

# Ordinary Time: Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

## Lesson Contents

### Preparation

Background for Scripture Readings

### Breaking Open the Word

Leader Instruction

## Preparation

### Background for Scripture Readings

#### First Reading

- A sage, or philosopher, who had spent much time reflecting on human life, wrote today's first reading.
- The author observes that one pervasive human vanity is the inability to enjoy those things we earn.
- The reading from Ecclesiastes stresses that we have only the present moment—and that moment is a gift from God.

#### Second Reading

- The Letter of Paul to the Colossians warns against excessive attachment to material possessions.
- These sins which pertain to worldly life were part of the community's everyday life before they were Christian.
- Now they have put on Christ, the new Adam.

#### Gospel

- In the Gospel according to Luke, the question of possessions is treated often.
- In today's Gospel reading, Jesus tells a parable about a wealthy fool who thought possessions guaranteed life.
- He is a fool because in the midst of his good fortune he has lost the sense of what is truly important.

# Breaking Open the Word

## Leader Instruction

### Catechist Reflection Guide for the Solemnity of the Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**First Reading:** Ecclesiastes 1:2, 2:21-23—Vanity of vanities

**Responsorial Psalm:** Psalm 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-14, 17—If you hear God's voice, harden not your heart.

**Second Reading:** Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11—Seek the things that are above.

**Gospel:** Luke 12:13-21—Do not pile up riches.

#### **Invitation to prayer** (30 sec.)

Ask the children to quiet themselves and sit comfortably. Begin the session with the Sign of the Cross. Have them take three deep breaths while you prompt them to relax as they breathe in God, our Father who loves us, Jesus Christ, his Son, our brother, and God's Holy Spirit who lovingly guides us.

#### **Listening for a word or phrase** to speak to your heart (3-4 min.)

**Ages 5-6:** Help children sound out the words "**Jesus wants me to share.**" Read Luke 12:13-21 from a children's Bible or tell it in your own words.

**Ages 7-8:** Read aloud the phrase "**Jesus wants me to share.**" Explain that **In today's Gospel reading Jesus has a message for those who do not share.** Read Luke 12:13-21 from a children's Bible or tell it in your own words.

**Ages 9-11 and Ages 12-14:** Read Luke 12:13-21. Ask young people to listen for a word or phrase that seems to be God's word for them today. Spend about 30 seconds as they pick out their word or phrase. Ask them to silently repeat that word or phrase and to write it on their heart.

#### **Loving God through his word** (3-5 min.)

**Ages 5-6:** Call children's attention to the illustration on the handout and recall that **In the reading, Jesus is telling people that they should not keep everything for themselves. They should share.** Ask children to identify ways they share the objects in the illustration. Have them complete the activity and color the illustration. Close with the prayer.

**Ages 7-8:** Call children's attention to the illustration on the handout and recall that **In the Gospel the farmer would not share his grain. But we can be like the farmer when we don't share what we have. Tell children that Jesus wants us to share and to do good deeds.** Explain the activity to children. Be sure they know that **talents include all the things they do well and treasure can be money or other things.** Have them complete the activity. Close with the prayer.

**Ages 9-11:** Ask young people to share their word or phrase. Discuss what young people see as the meaning of Jesus' words. Emphasize that **Greed can take on many forms. We are greedy when we hoard things, time, money or people. Jesus is telling the people to hoard good deeds.** Have young people complete the activity and share their responses. Using the text on the handout, facilitate a discussion with young people. Close with the prayer.

**Ages 12-14:** Ask young people to share their word or phrase. Discuss what young people see as the meaning of Jesus' words. Emphasize the importance of being rich toward God. Using the text on the handout, facilitate a discussion with young people. Close with the prayer.

**Living the Gospel** words through the week (3-5 min.) The handouts describe one or two ways children and young people can live this reflection on the Gospel through the week at home, school, or play. If appropriate, have them add one or two more personal choices to act on this week.