

# Fifteenth Sunday of the Year

## Messengers for Jesus

### INTRODUCTION

Before returning to his heavenly Father, Jesus prepared his apostles to go out and share the Good News of God's love with the world.

### SIGN OF THE CROSS

### LIGHT THE CANDLES

Light the candles and say Candle Prayer 2: *Show me, show me little candle.*

### SORRY

God is our loving Father and will *always* forgive us if we are truly sorry. Remember the story Jesus told about a loving father . . .

There was once a loving father whose son left home and lived a wicked and selfish life. This made his father very sad. One day the son came back and was truly sorry for all his mistakes. His father hugged him and forgave him for everything.

God is our loving Father and he will always forgive us if we are truly sorry.

### GLORIA

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 2: *Light up our hearts.*

### GOSPEL (cf Mark 6:7-13)

Jesus sent his twelve apostles out in pairs, to preach to the people and to cure the sick. He told them to take no money, no spare clothes and no food. 'If someone makes you welcome, then stay with them until your work is finished,' he said. 'But if people are unfriendly and do not want to listen to your message, then walk away and leave them to themselves.'

The apostles set off, and did everything as Jesus had said. Many people turned back to God after hearing their words, and others were cured in Jesus' name.

### DISCUSSION

If you were being sent off on a long journey, what sort of things would you want to pack?

- clothes to wear if the weather turned hot or cold.
- food and something to drink.
- several pairs of shoes.
- toothbrush and toothpaste.
- waterproof coat in case it rained.
- money for bus or train fares.

(Encourage the children to add their own ideas to the list.)

What did Jesus tell his apostles to take with them? – They were to go in the clothes they stood in, with nothing extra, except a stick in their hand to help them walk. They had no need of money or food, or any of the extra baggage we would want to take with us on a journey!

Why did Jesus want them to do this? – The most important thing the apostles carried was the message that Jesus had sent them with. This was the Good News that he had brought to share with the world, to lead people back to God's love and everlasting life. To love God and each other, to be forgiving and kind, and to live as Jesus had taught them. God would guide and look after the brave apostles on their mission, taking care of all their needs. Jesus knew that good people would welcome his apostles into their hearts and homes, and take care of them.

How do you think the apostles felt as they set off on their journeys? – They probably felt a mixture of excitement and fear. They did not know what sort of a welcome to expect from the people they preached to, or whether they would succeed in doing everything Jesus had asked them to do. They placed their trust in God to watch over and guide them.

How can we be like the apostles, and share the message of Jesus with the world around us? – We can share Christ's message with the people we meet every day, by making our thoughts, our words and our actions like those of Jesus. By living as he taught us to, and allowing the Holy Spirit to work through us, he can reach out and touch the lives of others, bringing them closer to God.

### ACTIVITY

Using the cut-out picture help the children to provide the figure with everything he might need to help him on his journey through life to the kingdom of Heaven.

### CREED

### CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, you chose the twelve apostles to bring your message to the world. You also chose to give each one of us life, and to welcome us into the family of God. Help us to share your message of love and truth with the people we meet each day.