

SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR: Proper 21B

Please refer to Guidelines for Children's Addresses in Worship document produced by the LCA Department of Liturgics and Grow Ministries - download guidelines [here](#).



MAIN POINT

Being the salt of the earth

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again? Have salt among yourselves, and be at peace with each other. Mark 9:50

AIDS

A packet of flavoured rice crackers, a clear bowl or glass of water.

ADDRESS

I have some crackers here. I'd like to share them with you, if that's ok with your parents? I've tested them and they do taste VERY GOOD. But, I was reading a report on certain things in our diet that are unhealthy for us. It says that added salt is bad for you. So, I have an idea!

What if I remove the extra salt so it is better for you? *Dunk the biscuit in the water.* That should work. Ok, who wants a cracker? I've made it healthier!

Hmmm. It doesn't look very nice now does it? I guess removing the flavour wasn't such a good idea! I should really put it back. *Try to put the flavour back.* Oh dear! I don't think I can! It seems that once I remove the flavour, I can't put it back again!

The Bible reading today talks about salt too. Jesus is telling his disciples that salt is good for seasoning. But if it loses its flavour, how do you make it salty again? He wasn't actually talking about salt, but rather the seasoning of people.

Each one of us are given different gifts from God. We could call that our 'seasoning'. Seasoning is the thing that makes us special – just like these crackers have their own seasoning. Your special seasoning or gift might be kindness or it might be helping other people. Sometimes we could look at other people's gifts and be jealous or even angry at the way they are using them. This even happened with Jesus' disciples who were angry that some people were using their gifts from God in the wrong way. But Jesus wants us to encourage them instead! He wants us to help them use their gifts so everyone can see how amazing God is and get to know him. I wonder what your special seasoning might be?

PRAYER

Dear God, thank you for seasoning, for the things that make us special. Help us to love one another and encourage each other to use our gifts so that all people can know you and worship you. Amen.

You may wish to hand out *Growing Faith at Home, Worship Notes* or another resource before the children return to their seats.

For more information about Grow Ministries and other resources for ministry to children, young people and their families, please contact:

e: growministries@lca.org.au p: (08) 8267 7300 www.growministries.org.au

