

Year A - 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Matthew 4:17-23

Jesus is my best friend



Background

This simple prayer experience invites each of the children to ask Jesus to be friend and to make a simple commitment to follow Christ together with other friends of Jesus.

You will need

- Prepare the bracelets before the prayer
- Print out the friendship bracelets on the following page in colour or b&w (best printed on card or laminated if you want them to last).
- Punch the holes at either end of the bracelets
- loop string or wool through the holes so that the bracelets can be attached later during the prayer.
- Create a prayer space and place the bracelets in the centre.



Prayer

- Invite the children to make the Sign of the Cross.
- Remind them about how Jesus loves each one of them so much and wants to be their best friend, he calls them to follow him. Jesus doesn't want us to follow him alone, we are called to be friends and disciples WITH others who are following Jesus too so that we can share God's love with everyone!
- Today we have another chance to say 'yes' we want to be friends with Jesus. We also have a chance to say 'yes' to being friends with each other!
- Explain to the children that you will ask some questions and they can say 'I do' to answer each question.
 - Children, do you know that Jesus loves you and wants to be your friend? (I do)
 - Do you love Jesus too (I do)
 - Do you want to be friends with Jesus (I do)
 - Do you want to be friends with others and follow Jesus together (I do)
 - If you said 'I do' to all these questions, come and collect a friendship bracelet when I call your name.
- Invite the children (if they want to), one at a time, to take a friendship bracelet from the prayer space and put it on. Encourage them to help each other do this.
- Once everyone has had a turn, finish your time of prayer with the Our Father

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