



14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Luke 10: 1-12, 17-20

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. Carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house!' And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you. And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house.

Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. Heal the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' But whenever you enter a town and they do not receive you, go into its streets and say, 'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet we wipe off against you. Nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near.' I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.

The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!" And he said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

Some things to think about...

How do you think the disciples felt when they went to a new place, where they didn't know anyone?

What could their hosts do to make them feel welcome?

Activity

With your group, complete the "Mission of Hospitality" activity on the next page.

Teacher's Notes

In this week's Gospel the key themes are mission and hospitality. God sends out seventy-two disciples, which reminds us that there was a larger group of interested followers of Jesus beyond the 12 apostles. He describes them as "lambs in the midst of wolves" – humble and simple, with kind hearts.

When the Lord tells the disciples they will be able to "tread on serpents and scorpions", it is not literal, but a metaphor for the power and protection they have been given.

It is interesting to reflect on how we would welcome the stranger in our lives. This doesn't necessarily mean how we would welcome a stranger turning up on our door step – but in any situation where we are called to respond with hospitality, generosity and kindness to those who we do not know. The "Mission of Hospitality" activity helps emphasise the SVP's mission of hospitality.



Activity: Mission of Hospitality – Leader’s guide

Aim of activity: To help children understand the mission of the seventy-two disciples and how hospitality—welcoming and caring for others—is part of their message and the work of the St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP).

Instructions:

- **Discussion: Ask the children:**
 - What does ‘hospitality’ mean? (Welcoming, being kind, making others feel at home)
 - How were the disciples shown hospitality in the reading? (People welcomed them into their homes, provided food and shelter)
 - Why do you think Jesus told them to accept what was given to them? (To teach humility, trust, and gratitude)
 - How do we show hospitality today?
- **Link to SVP:** Explain that the St Vincent de Paul Society shows hospitality to everyone, just as Jesus taught. They visit the lonely, feed the hungry, and care for those who feel unwelcome.
- SVP members often talk about feeding the homeless and taking the tablecloth. This is because the way we act as Vincentians it to give the very best we can to everyone we meet.

Activity: “Welcoming the Visitor” Role-Play (8 minutes)

- **Pair up the children.** One child plays a “visitor” (like the disciples) and the other a “host” who welcomes them.
- **Scenario Cards:** Give each pair a different hospitality scenario (e.g. welcoming a new classmate, hosting a meal for the elderly, greeting someone at church)
- **Role-play:** The “host” welcomes the “visitor,” offering kindness, food, or a place to rest. The “visitor” responds with gratitude.
- **Encourage Reflection:** After the role-play, ask:
 - How did it feel to be welcomed?
 - How did it feel to be the host?
 - Why is hospitality important?
 - How can we be more welcoming in our everyday lives?

Conclusion (2 minutes)

- Remind them that Jesus teaches us to welcome others with kindness and that the SVP does this by helping people in need.
- Challenge them to do one act of hospitality this week—greeting someone new, sharing, or helping at home.
- End with a short prayer, asking God to help them be welcoming and kind like Jesus’ disciples and the members of the SVP.