

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 – Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Psalm 122

Response: “In the House of our God, in the House of our God, we give praise to the Lord in the House of our God.”

Today’s readings focus on the universality of God’s church.

- **Isaiah tells us that the day is coming when people from every nation will come to praise and worship God.**
- **For God, this equality, this unity, is a matter of justice.**
- **The people are commanded to act in the same way.**

Summarizing the readings for the children:

First Reading: Isaiah 56:1, 6-7 (*This is a reading from the prophet Isaiah.*)

In today’s first reading, God says, “Do what is right and treat everyone with fairness.” God will be coming soon, and he will save all people. People from all lands will be coming. If they love him, serve him, and obey his laws they will come to his holy mountain. He will give them joy in his house of prayer. God’s house will be a house for everyone.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 15:21-28 (*This is a reading from the Gospel of Matthew.*)

In the Gospel reading today we hear the story of the Canaan woman who came to ask Jesus to save her daughter from the evil spirit that was in her. The disciples were upset and told Jesus he should send the woman away. Remember that Jesus and his disciples were Jews. The Canaanites were foreigners. Jesus tells the woman that he has come to save the people of Israel, they are his people (Jews) and they are lost. But the woman will not give up and continues to ask Jesus for help. Jesus then tests the woman’s faith by saying, “It isn’t fair to take the children’s food and give it to the dogs.” The woman then replies with great faith, “But even the dogs are allowed to eat the scraps that fall off the master’s table.” This was a true act of faith. At that moment, her daughter was healed.

Helping the Children to Reflect:

First begin by helping the children see that during this time Jews believed that only Jews could be saved. They didn’t accept people who weren’t Jews and they didn’t think God did either. The children might think Jesus is not being nice to the Canaan woman. Jesus is only trying to help her to make a real act of faith. We all need a little push at times to show our true faith.

Reflection Questions for the Children:

- Why do you think the disciples wanted Jesus to send the woman away?
She is not a Jew and considered not to be worthy of God's love and healing.
- Do we sometimes turn away from people that are different from us? Why?
- Did Jesus turn away from the Canaanite woman?
- Does Jesus turn away from anyone?
- Should we treat everyone with fairness?

“Our relationship with Jesus is based on faith alone – not race, where we were born, our religion, or how much money we have.”

“That is the Good News!”