



YEAR

3

UNIT E

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD AT MASS

ABOUT THE UNIT

This unit involves the children in thinking about listening and finding out about the Liturgy of the Word at Mass. Through this topic they will explore the value and the importance of listening to the Word of God in the Scriptures.

WHERE THE UNIT FITS IN

The unit builds on previous work on the Mass in the Belonging theme and also in the Year 2 unit on the Mass.

PRIOR LEARNING

It would be helpful if the children have:

- a basic knowledge of the difference between the Old. Testament and the New Testament
- an awareness of some of the parts of the Mass.

SKILLS

Listening skills, thinking skills, interpreting symbols, sequencing skills.

VOCABULARY

Listening, hearing, Liturgy of the Word, Old Testament, Responsorial Psalm, New Testament, Gospel.

ASSESSMENT

At the end of this unit:

Most children will know and understand the importance of listening. They will know the structure of the Liturgy of the Word at Mass and will be able to discuss and write about why it is important that Christians listen to the Word of God.

Less able children will know that at the celebration of Mass we listen to readings from the Bible. They will be able to name and recall some of these stories.

More able children will have a greater understanding of the consequences of listening or not listening. They will know and understand that the Word of God guides the life of the Christian people and they will be able to give examples of what the Bible teaches about God and how Christians should live.

	A.T.1	A.T.2
Most children will	3b 3c	
Less able children will	2c	2c
More able children will	3a 3b 3c 4a	3c 4a

PROGRAMME OF STUDY

TEACHING STRATEGIES

L1 Accounts in scripture of God's invitations and a variety of responses.

- Discuss with the children reasons why it is important to listen.
- Create lists of people and things they like listening to and reasons why.
- What don't you like listening to? List these as well with reasons.
- Compare lists and then place in order of priority the most important people and things they need to listen to.
- Explore the difference between hearing something and listening to something. What skills are needed to listen?
- Why do we need to listen?
- What does listening help us to do?
- Children to work on a short role-play in groups about times when they listened well or times when they did not listen. Give appropriate guidance and support and make sure that expectations of the children are clear.

- The Bible is filled with stories about people who listened and responded to the call of God.
- Children to read the call of Samuel. Look at illustrations for the story and discuss.
- What sort of boy do you think Samuel was?
- How do you think Samuel felt when he kept hearing his name being called?
- Can you give any reasons why Eli kept telling Samuel to go back to sleep?
- If you had been Samuel, what thoughts would you have had if you had heard the voice?
- Lead the children in an imaginative contemplation of this story.
- Samuel listened to the voice of God who was calling him to do something special with his life. Do you think that God might continue to speak today, calling people to do something special with their lives for him?
- What message might the story of Samuel have for Christians today?

- Explain that for Catholic Christians the Bible is one of the important ways in which God speaks to his people.
- Children to recall favourite Bible stories. Discuss and write about the message contained in these stories. You might consider using the parable of the good Samaritan and the parable of the lost sheep.

C5 The broad structure of the Eucharist.

Ch1 Ways of taking part in the life and worship of the domestic, local church, e.g. celebrating the Eucharist.

- Explain that the second part of the Mass is called the Liturgy of the Word. This is an important time in the Mass when God's family listens to God speaking to them in the scripture readings.
- Children to recall what happens at this part of the Mass. In groups use Children's missals to find as much information as they can about the Liturgy of the Word.
- The first reading usually comes from the Old Testament. Recap which part of the Bible this is. What stories can the children recall from the Old Testament? What do they tell us about God?
- Children to work in small groups to research information from different Old Testament stories. Record information in a fact file and any of the children's thought about the messages contained in these stories.
- At the end of the first reading at Mass the reader says: "This is the Word of the Lord." The people reply: "Thanks be to God." Why do you think this is said?
- The responsorial psalm comes from the Old Testament Book of Psalms. We join in the words of the psalm after the first reading. Explain that they were written as a special form of song.
- Share some extracts of Psalms with the children. These might include: *Psalms 150, 136 (135), 148 (147), 67 (66)*.
- Create some music to accompany these psalms. Use simple percussion.
- The second reading usually comes from the part of the New Testament after the four gospels and is usually a reading from one of the letters of the apostles or the Book of Acts or the Book of Revelation. Explain that in these readings we are taught many important things about following Christ and belonging to his Church.
- Ask the children to find as many names of these books as they can.
- Provide the children with a range of New Testament readings, e.g. *1 Corinthians 13:4-8; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Colossians 3:16-17; 1 John 4:7*. Ask them to discuss the messages they think are contained in these readings.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

L1 That God calls and invites a free response.

- Know the story of the call of Samuel.
- Understand that through listening, Samuel was able to hear God speaking to him.
- Recognise in the Bible God continues to speak to his people today.
- Be able to recall some of the scriptures and explain what the message of the reading contains.

C5 Of what the Church is doing in the celebration of the Eucharist.

Ch1 That living and celebrating the Church's liturgy reveals God's love and forgiveness and brings joy and new life.

- Know that in the Liturgy of the Word at Mass God is speaking to us.
- Understand the meaning of some readings we hear at Mass.
- That the first reading in Mass usually comes from the Old Testament.
- That the responsorial psalm is a song from the Book of Psalms.
- Discuss and recognise some of the images of God found in the Old Testament.
- Know that the second reading at Mass comes from the New Testament.
- Be able to discuss some of the teachings of the New Testament letters.

Look at the structure of the ear and how it works.

Did Samuel always listen carefully to the voice of God? Read more of the story to find out.

This could be a group activity with children reporting back to the rest of the class.
As part of the children's experience and participation in collective worship, use the structure of the Liturgy of the Word.

Use these words often when reading passages from the Bible to familiarise children with the responses.

During celebrations of Mass with the children try to sing at least the response to the psalm.

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PROGRAMME OF STUDY

TEACHING STRATEGIES

R1 Hear, read and explore the gospel accounts of key events in the life of Jesus.

- The gospel reading is welcomed with the singing of the “alleluia” a Hebrew word that means, “praise God”.
- Children to role-play what happens at Mass for the proclamation of the gospel. Include in this the use of the lectern, the greetings and the responses and the signing with the cross on the forehead, lips and heart, the carrying of candles and the kissing of the book of gospels by the priest or deacon.
- Why do you think we stand to welcome the gospel?
- Why make the sign of the cross on the forehead, lips and heart?
- Why do you think that candles are held at the lectern during the gospel reading?
- Why does the priest or deacon kiss the book of gospel at the end of the reading?
- Emphasise to the children that Jesus is present in the reading and proclaiming of the gospel.
- Children to use Bibles to research stories from the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. What sort of writing have you found? Parable, miracle, some teaching of Jesus or a narrative of something that happened in his life. Children to record their findings on a grid.
- In the gospels we find numerous stories and events which remind Christians about the importance of listening to the words of Jesus.
- Read the Baptism of Jesus in *Mark 1:1-12*.
- Dramatise the Baptism with different voices. You might want to add some percussion for effects!
- What title did the voice from heaven give to Jesus? So whose voice was it? What descended upon Jesus?
- Explain that in this event, God is revealed as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Create a grid and write down the words and actions of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
- Revise previous work on Baptism. In what ways does the Baptism of Jesus differ from a celebration of Baptism today?
- Read the story of the Presentation of Jesus in the temple. *Lk.2:22-40*. Recall some of the things that Mary and Joseph heard about their baby Jesus from Simeon and Anna.
- Create drawings and speech bubbles to capture their thoughts.
- Conclude the unit with some discussion about what the children have learnt about listening to God in the Liturgy of the Word at Mass and the importance of the message of Jesus in the gospels.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- That in the four gospels we listen to the words of Jesus and the story of his life.
- That the gospel reading is the most important part of the Liturgy of the Word.
- Be able to join in with associated responses and actions.

R1 That the Bible is God's living Word; that in word and deed Jesus revealed the love and mercy of God his Father.

- Know the story of Jesus' Baptism.
- Recognise the presence of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in this event.
- Discuss and recognise differences between the Baptism of Jesus and a celebration of Baptism today.

- Know the story of the presentation of Jesus in the temple.
- Recognise some of the things that Mary and Joseph listened to about Jesus.

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

Use religious art to supplement this unit of work.

Create pictures capturing the event of the Baptism of Jesus.

Look for images of the Holy Trinity in art.

Revise the sign of the cross as the prayer of the Trinity.

Look at some religious art of the presentation. Children to paint their own pictures of this scene.

RELATED SCRIPTURE

1 Samuel 3: 1-12 – The Call of Samuel

Psalms 150, 136(135), 148(147) 67(66)

1 Corinthians 13: 4-8 – Hymn to Love

1 Corinthians 11: 23-26 – Institution of the Eucharist

Colossians 3: 16-17 – God's Word Living in Us

1 John: 4-7 – God is Love

OTHER LINKS

Multi-cultural links: Find out about the reverence and respect shown in other world religions to holy writings.

History link: The Old Testament originally written in Hebrew and the New Testament originally written in Greek. Find copies of the Hebrew and Greek Texts for the children to see.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- Use many of the elements of the Liturgy of the Word in class based Collective Worship. Include all the responses to help the children learn them.
- Imaginative contemplation on different Scripture stories such as the story of Samuel.
- Use one of the Psalms studied as part of class prayer.

EVALUATION

What went well?

Which areas of planning need to be developed/adapted next time?

What needs to be revisited/developed in a later unit?