



July 11, 2021

# FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## LECTIONARY #104B

Amos 7:12-15

Psalm 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14

Ephesians 1:3-14 or 1:3-10

Mark 6:7-13

## 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

Each of us is called to evangelize, that is, called to bring the Good News of Christ to others. We are all called to bring the love of Christ to those around us. The disciples were sent forth in groups of two with only walking sticks and the clothes they wore; they were to depend on one another and on others' charity as they sought food and shelter. This allowed them to focus on the mission, the Good News, rather than the trappings of the world that often cloud our vision. As we too go forth, we recall that the disciples were not given complicated instructions, and that we, too, are capable of living out Christ's message for others.

**Q FOCUS:** *We are called to evangelize.*

### Liturgical Calendar Connection

This week on July 14, the Church remembers St. Kateri Tekakwitha, a seventeenth-century Native American woman who lived a short life that impacted many people. Although her mother was Christian, St. Kateri was orphaned as a young child and her uncle who took her in did not approve of the Catholic missionaries. Despite this disapproval, St. Kateri became a Christian and then bravely made a two-hundred-mile journey to a safer community. Despite these challenges, she remained steadfast in her faith and prayed for the conversion of others.

### Church Teaching Connection

"It is the special vocation of the laity to seek the kingdom of God by engaging in temporal affairs and directing them according to God's will. They live in the world, in each and every one of the world's occupations and callings and in the ordinary circumstances of social and family life which, as it were, form the context of their existence. There they are called by God to contribute to the sanctification of the world from within, like leaven, in the spirit to the Gospel, by fulfilling their own particular duties. Thus, especially by the witness of their life, resplendent in faith, hope and charity they manifest Christ to others" (*Lumen gentium*, 31).

## 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 6:7-13

**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.*

Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over unclean spirits. He instructed them to take nothing for the journey but a walking stick—no food, no sack, no money in their belts. They were, however, to wear sandals but not a second tunic. He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave. Whatever place does not welcome you or listen to you, leave there and shake the dust off your feet

# Read

Amos 7:12-15

Psalm 85:9-10, 11-12,  
13-14

Ephesians 1:3-14 or 1:3-10

Mark 6:7-13

## LIVING THE WORD

### Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 11, 2021



#### REFLECTION

As Jesus sent the Apostles out to bring his message of repentance and healing to the world, he said to “shake the dust off your feet” when encountering someone who isn’t receptive (Mark 6:11). Not go online and debate the internet! Not argue and convince them! Not attack and shame them with insults in the comments section! But simply, “shake the dust off your feet.” Don’t take the bait; walk away from that kind of fight. Jesus asked us to bring the Good News to others, not force our views on the unwilling. Perhaps our witness becomes a seed of truth which will one day grow, but today is not that day. Jesus acknowledges that yes, it can be disappointing and discouraging when truth and goodness are rejected. But that rejection isn’t about you, it’s about Jesus. Speak the truth with love. Be present to those who receive you and for those who don’t, “shake the dust off your feet.”



#### ACTION

Notice that the instruction to “shake off the dust” came after the Apostles were sent out into the world. God invites us to be part of bringing truth and healing to a hurting world, even when the world might reject us. We need courage to speak out against grave insults to human dignity, just as we need courage to walk away from insults and hatred. Courage is the cardinal virtue traditionally called fortitude. Fortitude means that we wisely face our fears by assessing the potential danger or damage of the situation with a willingness to risk personal loss in pursuit of the greater good. Courage gives us the patience, perseverance, and endurance to do what is right, whether standing firm and speaking out or walking away. How can you be courageous in your faith this week?

“To have courage for  
whatever comes in  
life—everything lies  
in that.”

—St. Teresa of Ávila



#### ? QUESTIONS

- ❖ What do today’s readings teach you about the Christian life?
- ❖ When have you spoken a difficult truth to someone who did not listen?
- ❖ Can you walk away from a fight or do you get sucked in to proving your point?

## 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 226.

We are called to share the Gospel with others; God will give us what we need to accomplish this.

The Apostles were asked to trust that their needs would be met; this experience makes us thankful and trusting of others.

Each person can share the Gospel using their unique talents and God-given gifts.

## Act on the Word

### Depending on One Another

You will need notecards and a pen for this activity. Prepare the notecards according to the directions below.

This activity is a game that helps the young people experience dependence on others as they seek to find the items that they need to complete the exercise. Using the notecards, write a set of five cards for each student, labeling each card with one of five items: food, drink, sleeping quarters, blanket, pillow. Add blank cards, or cards labeled with other items such as cars, games, etc., to create the game deck. The more blank or mislabeled cards you include, the more challenging the game becomes.

Shuffle the deck of notecards and deal the cards until they are gone. Tell students they must work with one another, trading, bartering and giving away cards until each person has at one each of the main five cards. (The extra or blank cards are not needed; they just make the game more interesting.)

When each teen has collected all the cards needed, lead the young people in a discussion about the activity. Use the questions listed here or other questions.

- ✧ What is it like to have your task dependent on others?
- ✧ How does it feel to have others dependent on you?

- ✧ How did you feel giving away cards versus bartering for cards?
- ✧ What does it feel like to be missing a card, and have someone supply it?
- ✧ What does it feel like to supply a card another person is missing?
- ✧ How are human beings dependent on one another, and how are they independent?
- ✧ What does healthy dependence look like?
- ✧ What does unhealthy dependence look like?
- ✧ How would it feel to venture into missions, dependent on others for basic needs?
- ✧ How are we all dependent on God and one another for basic needs?

### Closing Prayer

Gracious God,  
we thank you for sending apostles who nourish  
us with your living Word, Jesus Christ.  
Guide our efforts to share this Word in all that  
we do today,  
in whatever circumstances we may find ourselves.  
We place our complete trust in you now  
and always  
as we pray 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](http://www.ltp.org/lwgr). Encourage teens to attend Mass with family or friends.

in testimony against them.” So they went off and preached repentance. The Twelve drove out many demons, and they anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

**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:*

When Jesus sent his disciples out in order that they might begin ministering in his name, he sent them out two by two, and gave them special instructions. He wanted the disciples to be prepared for the work ahead of them and be prepared for different situations that might arise. First, they were not sent out alone; rather, they travel in pairs to complete this journey. He told them to pack lightly—only a walking stick. They didn't bring food, money, or extra clothing on their mission. They were to stay in people's homes and accept the charity of their hosts' meals. When they weren't accepted or wanted, they were to go elsewhere. Such instructions may have been surprising to the disciples, but Jesus' message to them is clear: the Good News is what's important, not the clothes or money.

► Can you imagine being sent on such a mission, with no food or money, and only the clothes on your back and one other person to help you carry out this task?

It is hard to imagine, but it's important to note a few observations about Jesus' instructions to the disciples. First, the important part of the task was to learn to carry out Jesus' mission. They didn't need showy clothes or fancy traveling gear in order to carry out Jesus' mission; simplicity was needed over complicated attachments. This is an important lesson for us as well; we do not need anything expensive, fancy or physical to carry out Jesus' instruction to evangelize, and we are called to evangelize according to our vocation in life. Parents are meant to show Christ to their children; priests bring the Good News to their parishes. Evangelization is something that requires human will and determination rather than anything ornamental or ostentatious.

By sending the disciples without money or food, Jesus made them dependent on the good will and charity of others. Sometimes it is very difficult to accept another person's charity. You may feel beholden or uncomfortable taking what the person offers you. In this way, Jesus helped the disciples become comfortable with trusting others to help them have their basic needs met.

► Is learning to trust others a difficult or easy task for you?

We, too, are called to carry out the Good News of Jesus. While there are different ways of carrying out this mission, we realize that to carry out Jesus' mission we only need our words, actions, and a willing heart to bear Christ's message to others. We carry out this call to evangelization by example, word and deed.

► As a teen, how are you called to carry out the mission of evangelization?

► Are you comfortable with the idea of bringing Jesus to others? Why or why not?