

Year C - 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Luke 14:1, 7-14

All who exalt themselves shall be humbled, and all who humble themselves shall be exalted.



One Sabbath Jesus was having dinner in the home of an important Pharisee, and everyone was carefully watching Jesus. Jesus saw how the guests had tried to take the best seats.

So he told them: "When you are invited to a wedding feast, don't sit in the best place. Someone more important may have been invited.

Then the one who invited you will come and say, 'Give your place to this other guest!'

You will be embarrassed and will have to sit in the worst place.

"When you are invited to be a guest, go and sit in the worst place.

Then the one who invited you may come and say, 'My friend, take a better seat!'

You will then be honoured in front of all the other guests.

If you put yourself above others, you will be put down.

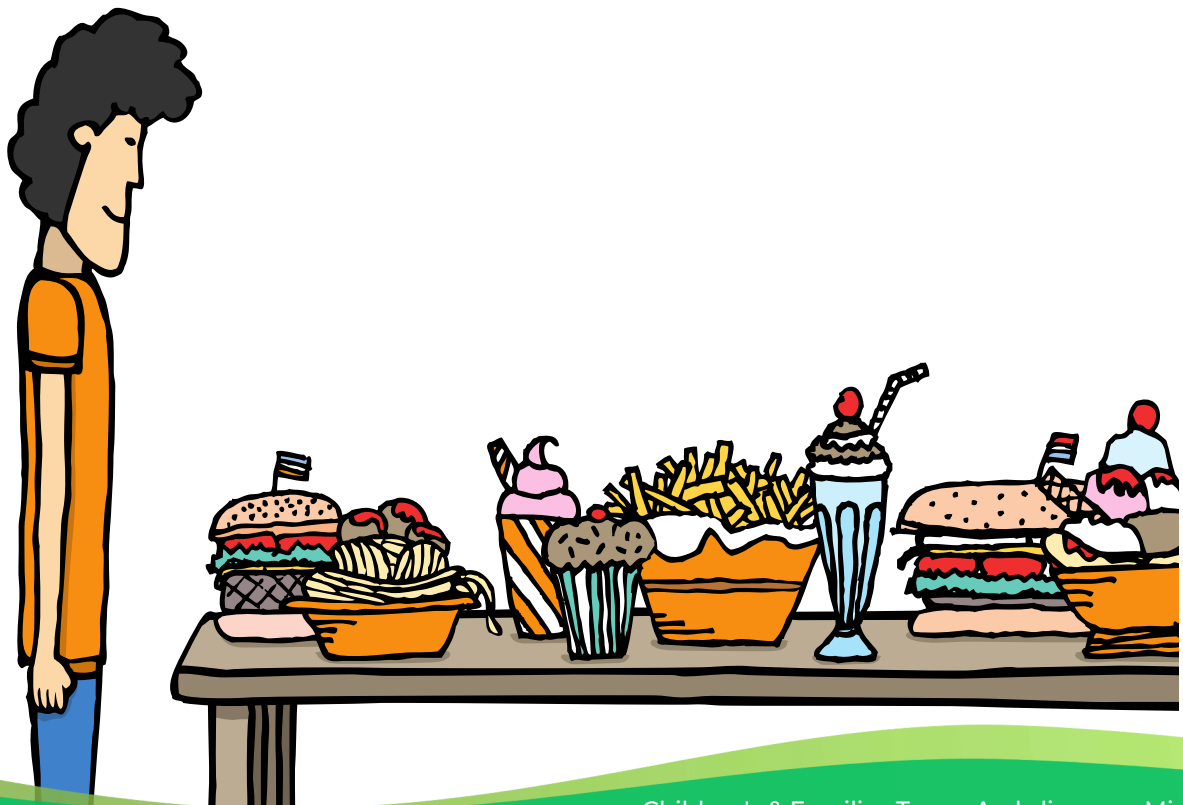
But if you humble yourself, you will be honoured."

Then Jesus said to the man who had invited him: "When you give a dinner or a banquet, don't invite your friends and family and relatives and rich neighbours. If you do, they will invite you in return, and you will be paid back.

When you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind.

They cannot pay you back.

But God will bless you and reward you when his people rise from death."



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Set up:

When Jesus says "I have come to set fire to the world and how I wish it was already on fire." Do you think he meant that literally? Do you think he wanted to start an actual fire? Or do you think he meant something different?

Message:

- When you welcome the children into the space, pay attention to how they respond to it. Some may run right up to it and try to sit in it. Others might be annoyed that they didn't sit in it and start to complain, some kids might not be bothered by it at all.
- To begin with, don't point out the special chair but begin your session as you normally would, you may want to read out the Gospel or part of it.
- Then you can ask the children about the chair. Ask them questions like "Who noticed it right away?" "Who wanted to sit in it?" "Do you think it's fair there isn't a chair like this for everyone?" Respond to their answers.
- In today's gospel we hear about a special chair. In biblical times special chairs were set aside for important people, guests of honour. Some people may take a seat in the chair but it wasn't for them, then when they are told to get out they are left feeling embarrassed. (Ask whoever might be sat in your special chair how they might feel if someone told them that it wasn't for them?)
- The encouragement for today was to not go and find a place of honour and expect to take your place in it, but to be humble, be grateful and that place of honour is given to you.
- When we come around God's table, like we do when we come to Church, we are all given a place of honour. God has a place for each one of us. A place where he wants to invite us so we can be close to him.

Discussion questions:

- How did you feel when you saw the chair?
- What do you think it means to be humble?
- What are ways we can be humble?

