



LITURGY OF THE WORD FOR CHILDREN

And all thy
children shall be
TAUGHT
of the **LORD**
and great shall be the
PEACE of thy
CHILDREN

Isaiah 54:13

“Amen, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.” *Matthew 18:3* Jesus spoke these words not as a model for the innocence of children, but rather because of a child’s complete dependence on, and trust in, their parents. So must we, as Disciples of Christ, rely and place our trust in God, our Father. We have an opportunity to meditate on the Word of God, as we gather with children each week. The children will be a source of grace for all of us. Your work as catechist for our young people is an important role and the community greatly appreciates your efforts. **“Train a child in the way he should go; even when he is old, he will not swerve from it.”** *Proverbs 22:6*

When we reflect with children on the Gospel, we must continue to be sensitive to the presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives. Children already have a spiritual life and relationship with God. Our Gospel reflections with the children should be aimed at listening to what they have heard. Our attitude is one of listening and reflecting together on what God is saying to all of us. We must have profound respect for what they heard and know that at times they may need help to articulate what they heard. If there is no response to your question, “What did you hear?” after a reasonable amount of silence, you may want to pick up the Lectionary and slowly read part of the passage again, pausing to allow the children time to reflect. It may be hard, but we need to resist the temptation to tell the children what they should hear. Keep in mind that we are celebrating the Word of God with children, we are not teaching them.

PREPARING FOR THE SUNDAY GOSPEL:

To prepare for the coming Sunday, reflect on the Gospel. **“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach,”** *Colossians 3:16*

Meditate (from a child’s viewpoint)-

- What does the Gospel say?
- What is going on in my life?
- Am I struggling at home?
- Am I in a happy home?
- Am I loved by my parents?
- Am I safe at home?
- Am I safe outside my home?
- Is there someone very ill?
- Do I feel God’s presence?
- Am I feeling His absence?
- How can do good today?

