

EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AT HOME

FRIENDS

EXPLORING NEXT SUNDAY'S THEME

Reflecting on the Gospel

Commissioning the twelve disciples (Matthew 9: 35 to 10:8)

The Synoptic Gospels show Jesus as working closely with a group of twelve special disciples. The number of special disciples reflects the twelve tribes of Israel and so foreshadows the new Israel founded by Jesus. In chapter 4 Matthew has introduced the first four disciples, Peter and Andrew, James and John. Then, after the sermon on the mount and a series of healings Matthew records the call of the fifth disciple, known in this Gospel as Matthew but as Levi in Mark's Gospel. Now for the first time all twelve disciples are named.

Our image to stimulate reflection on this passage is *friends*.

Extracts from the Gospel passage (Matthew 1: 1-4)

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples
and gave them authority over unclean spirits,
to cast them out,
and to cure every disease and every sickness.
These are the names of the twelve apostles:
first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew;
James son of Zebedee, and his brother John;
Philip and Bartholomew;
Thomas and Matthew the tax-collector;
James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus;
Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot,
the one who betrayed him.

Gospel prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
you chose twelve disciples
to be your close followers.
Call us to follow in their footsteps,
that we may share their closeness to you;
for you are our God.
Amen.

ENGAGING WITH THE THEME AT HOME

Reflecting and meditating

Reflect on Matthew's teaching concerning Jesus' commissioning of the disciples in Matthew 9: 35-10: 8:

- what details in the passage catch your attention?
- what big ideas does the passage spark in your mind?
- what most touches your heart in the passage?
- what most stretches your mind and makes you think in the passage?

Thinking and talking

- how do you read the context into which Matthew places the commission of the twelve (9: 35-38)?
- how do you read the task given to the twelve (10: 1)?
- what do you make of Jesus' choice of these twelve (10: 2-4)?
- how helpful do you find the image of *friends* for interpreting this passage?
- what does this narrative say for us today?

Using your Bible

Explore how the commissioning of the twelve is handled in Mark and Luke:

- Mark 6: 6-13
- Luke 9: 1-6
- Luke 10: 1-16

Explore the twelve tribes in the Old Testament:

- Genesis 49: 28
- Numbers 2

Exploring online

- explore Jesus' twelve disciples, in religious art
- explore what we know about the twelve disciples
- explore *Teddy Horsley meets Jesus' disciples*, www.teddyhorsley.org

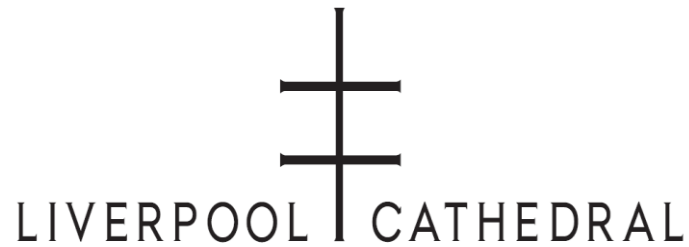
Drawing on experience

- reflect on what real friendship has meant to you
- reflect on the friends you have stayed in touch with over time and why
- how well does the idea of friendship illuminate your relationship with Jesus?

PROPER 6 (YEAR A) SUNDAY 14 JUNE 2020

Creating and making

- make a collage of Jesus' twelve disciples and place yourself among them
- select one disciple, describe his qualities and place his picture in your home
- place images of the twelve disciples alongside pictures of your church/cathedral, linking past and present
- create a reflection, poem or prayer on the theme of friendship



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Each week we are inviting people in their homes to look forward to those Sunday services that follow the Revised Common Lectionary Gospel readings. We employ the SIFT approach (Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking) to encourage reflection on the Sunday Gospel. We are suggesting a variety of ways in which people of all ages, and households working together, may engage with the Gospel reading and celebrate that engagement with shared activities.

Our invitation then is for you to share your reflections, prayers and photos of your creative work with the Cathedral by emailing them to Nelson.Pike@liverpoolcathedral.org.uk

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