



7th Sunday of Easter

John 17: 20–26

"I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

Some things to think about...

In this reading Jesus is praying for His future followers and for the Church, that we may have unity. What does unity mean?
("That they may become perfectly one")

Jesus prayed to God that we would all be one, just like Jesus and God are one. He wants us to love one another so others can see how great God's love is.

Jesus' disciples thought Jesus was going to bring glory by making their country the most powerful. But Jesus teaches us that God has a different plan for the "kingdom of God". What is most important in the Kingdom of God? Power or love?

Activity

With your Mini Vinnies' group, complete the "One big heart" activity.

Materials needed for the activity:

Pieces of paper, coloured pens/pencils, Bible

Teacher's Notes

(You may wish to read a different translation of this reading.)

Throughout Jesus' ministry, many Jews and even some of his disciples seemed to think that His mission was to take over the world; to 'restore'. But Jesus was constantly changing their views of what exactly the 'Kingdom of God' was all about. Jesus presents an idea of the 'Kingdom of God' based on unity and inclusion. He suggests the Kingdom of God is where people care for the least amongst them, look after the sick and visit the lonely. As a Mini Vinnies group, we are called to be Jesus' witnesses to the world.

The aim of the "One big heart" activity is to help the children reflect on unity and love as Jesus prayed for in John 17:20–26, and inspire them to live out their faith by caring for others.

Notes: