



August 7, 2022

# NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## LECTIONARY #117C

Wisdom 18:6-9

Psalm 33:1, 12, 18-19, 20-22

Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19 or 11:1-2, 8-12

Luke 12:32-48 or 12:35-40

## 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. The handout for this Sunday's session is found online. Visit [www.ltp.org/lwgr](http://www.ltp.org/lwgr) to access the PDF and JPG files. Send to teens by email or upload to social media before gathering for today's session.

## Leader's Context

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus tells a parable of servants awaiting the arrival of their master. It belongs to a greater set of parables about the end times. Wedding feasts were large affairs that usually took more than a few days. Without modern communication tools, it would be impossible for the servants to know when their master would arrive. Their anticipation of this arrival, while still diligently working, is the mirror experience of the Christian who awaits the coming of Christ while still living in the world. The young people are encouraged to think about how they can intentionally live out their faith today.

**Q FOCUS:** *The best way to be prepared for the coming of Christ is to live each day as if Christ has come.*

## Liturgical Calendar Connection

This Sunday comes right after the feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord (August 6) and is right before the feasts of St. Dominic (8) and St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (9). The Transfiguration and these saints tie in nicely with a the sense of being prepared and awaiting the coming of Christ that we hear about in today's Gospel. The apostles who experienced the Transfiguration were very surprised

by what they witnessed on the mountaintop, but it helped to prepare them for Christ's resurrection. St. Dominic and St. Teresa are wonderful examples of saints who changed their lives to follow Christ in all things.

## Church Teaching Connection

"Jesus recommends we not await him with idle hands: 'Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes' (Lk 12:37). There is no peacemaker who at the end of the day has not compromised his personal peace, taking on the problems of others. A submissive person is not a peace builder but is an idler, one who wants to be comfortable. Meanwhile a Christian is a peacemaker when he takes risks, when he has the courage to take risks in order to bring good, the good which Jesus has given us, given us as a treasure" (Pope Francis, General Audience, October 11, 2017).

## 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 12:35-40

**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.

Jesus said to his disciples: "Gird your loins and light your lamps and be like servants who await their master's return from a wedding, ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks. Blessed are



those servants whom the master finds vigilant on his arrival. Amen, I say to you, he will gird himself, have them recline at table, and proceed to wait on them. And should he come in the second or third watch and find them prepared in this way, blessed are those servants. "Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour when the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. "You also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."

**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:*

► **How many of you have ever had your teacher give you a pop quiz?**

Teachers have long used that tricky tool to check if students have been paying attention. It happens all the time. The teacher, observing the class, waits for the right moment, the time when it seems no one is paying attention and unleashes the trap. Stress and horror commences for all those who were not paying attention, goofing off, or allowed their mind to wander. But for the student who has been tracking the teacher, the pop quiz is just another thing they are prepared to handle.

► **Have you ever been caught unprepared for a pop quiz? What did it feel like to be caught unprepared?**

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells a parable that can be seen as a type of pop quiz for the servants. The master of a great house is away at a wedding. The servants, whose job is to take care of the house, are going about

their business while keeping one eye open for their master's return.

He also compares this waiting, watching, and being prepared to knowing when a thief would strike. Jesus shows that if you are prepared and vigilant you are ready for anything. If a thief comes as an unexpected surprise, it could mean disaster.

In the first part of the Gospel, we see the reward of being prepared. Those servants are served by the master himself and are called blessed. In the second part of the Gospel passage, there is also a warning and consequence. The master must be prepared at all times for a thief or his house will be robbed.

► **Over the past few months, what are some ways in which you have been paying attention to your faith life?**

Though you might be studious in your classes and are prepared for any pop quiz, how does this translate into your faith life? The parables we hear today invite us to live with intentional faith. We are not called to be lukewarm Christians who happen to go to church. Instead, our baptism calls us to think, act, and speak in ways that demonstrate our faith in Christ.

The servants who diligently worked and kept an eye out for the master were not worried about his sudden appearance. The students who pay attention in class and do their work are not worried about a pop quiz. The Christians who live their faith intentionally are not worried about encountering Jesus unexpectedly. Instead, these encounters become moments of expectant joy.

► **What are some concrete ways young people your age can intentionally live their faith? What might these look like in the parish setting, in the family setting, or in the school setting?**

Personal or communal prayer, liturgical participation, and acts of service are just some of the ways that we can build up our relationship with God in our daily lives. Instead of trying to do everything at once, we should begin by incorporating one or two things into our daily routines. Look for opportunities to add faith elements to what you already do on a day to day basis.



## 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 2.

**Christ will come at the end of time, but we also encounter him on a daily basis in those who are in need.**

**It is never too early to prepare for Christ's coming by living out our Catholic faith every day.**

**Faith is not about getting the test answers right, but rather, doing our best to live as Christ taught us. We can do this in small, concrete ways in our daily lives.**

## Act on the Word

### Scripture Scavenger Hunt

For this activity, you will need enough Bibles for each teen or each group of teens. The Bibles will need to have a concordance in them for the teens to use to accomplish the scavenger hunt. You will also need a list of topics; you can use the one included in this activity or create your own from looking in the concordance.

Share with the young people that the goal of this activity is to help them become more familiar with the Word of God, which prepares them for their life of faith. Scripture is living; it speaks to us in our time because it is the inspired Word of God.

If there are enough young people, divide them into teams of no more than three people. Each team will need a Bible. Once the teams have a Bible, show them where the concordance is and how it is used. Typically, this is found in the back of the Bible. It lists, in alphabetical order, significant names and topics that can be found throughout Scripture. Each topic will have a list of citations where passages can be found that deal with that topic or person. This is a great tool for young people to use in their daily prayer as well, if they are reflecting on or struggling with a particular area of faith.

In addition to the Bibles, give each team a list of topics to search for (see below). These could also be written on the board. For each topic, the teams will need to choose one Scripture passage that they think will help them be prepared to encounter Christ. Give the teams five to ten minutes to complete this activity, depending on the length of your list.

Topics to search for:

- \* Faith
- \* Trust
- \* Hope
- \* Love
- \* Disciple
- \* Courage

Once time is up, have the teams share the verses they found. If there is time, create a list of these verses so that the young people can copy it and use it in their prayer life.

### Closing Prayer

*Inspired by your Word, O God,  
we travel onward as pilgrims keeping  
our lamps lit.*

*Encourage us to live with hearts  
that seek you  
so that we will be ready for your coming.*

*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.lwgr.org](http://www.lwgr.org). Encourage teens to attend Mass with family or friends.