

## Children's liturgy – Seventh Sunday of Easter (Year B)

### Preparing for worship

*If you are with the children, prepare the materials. If you are running an online session, let parents know in advance what is needed and suggest they download and print the illustration where possible from [cafod.org.uk/childrensliturgy](http://cafod.org.uk/childrensliturgy)*

Colour: white

**Song suggestions:** Bind us together (80, Celebration Hymnal for Everyone)  
Here I am, Lord (285, Celebration Hymnal for Everyone)

**Welcome:** Today we hear how Jesus prayed for his disciples – asking God to protect them and to help them to follow his word. Let us think a bit more about this means for us today.

**Opening prayer:** Loving God, watch over us, keep us from harm and help us to follow your word and go out into the world to share it with others through our actions. Amen.

**First reading (optional):** Acts 1:15-17, 20-26

**Psalm:** Ps 102:1-2, 11-12, 19-20 r.19

**Gospel acclamation:** Sing the acclamation together. Suggestions: 'Halle, halle, halle' (Caribbean) from 'Sing with the world', Alison Adam & John Bell; 'Alleluia' (Zimbabwe), Abraham Maraire Publications, WCC & GIA.

**Gospel:** John 17:11-19

And now I am coming to you; I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world. Holy Father! Keep them safe by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one just as you and I are one. While I was with them, I kept them safe by the power of your name, the name you gave me. I protected them, and not one of them was lost, except the man who was bound to be lost—so that the scripture might come true. And now I am coming to you, and I say these things in the world so that they might have my joy in their hearts in all its fullness. I gave them your message, and the world hated them, because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I do not ask you to take them out of the world, but I do ask you to keep them safe from the Evil One. Just as I do not belong to the world, they do not belong to the world. Dedicate them to yourself by means of the truth; your word is truth. I sent them into the world, just as you sent me into the world. And for their sake I dedicate myself to you, in order that they, too, may be truly dedicated to you.

*(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation® and used with permission. See below\*)*

**Gospel reflection:** What do you remember from today's reading?

In today's gospel Jesus is talking to God. He is praying.

Do you pray? What do you pray for or about?

Jesus is asking God to help his friends – the disciples – when he is gone.

Jesus knows that it will be hard for them to be without him. But he has also given his disciples a very special job to do and he wants them to carry on doing this, even after he has gone away. So he wants God to keep them safe.

What job do you think Jesus wants his disciples to do?

Jesus wants his disciples to follow his teaching, to love everyone just like Jesus loves us, and to encourage others to do the same.

Do you think Jesus has a special job for us to do as his followers? What do you think that job might be?

He wants us to share God's love with others – near or far away – and care for the lovely world he has given us. How do you think that we can do that?

We can share God's love by helping each other. This also means taking care of our world so that everyone has the chance of a happy life. For example, when we humans cut down forests, that is bad for all the people, animals and plants who live there.

Delio lives in the huge Amazon rainforest. Think of how big a football pitch is. Well, every minute an area of forest the size of a football pitch is being cut down or burnt!

Without the trees, the land can become very dry, making it hard for people to grow food or find water to drink. Delio works as a teacher, helping students to understand how to care for the planet.

Do you think Delio has a special job to do?

**Intercessions:** *You may want to ask the children to offer their own prayers or you can use the suggestions below.*

We know that it is not always easy to follow Jesus, and so we pray...

We pray for world leaders: that they may be inspired by Jesus and make the right decisions for the good of all people, even when it is hard. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for the Church throughout the world: that it may be a shining light in the darkest times, bringing help and comfort to all those in need. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our friends, family and parish: that we may always follow Jesus, respecting and caring for all people and for our planet. Lord, in your mercy...

**Closing prayer:** Loving God, move us to follow your Son, to share your love with others as we try to help anyone who needs it, and work together to protect our beautiful world. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

## Activity suggestions:

Illustration: explain to the children that while we all need to share in caring for the planet, the people who can make a really big difference are the leaders of our countries. We need to remind them all the time that we are watching whether they are doing a good job or not. Ask them to colour in the “Eyes of the World” illustration and if they can, to add some different people around the world. You can find related materials at [cafod.org.uk/primary](http://cafod.org.uk/primary).

Ask the children to go home and share all that they have heard and thought about today. Ask them to do one thing over the coming week to show that they are doing a special job as Jesus asks us, by caring for the world around them.

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