

Ordinary Time: Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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Preparation

Background for Scripture Readings

First Reading

- The passage from the Book of Isaiah was written to encourage those who had returned from exile in the sixth century B.C.
- Those who returned, faced an overwhelming task of rebuilding.
- One major theme of the third section of the Book of Isaiah was the continued promise of a glorious New Jerusalem.

Second Reading

- The second reading is the conclusion of Paul's Letter to the Galatians.
- Paul's final statement concurs with Jesus' final statement in Luke.
- Paul was not as concerned over the success of his preaching as he was over his fidelity to Christ and his Cross.

Gospel

- Only the Gospel of Luke includes the story of sending the seventy-two preachers out in addition to the Twelve Disciples.
- Seventy-two was a number sometimes used to symbolize the Gentiles.
- In light of Luke's interest in the Gentiles, it is fitting that today's passage includes a speech to suggest the mission to the Gentiles.

Breaking Open the Word

Leader Instruction

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

First Reading: Isaiah 66:10-14c—The Lord will send prosperity.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16+20—Shout joyfully to God.

Second Reading: Galatians 6:14-18—I bear the marks of Jesus on my body.

Gospel: Luke 10:1-12, 17-20—Sending of the seventy two

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 "**Peace to this house.**" Read Luke 10:1-7 from a children's Bible or tell it in your own words.

Ages 9-11 and Ages 12-14: Read Luke 10:1-12, 17-20. 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 Jesus told his disciples to bring peace to the houses they visit. Using the questions on the handout, have a conversation with children about bringing peace to their own houses. Emphasize ways children can be peacemakers (*sharing, doing the right thing even before they are asked*). Close with the prayer.

Ages 7-8: Call children's attention to the illustration on the handout and recall that Jesus told his disciples to bring peace to the houses they visit. Talk about what a peaceful house is like (*no fighting or yelling, family members help each other, they settle conflicts.*) Ask children to complete the activity and then have them share their responses. Close with the prayer.

Ages 9-11: Ask young people to share their word or phrase. Allow a few minutes for young people to think about how they would answer the questions about being one of the seventy. Invite

volunteers to share their responses. Talk about the fact that we are all called to bring peace to others, especially those close to us. Have children respond to the last question. Close with the prayer.

Ages 12-14: Organize young people into small groups and have them discuss the questions and create a list of "instructions." Ask one member of each group to share their list. 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.