

Ordinary Time:

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lesson Contents

Preparation

Background for Scripture Readings

Breaking Open the Word

Leader Instruction

Preparation

Background for Scripture Readings

First Reading

- In the first reading, Elijah announces God's call to Elisha by throwing his mantle over him.
- This signified the call to prophetic office.
- Elisha closed the door to his former way of life by killing the draft animals with which he had been plowing, using the plow for firewood, and preparing a magnificent feast for the people.

Second Reading

- In his Letter to the Galatians, Paul emphasizes a call to freedom.
- The disciples were called to abandon all the things that enslaved them and to subject themselves to the Spirit of love.
- That Spirit brings joy and peace, kindness and generosity.

Gospel

- The Gospel reading shows the price Jesus paid to follow his call.
- Because he was on his way to Jewish Jerusalem, the Samaritans would not welcome him. Jesus was caught between two hostile forces.
- One group rejected him because he was going to Jerusalem. There, the other group would kill him.

Breaking Open the Word

Leader Instruction

Catechist Reflection Guide for the Solemnity of the Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: 1 Kings 19:16b, 19-21—Elisha becomes Elijah's servant.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 16:1-2a+5, 7-8, 9-10, 11—You are my inheritance.

Second Reading: Galatians 5:1, 13-18—We are called to live in freedom.

Gospel: Luke 9:51-62—I will follow you wherever you go.

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 and Ages 7-8: Help children sound out the words "**I will follow you wherever you go.**" Read Luke 9:51-62 from a children's Bible or tell it in your own words.

Ages 9-11 and Ages 12-14: Read Luke 9:51-62. 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 ask, **How many of you have ever followed someone on a path?** Ask, **What made it easy to follow?** and **What made it difficult to follow?** Tell children that following Jesus means we do the things he wants us to do. Help them name some of those things and then have them complete the activity. Close with the prayer.

Ages 7-8: Call children's attention to the illustration on the handout and have them color inside the letters. Explain that Jesus was telling the person who wanted to follow him that it would not be easy. Ask children, **When do you find it hard to follow Jesus?** and **When is it easy to follow him?** Have them complete the activity. Close with the prayer.

Ages 9-11: Ask young people to share their word or phrase. Have young people read the directions for the activity. Invite two or three volunteers to make a suggestion about what contemporary

examples might go in the blanks and have young people finish the activity. Invite volunteers to share their responses. Emphasize that we often get distracted from following Jesus or we postpone. Close with the prayer.

Ages 12-14: Ask young people to share their word or phrase. Using the text on the handout facilitate a discussion with young people. Emphasize that following Jesus often involves difficult choices. 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.