

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.

Children’s Liturgy of the Word Reflection – Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Psalm 63

Response: “I will praise you, Lord; as long as I live, I will praise you.”

Today’s readings focus on the cost of obeying God’s will.

- **Jeremiah made a prayer to God, telling him how hard others make it for him to be faithful to God. They treat him badly because he shares the Word of God with the people.**
- **Jesus shares with the disciples that he will be tortured and suffer death because of his faithfulness to God.**
- **Do we find it easy to share our faith in God with others? Do we remain true to God when others challenge us? What is our cost?**

Summarizing the readings for the children:

First Reading: Jeremiah 20:7-9 (*This is a reading from the prophet Jeremiah.*)

In today’s first reading, Jeremiah made a prayer to God. Knowing God is stronger than he is he feels he has been trapped. The people are making fun of him because he is telling them they will suffer for the way they are living. Now Jeremiah feels he is the one suffering for sharing God’s Word with them. He decides he will not talk about God anymore. He won’t even speak God’s name. But inside he knows that he must be faithful. He must continue to talk about God to the people.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 16:21-27 (*This is a reading from the Gospel of Matthew.*)

In the Gospel reading today Jesus tells his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem. In Jerusalem, the chief priests and law makers will make him suffer and then they will kill him. But three days later he would be raised from the dead. Peter did not believe this would happen. Jesus is the Son of God. God will save him. He tells Jesus this. But Jesus gets very upset with Peter. He tells him that he is thinking the way people think not the way God thinks. Jesus then turns to the disciples and says, “If you want to be my disciple, you must accept your cross and follow me. If you try to save your own life you will lose it. But if you are willing to give your life for me, you will live forever.”

Helping the Children to Reflect:

Help the children to see that “giving up our life” means living for others – living as Jesus wants us to. Sometimes when we make hard choices in our lives, we are taking up our “cross”. Following Jesus and his faith is not always easy. Sometimes it is easier to follow the crowd instead of doing what is right. When we do what is right and follow Jesus, we are living the way God wants us to.

Reflection Questions for the Children:

- What does Jesus mean when he says his disciples must not think only about themselves? How does this help others?
- What does Jesus mean when he says his disciples must live as he lives?
- How can we live for others – live like Jesus wants us to no matter what?

**“Accepting one’s cross
is to live the way Jesus wants us to.
Sometimes that may be hard.”**