

Children's Liturgy of the Word

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

17 August 2025 - Year C

"I have come not to give peace, but discord."

Something to Think About

Fire changes things! Have you ever seen pictures of Australian bushfires and how they change the landscape?

The Story

Jesus tells the people that things need to change. He makes it clear that disciples of Jesus have choices to make, and that following Jesus won't always be easy. Jesus is calling the people to help the poor and suffering, to love their enemies, to choose Jesus even over their own family members.

The Scriptures

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke (12:49-53)

Jesus said to his disciples:

"I came to set fire to the earth,
and I surely wish it were already on fire!
I am going to be put to a hard test.
And I will have to suffer a lot of pain until it is over.
Do you think that I came to bring peace to earth?
No indeed!
I came to make people choose sides.
A family of five will be divided,
with two of them against the other three.
Fathers and sons will turn against one another,
and mothers and daughters will do the same.
Mothers-in-law and daughters-in-law
will also turn against each other."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Group Discussion

Being a follower of Jesus is a choice we all have to make. Ask children to make simple statements like: I choose to follow Jesus because.... Jesus challenges us to change the world.

What things in our world today need changing? What can you do to change things in your part of the world today?

Praying For Others

Leader: Let us pray now for the leaders of our Church, our world, for those in our community and for our own needs.

Reader 1: We pray that our leaders will make the world a better place. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader 2: We pray for those who are in pain. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader 3: We pray for courage to change things. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader 4: We pray for our family and friends. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader 5: We pray for peace in the world. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

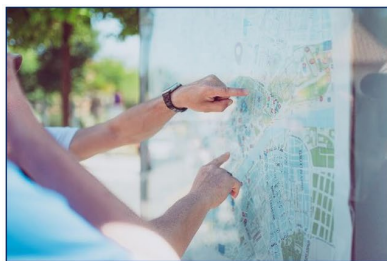
Reader 6: We pray for our own needs. *(Invite the children to pray for their own special intentions).* Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Leader: Loving God, listen to the prayers we make in the name of Jesus.

All: Amen.

Prayer



Dear Jesus,
Give us the strength to follow you
and the courage to change the
world around us.
Amen.

Video (optional)

Watch the video and sing along to the song: [One Way](#)



Group Activity (optional)

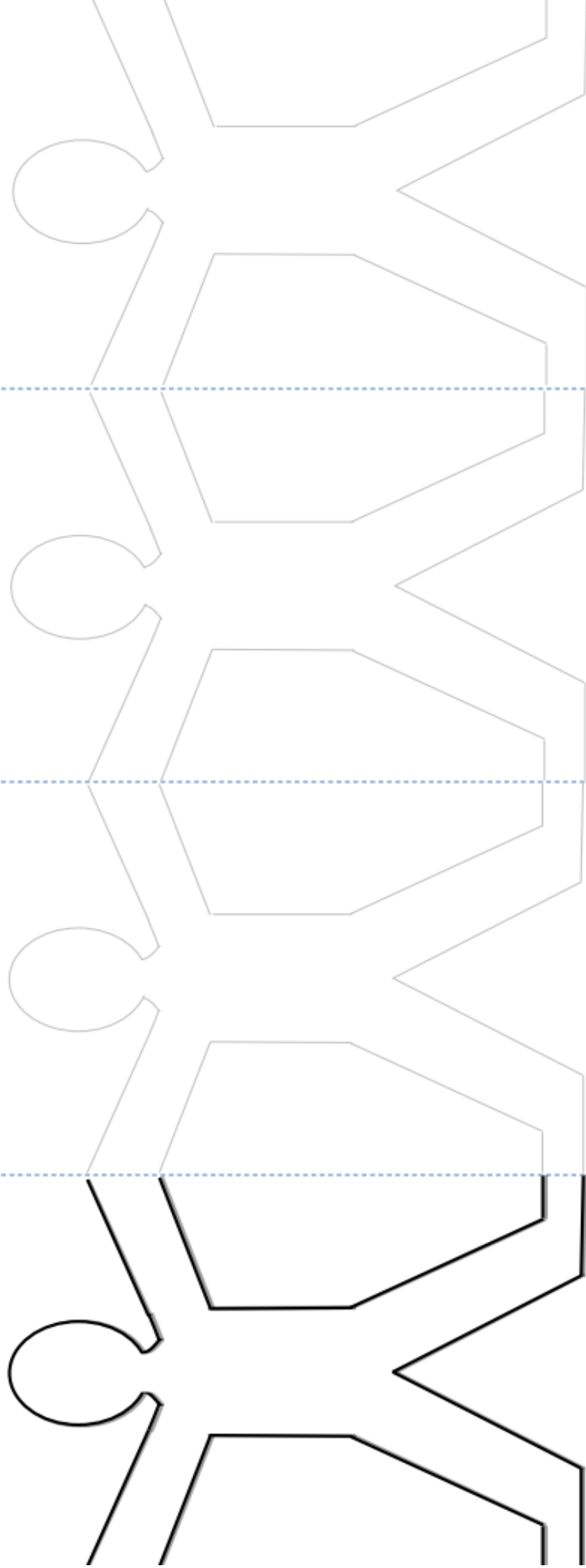
PAPER PEOPLE CHAIN – UNITED IN FOLLOWING JESUS

You will need: a template for each child printed on paper, scissors, coloured markers.

1. Print templates for each child.
2. Fold the piece of paper in half with the printed outlines on the inside.
3. Fold the two quarter panels on each end toward the outside to make an accordion-style fold.
4. Cut around the first figure which you see on the top fold, but do not cut along the fold lines.
5. Children decorate the people after stretching out their paper people chain.



People united in Jesus



PRAY THE PRAYER OF ST FRANCIS EACH DAY

Dear Jesus,
help me be a peace-maker.
Where people hate each other,
let me bring love.
Where people are hurt,
let me bring healing.
Where people have given up,
let me bring hope.
Where people are in darkness,
let me bring light.
Where people are sad,
let me bring joy.
Help me think of other people first,
to comfort them,
to understand them,
to love them,
for it is in giving to others,
that we receive God's blessings.



St FRANCIS loved
birds and animals
and he THANKED
God for them.



St FRANCIS loved
and cared for
those who were
sick and in need
and he THANKED
God for them.



St FRANCIS loved
being poor and
lived a simple life
and he THANKED
God for that too.

BEFORE YOU GO TO BED