

Fourteenth Sunday of the Year

Jesus shares his message

INTRODUCTION

Jesus wanted to reach everyone with his message of eternal life, and touch all lives with his love, so he sent his disciples out into the world so that through them others would come to know him.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

LIGHT THE CANDLES

As we look at the light from the candle flames let us remember that Jesus is 'the light of the world.'

SORRY

Encourage the children to close their eyes and listen to the words of this prayer:

Dear God,
help us to forgive anyone who has hurt us,
because we must be ready to forgive others,
just as you forgive us.
If we have done wrong,
by our words or our actions,
we ask your pardon
and will try to be good.

GLORIA

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Help us to understand your message Lord, and to share it with others.

Alleluia.

GOSPEL (cf Luke 10:1-12, 17-20)

Jesus chose seventy-two disciples and sent them out in pairs to all the towns and villages he would visit saying, 'Take nothing with you, and wherever you are welcomed, make the first words you speak, 'Peace be with you'. Stay if you are invited to, and eat and drink whatever you are given. Cure the sick and share the Good News of God's love with everyone. If you find people unfriendly or unkind, leave them and their village and go elsewhere.'

Soon the disciples returned and told Jesus about the marvellous things they had seen and done. Jesus said to them. 'Be happy indeed because your names are written in heaven.'

DISCUSSION

Why did Jesus send seventy-two disciples out to visit the surrounding towns and villages? – Jesus knew that he would need help to take the message of God's love to people throughout the world. He sent the disciples out to prepare the people for him to come into their lives.

What were the first words they were to speak? – 'Peace be with you'. Jesus wanted them to offer his peace and love so that they would know they had nothing to fear.

Ask the children to arrange themselves into pairs. If Jesus sent seventy-two disciples out in twos, how many pairs does this make? – There were thirty-six pairs altogether, and they probably visited more than one village each. In this way the teachings of Jesus were heard by many more people than Jesus could have reached on his own.

Imagine you were being sent on a journey by Jesus, what do you think you might need?

- something to eat and drink
- clothes
- a map
- protection from the weather
- insect repellent!

What did Jesus tell them to take? – Jesus told them to take few belongings for their journey, but to trust God to take care of them. People would see their goodness and would treat them with kindness and generosity.

What did Jesus want the disciples to do? – To share the love and peace of God through their actions and words. He told them to cure the sick and to teach the people about the goodness of God, so that they would let him into their hearts. As Christians, and followers of Jesus we take his love and peace out to the people we meet today, just as the seventy-two disciples did so long ago.

ACTIVITY

Today's activity is designed to make the children appreciate how difficult it was at the time of Jesus to travel, and communicate with other people.

Cut out a series of circles and write one of the following on each: sailing boat, aeroplane, on foot, telephone, horse and cart, car, donkey, train, television, power boat, helicopter, bus.

Ask each child to choose a circle and draw a picture illustrating their particular word. Then pin them on a board under the relevant heading, and compare the differences between then and now.

Alternatively, use the worksheet for the same activity.

CREED

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord,
we pray for everyone
who shares your message
of love and peace
with the world.