

EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AT HOME

CHILDREN'S GAMES

EXPLORING NEXT SUNDAY'S THEME

Reflecting on the Gospel

John and Jesus compared (Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-30)

John the Baptist and Jesus presented highly contrasted images of God's messenger. John withdrew to the desert and lived as an ascetic. Jesus lived among people and drew large followings. He accepted the company of tax collectors and sinners. Both, however, were rejected by their generation. They accused John of being possessed and Jesus of being a drunkard. In this passage Jesus likens the generation to quarrelsome children satisfied with nothing.

Our image to stimulate reflection on this passage is *children's games*.

Extracts from the Gospel passage (Matthew 11: 16-19)

Jesus said, 'To what will I compare this generation?
It is like children sitting in the market-places
and calling to one another,
"We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn."
For John came neither eating nor drinking,
and they say, "He has a demon";
the Son of Man came eating and drinking,
and they say, "Look, a glutton and a drunkard,
a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!"'

Gospel prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
you taught your followers
to love life and to do good.
Teach us to love what is good,
that we may live our lives to your glory;
now and always.
Amen.

ENGAGING WITH THE THEME AT HOME

Reflecting and meditating

Reflect on Jesus' teaching reported in Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-30:

- what details in the passage catch your attention?
- what big ideas does the passage spark in your mind?
- what most touches your heart in the passage?
- what most stretches your mind and makes you think in the passage?

Thinking and talking

- how do you read the image of children playing in the market place?
- how do you read the image of God revealing hidden things to infants?
- what might we learn from young people about faith today?
- how do you see the contrast between John and Jesus?
- what does this narrative say for us today?

Using your Bible

This passage from Matthew holds material in common with Luke not reported by Mark. Did Matthew and Luke get this from a common source?

- Luke 7: 31-35
- Luke 10: 21-22

Explore passages in the Old Testament in which God's revelation has been to young people:

- 1 Samuel 3: 1-11
- Isaiah 11: 6

Exploring online

- explore interpretations of Matthew 11: 16-19
- explore Jesus at play
- explore Pieter Bruegel's classic picture, Children's Games

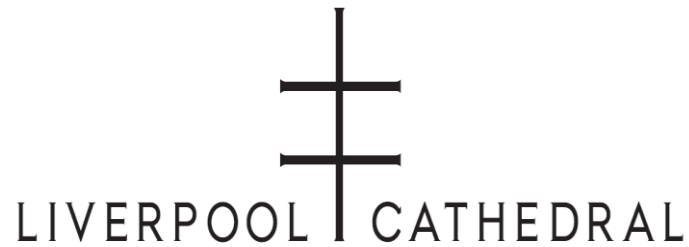
Drawing on experience

- reflect on games you enjoyed playing as a child
- reflect on games you see children playing today
- reflect on your experience of learning from children

PROPER 9 (YEAR A) SUNDAY 5 JULY 2020

Creating and making

- choose one game you enjoyed as a child and display that at home and at the eucharist
- make a collage of children playing different games, 'Jesus observed children playing in the market place'
- make a poster of games played when you were a child
- create a reflection, poem, or prayer on the theme of children's games



EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AT HOME

Each week we are inviting people in their homes to look forward to those Sunday services that follow the Revised Common Lectionary Gospel readings. We employ the SIFT approach (Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking) to encourage reflection on the Sunday Gospel. We are suggesting a variety of ways in which people of all ages, and households working together, may engage with the Gospel reading and celebrate that engagement with shared activities.

Our invitation then is for you to share your reflections, prayers and photos of your creative work with the Cathedral by emailing them to Nelson.Pike@liverpoolcathedral.org.uk

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