

All God's Children-30th Sunday (Year A)

Matthew 22:34-40

Jesus provides us with a very simple rule to follow- love God and love our neighbours. The Scripture this week challenges us to love and care for all of our sisters and brothers around the world regardless of race, age, religion or gender. SCIAF's work with partners in different countries shows how we are all united as one human family.

Sharing Scripture

Ask the children if they know any other languages. Some may even speak a different language at home. Ask them if they know how to say 'God' in another language? You may wish to share with the children a few selected languages from the 'Our international God' pdf which lists different ways to say 'God' around the world.

Ask the children what language they think that God speaks? Explain that since God created all people he can understand all languages.

In the Gospel reading, Matthew 22:34-40, Jesus is clear- love is the greatest commandment we must follow. First we must love God and second we must love and care for one another. It is easy to love those we already know and like, but less so to reach out with love and compassion to those who are different. We should not be afraid of or pretend not to see the things that make us different, such as language, nationality or disability, because these are the beautiful and unique ways that God has created each one of us.

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God asks us to show respect and compassion for one another and Jesus reminds us that this is the greatest commandment of them all. Learning more about how Mass is celebrated in another part of the world helps us to see the ways that we are united as one human family.

Using either the 'All God's Children' PowerPoint or the 'All God's Children' pdf, show the children the images provided. Ask them to look carefully and to think about what things they see that are different between how Mass is celebrated in Cambodia and Scotland. Likewise, ask the children to look for similarities.

You may want to guide the children by offering some of the examples provided in both resources. Be sure to include the context behind the differences we have suggested in order to help the children to understand that they are normal practices throughout Cambodia and only seem different from our point of view.

Respond

For this activity you will need enough paper hearts to give one to each child.

Give each child a heart. Ask them to think about the Scripture they have heard and how Mass is celebrated in Cambodia. Tell them to keep this heart as a visible reminder of the love that God has for each one of his children and the love that we in turn are asked to have for one another.