

# Ordinary Time: Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

## Lesson Contents

### Preparation

Background for Scripture Readings

### Breaking Open the Word

Leader Instruction

## Preparation

### Background for Scripture Readings

#### First Reading

- The Book of Deuteronomy, written in the seventh century B.C., was a long exhortation to God's people, encouraging them to turn from everything else and to love God with a single passion.
- Today's passage stresses that the command to love God with all your being is not difficult to understand or remember.
- The command is already found in the hearts of God's people.

#### Second Reading

- The passage from the Letter to the Colossians is an awe-filled hymn to Christ.
- The imagery and vocabulary are from the descriptions of Lady Wisdom in the Hebrew wisdom tradition.
- Christ is described as the image of God and the link between God and all creation.

#### Gospel

- Jesus told the parable of the Good Samaritan as an interpretation of the two great commands of Judaism: love God and love neighbor.
- In Jesus' time, the Samaritan was a hated outsider, yet in today's story, he did the right thing.
- Today's parable illustrates love of neighbor.

# Breaking Open the Word

## Leader Instruction

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

**First Reading:** Deuteronomy 30:10-14—Heed the voice of the Lord.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Psalm 69:14+17, 30-31, 33-34, 36a+37—Turn to the Lord when in need.

**Second Reading:** Colossians 1:15-20—All things were created in him.

**Gospel:** Luke 10:25-37—Parable of The Good Samaritan

#### **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 "**Love the Lord your God with all your heart.**" Have them trace the heart with their finger. Read Luke 10:25-37 from a children's Bible or tell it in your own words.

**Ages 7-8:** Read Luke 10:25-37 from a children's Bible or tell it in your own words.

**Ages 9-11 and Ages 12-14:** Read Luke 10:25-37. 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 heart. Discuss the Gospel with the children. Ask, **What made the Good Samaritan such a good neighbor?** (*He helped out. He was generous*). Ask, **Have you ever been a Good Samaritan?** and **Do you know someone who is?** Emphasize that, **One way we show God love is by doing good for our neighbors.** Have children complete the activity. Close with the prayer.

**Ages 7-8:** Call children's attention to the Scripture quote on the handout. Recall the story for the children. Point out that **The lawyer wanted to know who his neighbor was. Jesus answered his question with the story. In the story Jesus chooses a Samaritan to be the good neighbor because the Jews and Samaritans did not like each other.** Ask, **What do you think the answer**

**to the lawyer's question is?** (*Everyone is our neighbor even people we do not like.*) Invite volunteers to share their experience of being a good neighbor or Good Samaritan. Have children complete the activity. Close with the prayer.

**Ages 9-11:** Ask young people to share their word or phrase. Recall the beginning of today's Gospel and the words "**You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.**" Point out to young people that **The lawyer wanted to know who his neighbor was. Jesus answered his question with the story. In the story Jesus chooses a Samaritan to be the good neighbor because the Jews and Samaritans did not like each other. For a Samaritan to help a Jew would have been unthinkable.** Ask, **What does that say about loving our neighbor as ourselves?** Have young people complete the activity. Close with the prayer.

**Ages 12-14:** Ask young people to share their word or phrase. Recall the highlights of the Gospel. Point out that **The lawyer asked a simple question, "Who is my neighbor?" and Jesus told a story for an answer. The surprise in the story is that it is the Samaritan who acts as the good neighbor not the two Jewish people. It is a surprise because the Jews and Samaritans did not like each other. For a Samaritan to help a Jew would have been unthinkable.** Have young people pair up and complete the activity. Invite volunteers to share. Be sure they make the good neighbor someone who is disliked or alienated. 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.