

Children's Liturgy guide

Third Sunday of Lent (Year A)

Gospel: John 4:5-42

An amazing encounter between an unlikely pair. Jesus, a Jewish man meets and speaks with a Samaritan woman. The Jews and Samaritans had not got on together for a long time. Samaritans were once Jews but had turned away from Jewish practises and lived their own ways. You would never see a Jewish man speaking to a Jewish woman in public - so it was far from expected to see Jesus speaking with a Samaritan woman! What this woman had experienced in life put her in a position where she was looked down on and despised by her community.

There is too much in this encounter to cover in one liturgy, but let's concentrate on the fact that Jesus broke down cultural barriers to meet someone on the fringes of society - and her life was transformed. So much so, that before her encounter with Jesus, she was despised and ignored but after, she was listened to, and her testimony brought others to know Jesus.

Sharing Scripture - John 4:5-42

Read the verses above and help the children understand the significance of this special encounter by using some of the notes above. You may find it useful to use a video alternative to tell the story as it is quite long to read. The Gospel Project for Kids '[Jesus and the Samaritan Woman](#)' is a safe way to share the Scripture but none of the content is from SCIAF nor is SCIAF responsible for the content.

Make the point that even though this woman was 'looked down on' in the community, Jesus met with her and offered her a new life. She accepted the 'Living Water' and then went out to tell others about Jesus. God was now using this woman, previously ignored.

It is the poorest people who are often ignored in our world. They are often forgotten, but SCIAF, part of the Catholic Church in Scotland, with your help, are following in Jesus' footsteps and 'meeting' with people who are ignored. With our partners in Zambia, we are helping people to see that they are valued and loved by God. We are helping people to see their worth and to work their way out of the difficult situations they find themselves in.

For the poorest, hunger is the start, but it doesn't have to be the end.

Respond

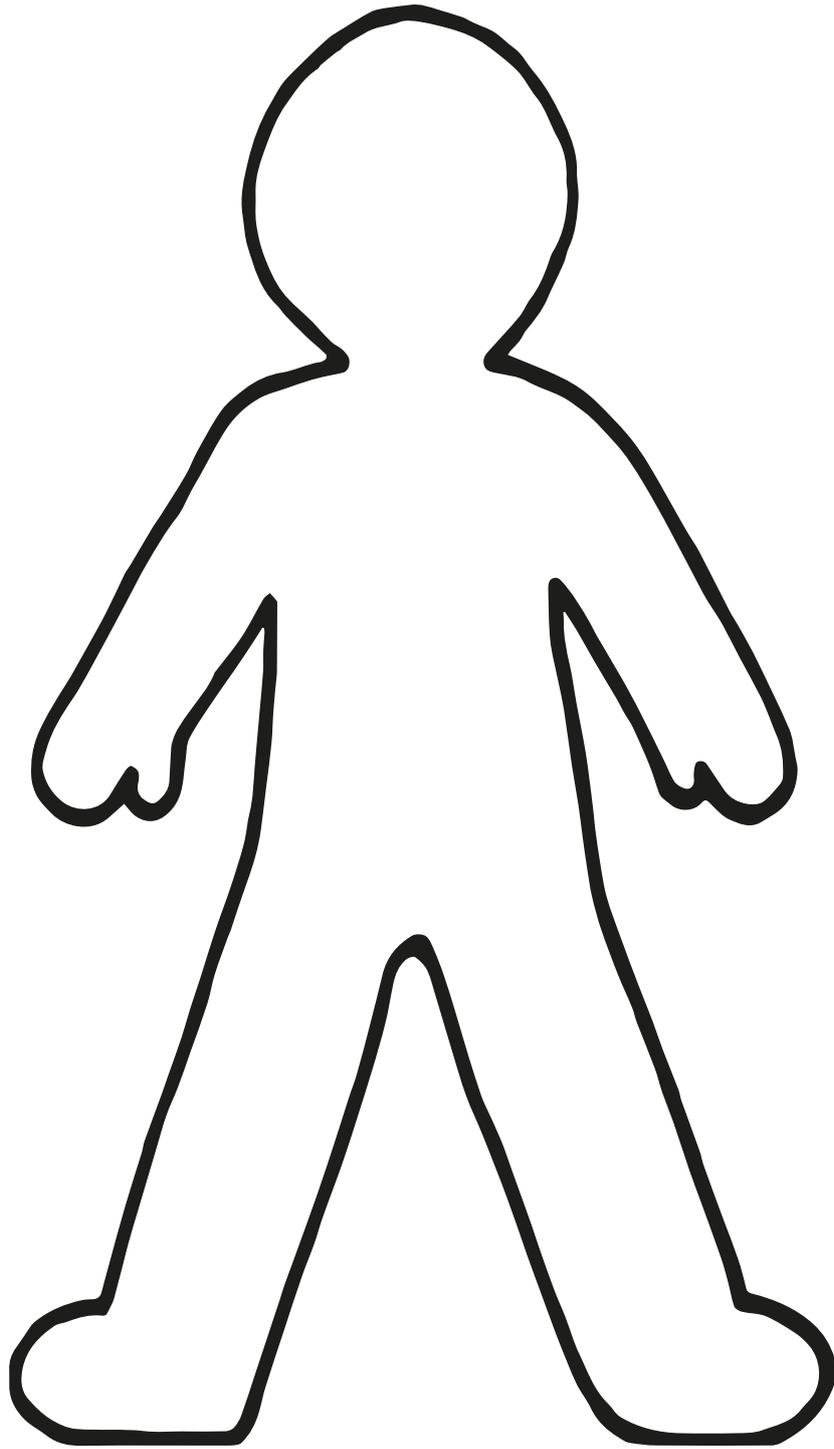
Using the quote below from St Therese of Lisieux, ask the children how they can be the body, hands and feet of Christ. You can ask the question in a group but ask the children (who are able) to write down their answers on the sheet provided. Encourage the children to write their answers inside the outline of the body and take their sheet home as a reminder of how they can 'be' - and the things they can do to help others.

"Christ has no body but ours, no hands, but ours, no feet but ours. Ours are the eyes through which the compassion of Christ must look on the world" Saint Therese of Lisieux.

Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund

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