

Fourteenth Sunday of the Year

Be like children

INTRODUCTION

Sometimes grownups seem very clever, as if they know all the answers. Today, Jesus tells us that it wasn't always the clever people who first understood him. Often it was those who had childlike hearts.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

LIGHT THE CANDLES

As the candles are lit, say together:

May the light of Jesus shine in our lives.

SORRY

If we have made God feel sad or disappointed with us this week, we ask for his forgiveness as we sing Sorry Song 1.

GLORIA

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 5.

GOSPEL (MATTHEW 11:25-30)

One day Jesus said, "Praise be to you, father, for you have not chosen to reveal yourself to the clever and wise but to people who see the world through childlike eyes. You have shared your wisdom with those filled with innocence and simplicity." Then Jesus said, "Come to me with your worries and troubles, and I will take care of you. I am kind and gentle, and I will help you to find real peace."

DISCUSSION

If a creature from outer space came to earth and asked you to describe what a young child or baby was like, what would you tell him? You might say that young children are:

Dependent. They rely on others to look after their needs and to take care of them.

Trusting. They have total trust in their parents and family to care for them and keep them from harm.

Honest. They do not know how to lie or

deceive. When they are happy and content, they let you know by laughing and smiling; when they are miserable or upset, they let you know by crying loudly!

Loving. They return all the love they receive. They enjoy being hugged and cuddled, and feeling secure in their family's love.

Innocent. They are pure and free from any wickedness. They have no bad thoughts or unkind feelings.

Uncomplicated. Simple things keep them happy and contented: a warm bed, a smiling face, a bottle full of milk!

Jesus once said, "Do not keep the little children away from me! Only those who are like them will enter the kingdom of God." (Matthew 19:13-15) None of us stays a child forever; each of us will grow up to become an adult. Jesus was telling us that he wanted us to keep the childlike qualities of goodness as we become grownups.

Remember some of the features of a small child: trust, honesty, love, innocence, and simplicity. If we have these qualities as children of God, we will stay close to God's love and never wander from his friendship.

What did Jesus tell us to do with our cares and troubles? Just as a young child has complete faith and trust in his or her parents, so we can rely on God. We can share our problems and worries, and know that we can depend on God to love and take care of us.

ACTIVITY

Make a large picture of Jesus embracing the children. Add the caption "To enter God's kingdom you must become like a little child."

CREED

CLOSING PRAYER

Listen to me, little ones,
and you will please God.

If your lives are to be filled
with happiness and joy,
turn away from wickedness and lies;
surround yourselves with goodness
and try with all your hearts
to share the peace of God with others.

(Psalm 34:12-15)

To enter God's
Kingdom you must
become like a child.

