

I am the Bread of Life-18th Sunday (Year B)

Exodus 16:2-4, John 6:24-35

We know from Exodus 16 and other Scripture (particularly John 6:1-15) that God has provided for the physical hunger of many but John 6 also speaks of Jesus' ability to fill our hearts and give us life as the true 'Bread of Life'. This liturgy will look at Jesus as provider and how we, the Church, follow that example to help the poorest survive and thrive.

Sharing Scripture

If you're able and none of the children have special allergies or dietary requirements, bring some bread with you as a prop (maybe even a sweet bread like croissants). As you start, ask the children who likes bread? What kind of bread do they like? Share some of the bread you have brought with the children as you tell them that bread plays an important role in today's liturgy.

Tell the children that in the Old Testament, the Israelites were grumbling against Moses and God (even though they were rescued from slavery!) because they were hungry in the desert. Ask a child to read Exodus 19:4 and then emphasise that God gave the Israelites what they needed, he provided them with bread. Ask a child to read the gospel of John 6:35 and help the children understand that Jesus is talking about satisfying their spiritual needs as well as their physical ones. Jesus can fulfil their lives and they will never be hungry or thirsty for meaning in their lives because Jesus can satisfy.

SCIAF

The project partners that SCIAF work with across the world care about the whole person including their spiritual and physical needs. As you share the short story of Godfrey and Swaiba's life, tell the children that their parish and others in Scotland are following Jesus' footsteps as we, the Church, serve the poorest and most vulnerable people around the world.

If you have the resource, download the PowerPoint presentation and show it to the children along with the 'Godfrey and Swaiba supporting notes' pdf. If you don't have the capacity to show a PowerPoint, please show the photos located in the pdf so that the children can still see Godfrey and Swaiba as you share their story from the notes.

Respond

For this activity you will need:

- + One printed off 'bread template' for each child
- + Writing/colouring materials

Give one 'bread template' to each child. Ask those that are able, to write a prayer on the reverse of the template asking God to help them come to Jesus for their needs and also asking God to help SCIAF continue their life-transforming work with those people that are still in need of physical food. Older children can help the younger children to write a prayer or they can simply decorate the bread template that they have.

Finish by asking some of children to read out their prayers to the group.