

Chapter 2 Notes and suggestions for the Sundays of Season IV

Week 1: 'What Christians have in Common'

(5th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A –
Sunday before Ash Wednesday 6th February 2005)

FOCUS FOR THE LEADER:

Lent is a significant time for us to gather as Christians of various congregations, all followers of Jesus, to focus on what we have in common. It is a time of reconciliation, a time to recognise that we are all called to conversion and that all share in the basic works of Lent – helping others, praying and fasting.

FOR OLDER CHILDREN:

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:



Alleluia © 2004 Sr. Sheila McNamara

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:13-16

In this week's Gospel, we hear a story about how we are the light of the world.

Breaking open the Gospel:

- Ask the children to think about light – how important it is, what it would be like without it. You might have a candle and a small lamp to show them and you might point to the lights in the room where you are meeting.
- Ask the children if they have ever lost something outside and they only realised it was lost at night. They probably needed a torch to help them see – unless they have outdoor lights. How light made a difference! And, ask if they have ever eaten chips without salt. They don't taste as good as they do with salt! Ask what other foods they put salt on.
- In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us that we are the salt of the earth and we are the light of the world. Ask what they think he is trying to say. Tell them that we know that we can be like Jesus in these little things we do. Jesus is the light of our lives and by being loving and caring in the little things we do, we are sharing the *light of Jesus* with others – the light that shows us the way to be. Symbolically, you might consider passing a candle from one child to the next – asking each child to say how they are

the light of Christ for others. Be careful to put the candle in a bowl or in a candleholder to ensure that it is safe for them to do this.

- We began our liturgy by thinking of some of the ways that light is important to us. Remind the children that they were given the light of Christ at their baptism. All Christians are baptised; we have that in common. Even though some Christians belong to other churches, we are all followers of Christ. All Christians take time during Lent to think about the ways they can be more like Jesus. Ask the children to think about this during the coming weeks.



A Creed – a series of questions to which the children are invited to reply, "We do."

- Do you believe that God loves you very much?
- Do you believe that Jesus came to tell us how to love one another, how to show his light to others?
- Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who helps us to understand what God is like?
- Do you believe in the Holy, Catholic Church, where we come to learn about God?

Intercessions

Jesus has told us to ask God for what we need, so as God's children, we pray

- for all God’s family learns to show the light of Christ in the world – our Church leaders, our teachers, our catechists our parents and ourselves, in your mercy *Response: Lord, hear our prayer.*
- that we look after God’s beautiful world with loving care, we pray *Response: Lord, hear our prayer.*
- for all those who are hungry or sad, lonely or sick, that they may see the light of Christ, we pray *Response: Lord, hear our prayer.*
- for all those who live in our parish who need our prayers we, we pray . *Response: Lord, hear our prayer.*

Loving Father, we ask you to listen to these prayers in the name of Jesus, our Lord. *Amen.*

FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN:

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:



Alleluia © 2004 Sr. Sheila McNamara

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:13-16

In this week’s Gospel, we hear a story about how we are the light of the world..

Breaking open the Gospel:

- Ask the children to think about light and how important it is. Ask them what kinds of lights they can think of.
- Ask the children if they have a nightlight. Ask them if they ever wake up at night afraid there is someone or something in their room; but, when someone comes and turns the light on they feel better and they can see that nothing is there.
- In today’s Gospel, Jesus tells us we are the light of the world. Tell them that when they were baptised, they were given a candle; their parents and godparents were told, “Receive the light of Christ”. Tell them that light reminds us that Jesus is within us. Jesus is the light of our lives and by being loving and caring in the little things we do, we are sharing the *light of Jesus* with others – the light that shows us the way to be. You might light a candle and ask each child to finish this sentence, “I show the light of Christ to others when I . . .” Give them some ideas, like when I am kind or when I share my toys or sweets with others, when I invite others to play with me.
- We began our liturgy by thinking about light and how important it is. Tell the children that Lent is beginning in a few days. During Lent Christians try to think of ways they can be more like Jesus.

They may have friends who are Christians but who belong to other churches. Tell them that all Christians try to be like Jesus. Ask them to think about how they can be more and more like Jesus during the coming weeks.



A Creed – a series of questions to which the children are invited to reply, “We do.”

- Do you believe that God loves you very much?
- Do you believe that Jesus came to tell us what God is like, how we can share his light with others?
- Do you believe that we come to church to learn about God?

Intercessions

Jesus has told us to ask God for what we need, so as God’s children, we pray

- for all God’s family so that we may share the Good News with everyone. *Lord, in your mercy; hear our prayer.*
- for God’s beautiful world that we look after it with loving care. *Lord, in your mercy; hear our prayer.*
- for all who are hungry or sad, lonely or sick, today we pray for *Lord, in your mercy; hear our prayer.*

Loving Father, we ask you to listen to these prayers in the name of Jesus, our Lord. *Amen.*