingdom is worth any price. We will have to work hard for it. But in the end, we will be even happier than the men who got their treasures. *(The Catholic Children’s Bible, Saint Mary’s Press)*

### **Reflection Questions for the Children:**

- What would you like to own most of all?
- Would you be willing to give up everything else to have it?
- Is the Kingdom of God more valuable than everything else?
- “The Kingdom of God is a greater treasure than \_\_\_\_\_.”

**“God’s Kingdom Is Greater Than Any Treasure!”**