

PRAYING *With* CHILDREN

SUNDAY LITURGY



23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

8 September 2024 - Year B

***“He makes the deaf hear
and the dumb speak.”***

Something to Think About

Close your eyes and try to imagine you can hear nothing at all. What does it feel like?

Now imagine not being able to speak or not being understood by others. What might this feel like?

The Story

A man who is deaf and cannot speak is brought to Jesus. Jesus takes him to one side to heal him. He puts his fingers in the man's ears and puts spittle on the man's tongue. This seems a strange action to us but in those days the spittle of an important person was considered to have powers that could cure. All the people were amazed at the wonderful things Jesus did.

The Scriptures

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

7:31-37

Jesus left the region around Tyre and went by way of Sidon toward Lake Galilee. He went through the land near the ten cities known as Decapolis.

Some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk. They begged Jesus just to touch him.

After Jesus had taken him aside from the crowd, he stuck his fingers in the man's ears. Then he spit and put it on the man's tongue.

Jesus looked up toward heaven, and with a groan he said, "Effatha!" which means "Open up!"

At once the man could hear, and he had no more trouble talking clearly.

Jesus told the people not to say anything about what he had done. But the more he told them, the more they talked about it.

They were completely amazed and said, "Everything he does is good!

He even heals people who cannot hear or talk."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Video

Click to watch the video: [Be Opened!](#)



Group Discussion

Invite children to close their eyes, and become very still and quiet in order to listen carefully to all the surrounding sounds.

Ask children to think about their favourite sounds. What are they? Why is it so good to hear these sounds? Whose voice do they like to hear?

Praying For Others

Leader: Let us pray now for the leaders of our Church, our world, for those in our community and for our own needs.

Reader 1: We pray for people who cannot hear. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader 2: We pray that we will always be grateful for the gift of hearing. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader 3: We pray that our ears will be open to hear God's voice. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader 4: We pray that we will use our voices to tell others about Jesus. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader 5: We pray for all those who need God's healing. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Invite the children to pray for their own special intentions.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Leader: Loving God, listen to the prayers we make in the name of Jesus.

All: Amen.

Prayer



Dear Jesus,
Thank you for the gift of hearing.
Help us to hear what you are saying
to us and to speak about the
wonderful things you have done.
Amen.

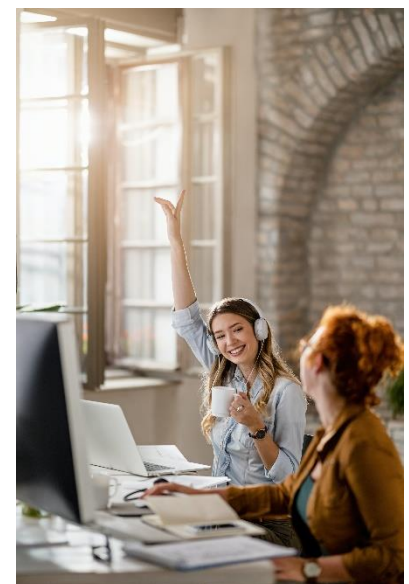
Group Activity

MY LISTENING EARS

You will need: ears template for each child printed on cardboard, cardboard strips for headbands, scissors, stapler coloured markers or colouring pencils

In today's story, Jesus opened the man's ears so that he could hear. We need to make sure our ears are open to listen to Jesus too.

1. Children can decorate the 'ears' and the 'headbands' with coloured markers. (Alternatively, you may like to print the templates on coloured card and use a different colour for the headbands.)
2. Staple the cardboard strip to fit around the child's head.
3. Staple the ears onto the headband.
4. As children wear their headbands, reflect on the importance of keeping our ears open to listen to Jesus.



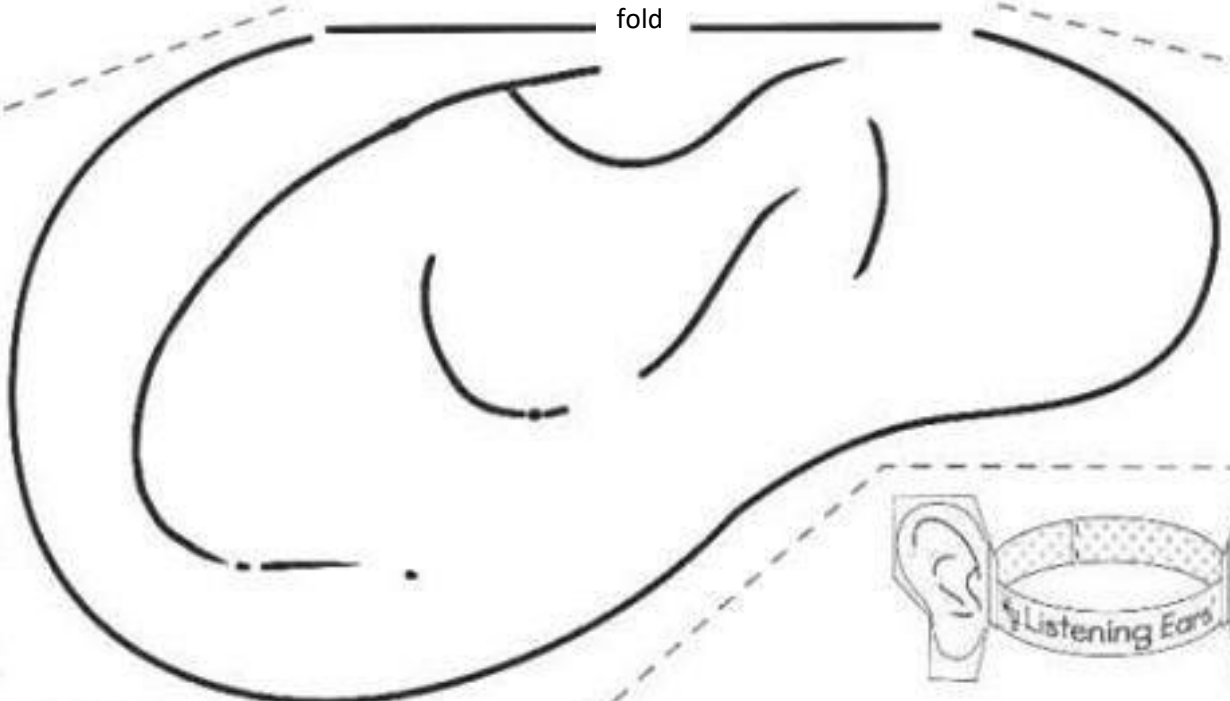
MY LISTENING EARS

Ears Headband

Decorate ear pieces and sentence strip. Cut along dotted lines. Attach the pieces to a paper headband using the illustration to help you.



fold



fold



**JESUS TOUCHED THE MAN'S
EARS AND HE COULD HEAR.
'EFFATHAI' ('OPEN UP!')**

LISTEN!



**WHAT MUSIC DO YOU LIKE
TO LISTEN TO?**

**WHAT IS THE NICEST THING
SOMEONE HAS EVER SAID
TO YOU?**

**WITH YOUR FRIENDS, DO
YOU FIND IT EASIER TO
TALK OR LISTEN?**

**TELL THE STORY OF A TIME
YOU LISTENED WHEN MUM
OR DAD ASKED YOU TO DO
SOMETHING...**
