



**Children's Liturgy for Home Mission Sunday:
September 21st, 2008. Title: Job for Life!**

You may need (depending on what activity you chose, see page 2):

- Copies of the 4T sheets (separate download) and coloured pens or pencils
- A single bed sheet, a sheet of tarpaulin or lots of newspapers, tubs of poster paint that the children can put their hands in, washing up bowls with soap, towels.

After hearing the readings together, these are some of the points you could draw out with the children:

Draw a parallel between the Gospel and an experience they could imagine. For example, how would they feel at school or nursery if they did all the tidying up, putting all the paint brushes away for example, then their friend came and put one paint brush away – and they both got the same reward?

Ask the children if they think what's happening in the Gospel is fair? Is it right that the workers get paid the same if they've all done different amount of work?

Explain that the owner of the vineyard is representing God. It's not that he's being unfair, because he gives the workers who have worked all day, exactly what they promised. He is just being very generous to the workers who arrived at the end of the day! God doesn't do things like we would imagine – he goes over the top with being generous, and he asks us to do the same!

1st KEY LESSON OF THE DAY: GOD IS GENEROUS!!

Explain: today is Home Mission Sunday, when we remember that God has given each of us a job, and that job is to tell others and show others how much God loves them -our friends at school, our teachers, our families – everyone we meet. This job is called 'evangelism', and we are called to be 'evangelists'.

2ⁿ KEY LESSON: GOD HAS A JOB FOR EACH OF US

Make it relevant for the children by asking them what they could do to complete their mission, and do their job for Jesus as best they can. For example: being kind, helping people, praying for people, smiling at people, etc.



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Suggested Activities:

1) The 4 Ts (This activity may work better with older children)

Using copies of the '4 Ts' sheet, ask the children to think about how they could use their time, talents or treasure (probably pocket money!), to show God's love to others, or how they could tell their friends about God's love. They could draw a picture or write a prayer in each of the boxes (if there's not time to do all of them, you could focus on one box, and suggest they take it home and think about the other boxes).

2) Signing up for the Job (This could work for all ages)

Spread out a single bed sheet on a tarpaulin or lots of newspapers, and have tubs of poster paint ready. You may chose to prepare the sheet by painting 'Job for Life', or another phrase related to the theme of the day, in the centre. You could ask one of the older children to do this.

Explain that when someone asks you to do a job, you have a choice whether you agree to do it or not. As a sign of saying yes to Jesus' invitation to share his love with others, and being happy to take that job, everyone is invited to put their handprint on the banner.

One by one the children can come forward and dip their hands in the tub, or have their hand painted by an adult, before then placing it on the sheet. They can then wash their hands in the bowl.

With careful supervision, this is a great bit of 'messy-play' that creates a great piece of art, and can help build a sense of commitment. The banner could be brought up in the offertory and shown to the congregation, before being laid back on the tarpaulin/ papers.



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Closing Prayer

The following prayer could be copied and shared amongst those who would be able to read it aloud:

All: In the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

Dear Jesus,

Thank you that you love all of us, and that you have a special job for each of us to do.

Help us to use our time, our talents and our treasures, to show people your love.

Help us also to tell others of your great love for them.

Thank you that you are always generous, and that you have special gifts for all of us.

We make this prayer...

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen