

Read

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

LIVING THE WORD

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 7, 2019



REFLECTION

It is time to roll up our sleeves and get to work! In today's reading, the Gospel according to Luke reports Jesus' pep talk to the disciples and the additional seventy-two who are now joining ranks. He says, "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few" (Luke 10:2). Jesus does not care about the age or status of those he is recruiting to spread the Good News. He just wants hard workers who will not back down as they face obstacles along the way, especially rejection. Jesus keeps the pep talk going as he encourages the followers to bring peace to the house they enter on their journey. Evangelizing with peace was an important concept to convey as there was sure to be opposition and strife in their efforts. However, even in the face of adversity, "the seventy-two returned rejoicing" (Luke 10:17). As people of God, how are we laboring for Jesus?



ACTION

Visit a u-pick farm this week. Help with the harvest of berries or lettuce or whatever is in season. Consider sharing a percentage of your harvest with a local food bank. Many food banks receive fruits and vegetables that big box stores will not put out because they have some kind of deformity, bruise, or are even past their prime and might even be moldy. Imagine the joy you could contribute to a group of people this week because of the bounty you picked and shared with them. In this way, you will be spreading God's love abundantly!

Find a u-pick farm near you!



www.upickfarmlocator.com/

? QUESTIONS

- ❖ What do today's readings teach you about the Christian life?
- ❖ Do you see yourself as one of the seventy-two? Why or why not?
- ❖ How might you help labor for Jesus this week?



July 7, 2019

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

During these summer days, as we have a bit of time off from school and work, our liturgical focus this Sunday centers on some of the aspects of Christian discipleship. We hear the Gospel story of seventy-two disciples who were sent forth by Jesus to spread his message ahead of his arrival in various towns that he planned to visit. It was an urgent mission that required these missionaries to travel lightly and spread the message of the nearness of the Kingdom of God.

Q FOCUS: *Go forth and share the Good News of the Kingdom of God.*

Liturgical Calendar Connection

During these summer days, we have the opportunity to celebrate saints who, in their own lives, lived the Gospel call and shared it with others. On Tuesday of this week, we celebrate the optional memorial of the Chinese martyrs Augustine Zhao Rong and Companions. The 120 martyrs honored on this day died between 1648 and 1930 and were all canonized on October 1, 2000, by Pope John Paul II.

Church Teaching Connection

"The special undertakings in which preachers of the gospel, sent by the church, and going into the whole world, carry out the work of preaching the

gospel and implanting the church among people who do not yet believe in Christ, are generally called 'missions.' Such undertakings are accomplished by missionary activity and are . . . carried out in defined territories. . . . The special end of this missionary activity is the evangelization and the implanting of the church among peoples or groups in which it has not yet taken root" (*Ad gentes*, 6).

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 10:1-9

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."

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:

► **Have you ever been entrusted with a really important job? What were you asked to do? How were you asked to do this job?**

Throughout the Gospel accounts, we hear of Jesus entrusting his followers with important responsibilities. In today's reading, which comes to us from Luke, we hear that Jesus sends a total of seventy-two disciples on an important mission. They are sent forth in pairs, two by two, to go to every location that he was planning on visiting.

► **Why did Jesus send the disciples in pairs?**

We see Jesus using this tactic quite often. Having the disciples go out in pairs allows them to work together to do the work that Jesus wanted them to do. It also gave them some additional credibility in spreading his message. This practice of sending in pairs is a practice that is still continued in many religious communities to this day.

► **What have been your experiences of working with another person on a school project?**

► **How did these experiences compare with just doing a school project on your own?**

The seventy-two being sent forth ahead of Jesus gave them the opportunity to search out the locations where he was heading to help in preparing the people there for Jesus' arrival. Jesus was very deliberate in sending out his disciples in pairs. In doing

so, they were amongst the few laborers being sent out by the master to work on the harvest.

► **Why would Jesus offer the image of the workers being sent out by the master to work on the harvest?**

This is an image that would have been very familiar to his followers in their day. The disciples are sent out to diligently help the harvest come to full fruition. But along the way, they will certainly face some challenges; Jesus even goes so far as to say that they will be like lambs being sent among wolves.

► **What happens when lambs are sent among wolves?**

They are, most likely, eaten. At a minimum, the disciples were to face some steep challenges in their mission.

► **What are some of the challenges that you think the seventy-two disciples would have faced in their day?**

► **What are some challenges that Christians face today in attempting to spread the Word of God?**

These followers are to travel lightly, carrying essentially nothing that they would need for their travels. The only things that Jesus sends with them as they head out on their journey are words of advice. When they engage a new household, they are to offer peace to all who live there.

► **Why is it important to offer peace to those whom the disciples encounter?**

Peace is at the bedrock of Jesus' message that his disciples are to share. If a household receives it, it shall rest there; if peace is not received, it returns to the missionaries and one can assume they moved on their way. When a peaceful household receives them, the disciples are to remain at this household, accepting hospitality, sharing the Good News, and healing the sick. In remaining at one house, they can set up a home base from which to focus their mission of working for the Kingdom.

► **Why do you think that Jesus instructed the disciples to not move from one house to another when they reached a peaceful household?**

If they themselves can be at peace in remaining in one place, even after they rushed to get there, they can focus their efforts to fully harvesting the good in that place.

► How can you work for sharing the Kingdom of God in the place where you are rooted (at school, home, work, after-school activities)?

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 230.

Missionary activity involves being sent forth to share the Gospel message.

Focusing this missionary activity on a specific area can lead to a planting of the Church where it had not been present before.

This missionary planting of the Church helps the harvest to be even more abundantly fruitful.

Act on the Word

Two by Two

You will need Bibles, paper, and pens or pencils to do this activity.

Have teens form teams of two. Explain to them that they are going to have the chance to prepare to be a missionary for Christ. Give each pair a Bible to consult and use in embarking on their missionary activity. Invite teens to go find other stories, teachings, and miracles in the Gospel accounts that they can use to spread the Good News of Jesus to others. While searching through the Gospel accounts, have them write down passages about Jesus that are important to share with others. Then, have each pair of teens present to the entire group and share the Good News of Jesus—who Jesus is and what he did and taught during the years of his public ministry. Encourage teens to approach their presentations as though they are speaking to people who know nothing about Jesus. Invite them to be

creative; they could even include role-play skits about some of the things that Jesus did in his lifetime. When all pairs of teens have finished their presentations, ask this question to spark a wrap-up discussion (*teens should think through the lens of the first disciples*):

► What would it have been like to hear someone share this Good News for the first time?

Connect with the Evangelizers

Before embarking on this activity, find out who is involved in an evangelization ministry within your parish, school, or diocese. These could be volunteers in the community, staff members, or members of the clergy. Schedule a time for these evangelizers to come and share with your youth about their experiences in evangelization. Ask them to share how they became involved in their ministry and invite them to give examples of real-life challenges and rewards that they have experienced when they have shared the Gospel message with others. Encourage the teens to engage with your guest speaker(s) through questions that they are curious about. Ask the evangelization ministers to share with your youth as to how they can become involved in a structured experience of evangelization.

Closing Prayer

*Loving God,
you are generous in all things,
and you provide for our journey.
Let us be your disciples in today's world
and share the Good News of the Gospel to
everyone we meet.
Through Christ our Lord.
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.ltp.org/lwgr. Encourage teens to attend Mass with family or friends.