



June 20, 2021

TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

LECTIONARY #95B

Job 38:1, 8-11

Psalms 107:23-24, 25-26, 28-29, 30-31

2 Corinthians 5:14-17

Mark 4:35-41

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

Jesus, who was awakened from peaceful slumber while a storm roared around him, spoke to the wind and rain. Commanding it to stop, he ended the hazardous storm, clearly demonstrating his divine control over creation. This man, who looked like any other man, and who is indeed fully human, performed a heroic and miraculous act that unmistakably revealed his divine nature. The seas and wind obeyed Jesus' command and ceased churning. We, too, are called to follow Jesus, but unlike the wind and the seas, we are called to use our free will to conform ourselves to his commands. We make the conscious and active choice every day to follow the Lord.

Q FOCUS: *Jesus is Lord of all creation.*

Liturgical Calendar Connection

We celebrate the Solemnity of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist on June 24. We remember John the Baptist's birth (nativity) because he prepared the way for the coming of the Messiah. By helping people recognize their sinfulness and need of a savior, John lived his entire life as a sign of the coming Christ.

Church Teaching Connection

"The writings of the prophets invite us to find renewed strength in times of trial by contemplating the all-powerful God who created the universe. Yet God's infinite power does not lead us to flee his fatherly tenderness, because in him affection and strength are joined. Indeed, all sound spirituality entails both welcoming divine love and adoration, confident in the Lord because of his infinite power. In the Bible, the God who liberates and saves is the same God who created the universe, and these two divine ways of acting are intimately and inseparably connected" (*Laudato si'*, 73).

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

Mark 4:35-41

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

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

All make the Sign of the Cross on their forehead, lips, and heart.

On that day, as evening drew on, Jesus said to his disciples: "Let us cross to the other side." Leaving the crowd, they took Jesus with them in the boat just as he was. And other boats were with him. A violent squall came up and waves were breaking over the boat, so that it was already filling up. Jesus was in the stern, asleep on a cushion. They woke him and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are

Read

Job 38:1, 8-11

Psalm 107:23-24, 25-26,
28-29, 30-31

2 Corinthians 5:14-17

Mark 4:35-41

LIVING THE WORD

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

June 20, 2021



REFLECTION

The storms of our lives can be violent. The struggles can threaten to overwhelm us. In today's Gospel, Jesus is in the boat with disciples who have witnessed his miracles, absorbed his teachings, and responded to the call to come and follow him. They do believe, they do have faith, and yet in the midst of this violent squall, these experienced, professional fishermen fear for their lives. When we feel threatened and beaten by the storm, it is tempting to think that God is asleep on the job . . . or worse, that God doesn't care. But Jesus is there, and with the astounding power, he calms the chaos. Time and again, the Gospel of Mark presents disciples who believe, but are afraid or confused. They believe, but The "but," the core of fear, is a lack of trust in God. Have faith. Trust. Believe, even if—especially if—you're suffering. Despite how violent the storm seems, Jesus remains in control.



ACTION

This week, deepen your trust in God. When you find yourself saying, "I believe, but . . .," pray the words of another struggling disciple that we meet later in the Gospel of Mark: "I do believe, help my unbelief!" (Mark 9:24). Remember that Christ dwells within your heart. In your day-to-day activities, think of temptations as the winds and what troubles you as the waves. If temptations and troubles rock your boat, cry out to Christ, just as the disciples in the boat did.

🎵 "Eye of the Storm"

— Ryan Stevenson

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IYy1f6VjDHU>



❓ QUESTIONS

- ❖ What do today's readings teach you about the Christian life?
- ❖ What storms are you facing? How do fear and confusion factor into your struggles?
- ❖ What are some ways that you can ask Jesus for help?

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 210.

The Kingdom of God begins as something small, but grows into something great, just like a tiny seed grows into a larger plant.

We are called to serve God's Kingdom in all our activities.

All Christians are members of the Kingdom of God and work to build it up.

Act on the Word

Serving God's Kingdom

You will invite several visitors to your session so that they can share stories of their vocations with the teens. You will also need pamphlets or other resources on different types of vocations to give to the young people.

Contact parish members who would be interested in talking to a group of teens about vocations. Find a married couple who can talk about the vocation of marriage and ask a parish priest to discuss his vocation as well. Finding religious brothers, sisters, friars, or nuns may be a more difficult task. Ask your parish priest if he knows of any in the area. Many students may not know about these vocation possibilities, so it is good to give them an opportunity to learn about them.

Ask each person to give a brief description of what their vocation entails; the young people may be surprised about vows of obedience and stability, or they may have untrue assumptions about religious life or the Church's view on marriage. Give the teens a chance to ask questions of the adults gathered. If they need help starting the conversation, use the questions listed here:

- ✧ When did you realize your call to your vocation?
- ✧ Did you consider other vocations before making vows to your vocation?
- ✧ How do you use your vocation to help build up the Kingdom of God?
- ✧ What are the biggest challenges you face in your vocation?
- ✧ Do you or others in your vocation ever face danger?
- ✧ Do you ever feel tired of your vocation, and how do you combat that feeling?

Conclude the discussion by sharing resources with the teens to learn more about each vocation. Most religious orders have information that they freely share with parishes for young people who are interested in their order. Diocesan offices or even your parish office will have resources on marriage and the priesthood. Emphasize that all vocations have value and are honorable and good. God calls us to certain ways of life, and through them we can share the Gospel with other people.

Closing Prayer

*Lord of all creation,
your loving providence provides for the growth
of the Kingdom.*

*Tend to us in your kindness,
and water the seed of life with the truth
of the Gospel.*

*Open our hearts to perceive the mysterious ways
in which your will is active and alive in
our world.*

We ask this 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.

He said, "To what shall we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable can we use for it? It is like a mustard seed that, when it is sown in the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on the earth. But once it is sown, it springs up and becomes the largest of plants and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the sky can dwell in its shade." With many such parables he spoke the word to them as they were able to understand it. Without parables he did not speak to them, but to his own disciples he explained everything in private.

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:

Imagine an enormous tree—you can see it across a grassy field. Lie down under that tree and look up. Sunlight filters down through the bright green leaves. You can see the silvery green leaves closest to you clearly, but as your gaze travels upward, you realize that the leaves at the top of the tree are indistinct, because they are so high above you. Your gaze travels to the outside of edges of the tree's silhouette, and you realize how far from the sturdy trunk the outer branches and leaves are situated. Running your hand on the ground, you find a helicopter seed pod. It's the seed of a maple tree. Holding that seed in your hand, you are amazed that the Lord created the universe out of nothing, and that this tiny seed

contains all of what is needed for a massive silver maple to grow out of the soil.

► **What thoughts do you have about holding a seed in your hand?**

The analogy of a seed and the Kingdom of God is used in the Gospel reading today. In Jesus' time and place in history, the mustard seed and plant would have been well known to the people. People then would have understood how miniscule a mustard seed's size is, and how large and bushy the mustard plant can become. The miracle of the mustard plant is like the miracle of a mature maple tree—something so large can come from something so tiny, and that the tiny seed has the potential to become something so great.

► **What else comes from something tiny, but grows into something substantial? How have you seen a seed, figuratively or literally, spring forth in your life experience?**

This is the Kingdom of God, in analogy. Jesus came to earth, and his salvific mission was accomplished. He planted the seed on earth, and through tending of the seed by sharing God's word and love, the Kingdom of God is springing forth. The branches of the Kingdom of God reach upward and outward, spreading throughout the whole world. We are meant to tend this beautiful plant, nourish it, and help it grow. You are the next generation of God's Kingdom and are called to tend the seed Jesus planted.

► **What is your role in the Kingdom of God as a teenager?**

► **How do you serve God's Kingdom at church, at home, and at school?**

► **How might you serve God in the future?**