

Ordinary Time: Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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Preparation

Background for Scripture Readings

First Reading

- In today's reading from Genesis, Abraham offers hospitality with the generosity typical of a nomadic chief.
- Even though the guests were unknown, Abraham entertained them lavishly.
- Through this, he earned the satisfaction of having entertained the Lord who had come to repeat his promise of a son to Abraham.

Second Reading

- The Letter to the Colossians presents a third image of discipleship.
- Paul was portrayed as a prisoner who suffered for preaching the Good News of Christ.
- He had become a minister of the Word.

Gospel

- In today's Gospel story, Martha exercised the role expected of women in her culture when she entertained her guest.
- Mary assumed the role of the disciple.
- The story illustrated that Christian discipleship was open to both men and women.

Breaking Open the Word

Leader Instruction

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

First Reading: Genesis 18:1-10a—Sarah will have a child.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 15:2-3a, 3b-4, 5—Do justice and live in the Lord's presence.

Second Reading: Colossians 1:24-28—The mystery of God is revealed to the saints.

Gospel: Luke 10:38-42—Jesus visits Martha and Mary.

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 "**Sit with me.**" Tell children, **You are going to hear a story about Jesus going to visit two sisters. One was very busy and the other sat with him.** Read Luke 10:38-42 from a children's Bible or tell it in your own words.

Ages 7-8: Read aloud the phrase "**Sit with me.**" Tell children **You are going to hear a story about Jesus going to visit two sisters. One was very busy and the other sat with him.** Read Luke 10:38-42 from a children's Bible or tell it in your own words.

Ages 9-11 and Ages 12-14: Read the passage from the Gospel according to John. 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 explain that **Jesus is always willing for us to sit at his feet like Mary did.** Use the questions on the handout to facilitate a discussion. Read each of the questions aloud and invite children to respond. Point out that **Jesus is present all around us and if we pay attention like Mary did, we will get to know him better.** Close with the prayer.

Ages 7-8: Call children's attention to the illustration on the handout and explain that **Jesus is always willing for us to sit at his feet like Mary did.** Recall that in the reading that **Martha was so busy she could not sit down. But Jesus wanted her to.** Introduce the activity by pointing out

that **Jesus wants us to listen and ask questions**. Have them complete the activity. Invite a few volunteers to share their responses. Close with the prayer.

Ages 9-11: Ask young people to share their word or phrase. Using the text on the handout facilitate a discussion with young people about the Gospel. Point out that **Jesus was very content to have Mary sitting with him and maybe he would have liked Martha to do the same thing**. 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. Have young people spend some quiet time reflecting on what they would like their prayer time to be like. Suggest they write some of their thoughts down. 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.