

Year C

Twenty-Second Sunday of the Year

The first will be last

INTRODUCTION

When Jesus was invited for a meal, he took the opportunity to remind people that, in the sight of God, whoever puts themselves first will be last.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

LIGHT THE CANDLES

Say together:

May the light of Jesus burn in our hearts.

SORRY

If Christ's spirit is living in us, then everyone will see the fruits of his presence: love, happiness, forgiveness, generosity, and honesty. Let us all sit quietly for a few moments and reflect on the words of this prayer:

Heavenly father,
the fruits of your Holy Spirit
are not always obvious in our lives.
Prune away the parts of our lives
which stop us from growing strong,
and fill us with your life and your love.

GLORIA

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 4.

GOSPEL (LUKE 14:1, 7-14)

One day Jesus went to the house of a Pharisee to share a Sabbath meal. Many guests had been invited, and noticing how they rushed to take the best seats, Jesus said to them: "When you are invited for a meal, do not take the best place because a more important guest might be there. You will be embarrassed when the host asks you to move and give up your seat. Instead, always sit in the least important place, so that when you are moved to a better seat others will see how much you are respected."

Then Jesus said, "Do not invite people to eat with you because you know they can invite you back. Be generous and invite those who cannot

repay your kindness. You will be rewarded for your goodness at the end of time."

DISCUSSION

Have you ever rushed to get the "best seat" before someone else? All of us have done this at one time or another! Jesus wanted us to realize that when we do such a thing, we put ourselves before others, thinking that we are more important than other people.

What did Jesus tell us to do instead? We should try to put others first and act without selfishness or pride. God is not impressed by greatness or rank but by someone who acts humbly and shows kindness towards other people.

Jesus used the example of inviting someone for a meal without expecting to be invited back. Often we do a good deed for someone but expect them to repay our kindness in some way. Jesus taught us that if we act with unselfish kindness in this life, then God will repay our goodness in the next.

How can we put the words of Jesus into practice? Instead of pushing to the front or grabbing the best seat, think of others first and act thoughtfully instead of selfishly. Don't invite someone to play just so that they can invite you back, or share a toy because you expect one in return.

Jesus said, "Those who are last will be first, and those who are first will be last!" If we put other people first and recognize their importance, then we will be first in the eyes of God.

ACTIVITY

Jesus calls us to be less selfish and more loving. Color the pictures which put others first, and cross out the pictures which show selfish and thoughtless actions.

CREED

CLOSING PRAYER

Jesus, help me to put others first
and to be generous and kind
without counting the cost.

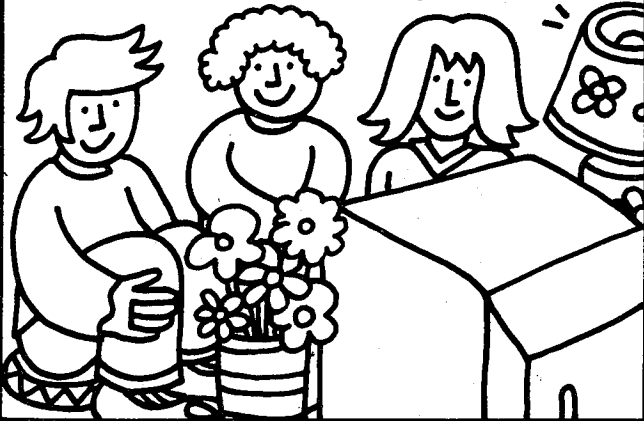
Doing the washing-up for Mum.



Avoiding the washing-up.



Watching their favourite programme.



Watching my favourite programme.



Stopping someone joining my game.



Asking someone to join my game.

