

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 – Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Psalm 63

Response: “I long for you; I long for you; I long for you, my God.”

Today’s readings focus on wisdom. *Wisdom is one of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.*

- In the Old Testament it is common to find wisdom as an expression from God.
- Today we see wisdom praised as the gift which lasts forever.
- Wisdom is available to all who seek it.

Summary of the Readings:

First Reading: Wisdom 6:12-16 (*This is a reading from the book of Wisdom.*)

Below is the reading:

“Wisdom is wonderful and everlasting.

Anyone who wants to have wisdom will find her if they love her and look for her.

Wisdom is always ready to help anyone who wants her.

People who have wisdom know what is good and right.

They are free from worry.

Wisdom will lead their thoughts to what is good, and she will guide them in all that they do.”

Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:1-13 (*This is a reading from the Gospel of Matthew.*)

In the Gospel reading today, Jesus tells his disciples another parable about what the reign of God will be like. This is a story about ten bridesmaids. During this time, the bridesmaids would wait for the bridegroom and walk with him to escort the bride to the wedding feast. Each bridesmaid would carry a lantern to light the way. Each person would need extra oil to keep their lantern lit the entire way.

Now five of the bridesmaids were very silly and did not bring extra oil for their lamps. The other five were wise and brought enough oil to last them the entire night. While waiting for the groom, who was late the bridesmaids fell asleep. At midnight someone shouted, “Wake up! The bridegroom is here! Come out to meet him.”

The bridesmaids got up and began to prepare their lamps. The five foolish bridesmaids realized their lamps were going out and asked the five wise bridesmaids for some of their oil.

They could not give them any because they would not have enough. They told them to hurry into town and buy some more.

While they were gone the bridegroom came and everyone went into the feast locking the door behind them. When the five foolish bridesmaids returned, they could not get in. When they asked to be let in the bridegroom said, “No, I don’t know you!”

Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Always be ready, for you do not know when the Lord will come!”

Helping the Children to Reflect:

“Be prepared”, we hear it all the time. We prepare for many things: our day, work, school, trips. But do we prepare for the day when the Lord will come? Do we live our lives the way Jesus teaches us to? Wisdom helps us to be ready. It helps us to know what is good and right. It guides us to be ready and have what we need. When we make wise decisions, we have nothing to worry about.

Reflection Activity:

Ask the children to think of an activity they prepare for: a sports game, a dance recital, a test at school, etc.

- Now have them make a list of things they will need to do to be ready for this activity.
- Go over their list with them.
- Help them see that they prepare by practicing and gathering all the things they will need. They may also help each other to be a team.
- It takes time to prepare.
- We do things each day to be ready.

Now ask them **“How can you prepare for the day the Lord will come?”**

- Talk about things they can do every day.
- Help them see that the way they live each day will prepare them for his glorious return.

“Always be ready, for you do not know when the Lord will come.”

