

Read

Isaiah 66:10-14c

Psalms 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7,
16, 20

Galatians 6:14-18

Luke 10:1-12, 17-20 or
10:1-9

LIVING THE WORD

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 3, 2022



REFLECTION

We all know the adrenaline rush that comes when the teacher says, "All right everyone, it's time to partner up!" Immediately, our eyes dart around the room hoping to connect with a friend. We may not even know the assignment yet, but we know this much: it's always better to be together.

Jesus encourages his disciples to pair up in today's Gospel. He sends them out two-by-two to bring peace to all they encounter. A shrewd man, Jesus knew the concept of safety in numbers—and knew the disciples would run into resistance. Peace is not always very popular. People like their walls, their protection, even their violence if it means maintaining the status quo. It's risky to promote peace. And yet, Jesus says peace is the only way. The kingdom of God is justice and peace. We need to start living as such.

So Jesus sends his disciples out together. He believes wholeheartedly in the power of community to tackle any barriers. He knows the only way we can survive and thrive is by doing so together, guided by a common mission.

ACTION

Next time you're prompted to pair up with someone for a class assignment or sports drill, try meeting up with someone outside your normal social circle. Is there someone sitting on the sidelines who doesn't often get picked? Or are there people who get left alone and bullied? Promoting peace starts with small steps in our daily lives. Jesus stood with the outcast. We can do the same.



Have you ever considered short or long term mission work? Check out <https://catholicvolunteernet.org/>

QUESTIONS

- ❖ What do today's readings teach you about the Christian life?
- ❖ If Jesus were to pair you with anyone in the world to promote the Gospel, who would you hope to be paired with? Why?
- ❖ How do you promote peace in your community?



FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

LECTIONARY #102C

Isaiah 66:10-14c

Psalm 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20

Galatians 6:14-18

Luke 10:1-12, 17-20 or 10:1-9

Prepare for the Word

The following elements may be used by the catechist, teacher, or youth minister to prepare to facilitate today's session with teens. You may integrate this information into the reflection and discussion on today's readings.

Leader's Context

In today's Gospel, Jesus sends out seventy-two of his followers to prepare the way for him and to spread the Good News in anticipation of his visit. This becomes the foundation for our universal call to evangelize and teach the Gospel. In the reading, Jesus does not make things easy for his followers. He tells them to leave behind provisions, and instead to rely on the generosity of strangers. But he gives no guarantee that they will encounter welcome; in fact, he gives them instructions as to what to do if they are not welcomed. And despite knowing that they will not all encounter peace, he still sends them out to proclaim the Good News. Jesus strengthens them and guides them on their journey.

Q FOCUS: *Jesus commissions each of us to go out and spread the Good News.*

Liturgical Calendar Connection

This week the United States celebrates Independence Day on July 4. You may notice that patriotic hymns are sung in church this weekend or next. Although this is not a liturgical memorial (as we would celebrate the lives of the saints), it is an important illustration of the connection between the liturgy and our lives. Our faith is never practiced in a vacuum—we are always called to live it out in our daily lives. The priest may include special prayers for the nation and its people during this liturgy.

Church Teaching Connection

"Although the obligation of spreading the faith falls individually on every disciple of Christ, still the Lord Christ has always called from the number of his disciples those whom he has chosen, that they might be with him, so that he might send them to preach to the nations (see Mk 3:13ff.). So the holy Spirit, who shares his gifts as he wills for the common good (see 1 Cor 12:11), implants in the hearts of individuals a missionary vocation. . . . Those people who are endowed with the proper natural temperament, have the necessary qualities and outlook, and are ready to undertake missionary work, have a special vocation, whether they are natives of the place or foreigners, priests, religious or lay people" (*Ad gentes*, 23).

Hear the Word

Use this resource, a lectionary, or a Bible to proclaim the reading. The book should be held reverently or placed on a lectern. If possible, light a candle that is placed near where the Gospel will be proclaimed. Gesture for teens to stand.

Gospel Acclamation

Use the same musical setting that is used in your parish or at school Masses. Teens may help with music and proclaim the Gospel.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 10:1-12, 17-20

Reader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

All make the sign of the cross on their forehead, lips, and heart.

At that time the Lord appointed seventy-two others whom he sent ahead of him in pairs to every town and place he intended to visit. He said to them, "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest. Go on your way; behold, I am sending you like lambs among wolves. Carry no money bag, no sack, no sandals; and greet no one along the way.

Into whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this household.' If a peaceful person lives there, your peace will rest on him; but if not, it will return to you. Stay in the same house and eat and drink what is offered to you, for the laborer deserves his payment. Do not move about from one house to another. Whatever town you enter and they welcome you, eat what is set before you, cure the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God is at hand for you.' Whatever town you enter and they do not receive you, go out into the streets and say, 'The dust of your town that clings to our feet, even that we shake off against you.' Yet know this: the kingdom of God is at hand. I tell you, it will be more tolerable for Sodom on that day than for that town."

The seventy-two returned rejoicing, and said, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us because of your name." Jesus said, "I have observed Satan fall like lightning from the sky. Behold, I have given you the power to 'tread upon serpents' and scorpions and upon the full force of the enemy and nothing will harm you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice because the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice because your names are written in heaven."

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Everyone may be seated.

Reflect on the Word

When beginning the reflection and discussion about today's readings, first refer to the handout for today. Ask teens what they learned about themselves and about Christian discipleship from performing the action for the week and journaling. Ask teens about the readings of the day: What struck them? What do they think the readings mean? How do the readings affect their own lives? Then begin the following reflection:

Today's Gospel gives us a more clear-cut, and maybe less stressful, understanding of what is expected of disciples when compared to last week's reading (which included several different sayings about how disciples should behave). In today's Gospel, Jesus sends out seventy-two of his disciples to various towns in order to spread the Good News. First of all, this is an interesting reading because we hear about more than just the twelve apostles.

► **Presuming that the twelve are included in these seventy-two, who are the others? Why aren't they mentioned in other Gospel stories?**

Although we don't know who these people were, we know that Jesus chose them himself for this mission. The road of discipleship is not easy. Much like last week's reading, Jesus does put some rather strict conditions on his followers. He tells them that they should journey without any bag or food, no sandals. He is essentially telling them that they are completely at the mercy of strangers wherever they go. In this way, we see an echo of his warning in last week's Gospel about discipleship being a role without stability. We will be asked to go wherever Jesus calls us to share his Gospel.

► **How would you feel if you were instructed to go to a new place, and to rely on the kindness of strangers for food and lodging?**

Even in today's world with smart phones and Ubers and hotels, that could be scary. Imagine doing that in a time where there were no phones, no cars. Most people did not stay as guests at inns; more often they would stay in the home of somebody who they knew or who was introduced to them. This was a time when travelers were vulnerable, and yet Jesus instructs his followers to take nothing to make their journey safer. He really asks them to put everything on the line. But they receive great power because of their trust in him. They are able to bring God's peace to a household.

This wish of peace was not simply a goodwill gesture or saying, but a genuine blessing which was perceivable in some way. They also found that they had the power to drive out demons in Jesus' name. Upon hearing of this, Jesus reminds them that their goal is not to do great works in order to be praised or rewarded, but rather to seek the reward of heaven.

In connecting this passage to our lives, we should take away one very important understanding. We have to recognize that following Christ is not always easy. In a time when it is often the case that our faith disagrees with the norms of our society, we have to know that sometimes choosing what is right also means choosing what is difficult.

► **Put yourself in the place of these disciples. If Jesus asked this of you, would you be willing to go**

out and put yourself in danger in order to spread the Gospel? What are some challenges that someone might face today in this scenario?

Wrapping It Up

Consider these points to conclude the discussion and reflection. Integrate the thoughts and ideas that surfaced during the discussion as well as the "Church Teaching Connection" on page 218.

The path of discipleship is not an easy one. It may require us to give up things that we depend on.

Our good works are not just simple platitudes, but capable of being genuine blessings in other's lives.

A challenge of our discipleship is to do God's work without any desire for recognition or reward.

Act on the Word

Hearing Scripture with an Open Heart

The practice of *lectio divina* (meaning "divine reading") is a contemplative prayer practice that provides a space for us to be more open to God's presence and to receive his Word in new ways. It is an ancient prayer practice often used in monastic life by monks and nuns, but it is a way of praying that anyone can use. The following is a variation on the traditional *lectio divina* practice that is suited for groups of people rather than personal prayer.

Have the young people spend a few moments in silence, getting ready to enter into this time of prayer and reflection. They may spread out or go to their prayer spaces if you have such locations in your gathering space. Then instruct the teens to listen closely as you read today's Gospel passage aloud,

paying attention to any words or phrases that stand out to them. After you have read the passage aloud and allowed for a few silent moments of reflection, invite the young people to share a word, phrase, or image that remains on their hearts from today's reading. Read the Gospel aloud a second time. After more silence, invite the teens to expand on their word, phrase, or image. Why has God placed this on their heart today? Read the Gospel for a third and final time. After some moments of silence, ask each teen to share (with the whole group or with a neighbor) how is God calling them live differently this week? What has God opened up through today's Word?

End by inviting students to share intercessory prayers before praying today's closing prayer

Closing Prayer

Almighty God,
you send us out to proclaim the Gospel to
all people
armed only with your love for us
and the community formed as your
daughters and sons.

Give us what we need to make visible
your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity
of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

For Next Sunday

To help teens prepare for next Sunday's Mass, print, email, or share on a blog or social media the handout found on the next page. The JPG and PDF files are available at www.Itp.org/lwgr. Encourage teens to attend Mass with family or friends.