

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-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Psalm 119

Response: “Open our hearts to listen to you.”

Today’s readings teach us to help one and other grow in goodness.

- **At Holy Spirit we are part of a community. We refer to ourselves as part of the parish family. We are all brothers and sisters in the church.**
- **God wants us to help each other grow to be good disciples of Jesus.**
- **If we see someone doing something wrong Jesus wants us to help them.**
- **He is there to help us.**

Summary of the Readings:

First Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-9 (*This is a reading from the prophet Ezekiel.*)

In today’s first reading, Ezekiel warns the prophets of his day that God has given them a serious responsibility in the community. They are to guide the people and show them right from wrong. If a person sins, they are to warn them. If they do not God will blame the prophet. But if the prophet does warn them and they continue to sin it will not be the prophet’s fault. God will then punish the person who continues to sin.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 18:15-20 (*This is a reading from the Gospel of Matthew.*)

In the Gospel reading Jesus tells us that it is not only the leaders that are responsible, we are all responsible for each other. If we see someone doing something wrong, we should talk with them. If they stop then we have been helpful. If they do not, then we need to get two or three others to help us talk with them. If they still will not stop sinning, then we need to bring our church community in to help. Our church community has great power and authority. The source of that power is Jesus. In the last part of the Gospel reading Jesus tells us that “whenever two or three of you agree to pray about something, God will do it.” When we as a community pray Jesus is there with us. “For whenever two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there with them.”

Helping the Children to Reflect:

Help the children to see that our church is a community. We are a family. We care for each other and pray for each other. Share with your child some ideas on how we can help each other to become true disciples of Jesus.

Reflection Activity Meditative Prayer for the Children:

- Find a quiet place to sit and close your eyes.
- Take a deep breath, Jesus has come to sit with you. He wants to sit and talk with you about someone in your parish family.
- Now, think about our parish family. The people we see at Mass.
- Who in our parish family would you like to pray for?
- Tell Jesus about this person and why you want to pray for them.
- Think about some ways that you can help this person.
- Now it is time to go, be sure to thank Jesus for listening.
- Take a deep breath and open your eyes.

**“For wherever two or three people,
are gathered together in my name,
I am there with them.”**