

EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AT HOME

MESSENGERS

EXPLORING NEXT SUNDAY'S THEME

Reflecting on the Gospel

Mission of the seventy (Luke 10: 1-9)

All three synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke) tell of Jesus sending the twelve disciples on a missionary journey. Luke alone among the synoptic Gospels tells of the missionary journey of the seventy (or in some ancient texts the seventy-two) others. Quite similar instructions are given to the seventy as had been given to the twelve. They are to carry no purse, no bag, no sandals. They are to pause to greet no one on the road. Haste and speed are important. Now the number seventy may have held particular significance for Luke. Luke is author not only of the Gospel but also of the Acts of the Apostles, the book that tells how the Gospel was carried to the Gentile nations. Now the Gentile nations are listed in Genesis 10, and according to rabbinic tradition there were reckoned to be seventy (or seventy-two) nations listed there.

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

Extracts from the Gospel passage (Luke 10: 1-2)

After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.'

Gospel prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
you sent your messenger Luke
to take the good news of the Gospel
to the nations of the world.
Send us out to follow in his footsteps
that all may hear of your love and power;
for you are our God.
Amen.

ENGAGING WITH THE THEME AT HOME

Reflecting and meditating

Reflect on Luke's narrative about Jesus appointing seventy others (Luke 10: 1-9)

- 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 interpret Jesus sending out seventy others, after sending out the twelve?
- what is the significance of the harvest being plentiful, but the labourers few?
- why is there a sense of urgency in this narrative?
- how do you understand the message 'The Kingdom of God has come near to you'?
- how should we interpret this narrative for today?

Using your Bible

Compare Luke's account of the missionary journey of the seventy others with this earlier account of the missionary journey of the twelve:

- Luke 9: 1-6

Explore the connection between Luke's Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles:

- Luke 1: 1-4
- Acts 1: 1-3

Explore Luke's commitment to taking the Gospel to the nations (Gentiles):

- Luke 2: 29-32
- Acts 10: 44-48

Exploring online

- explore images of St Luke
- explore St Luke the Evangelist
- explore images of messengers

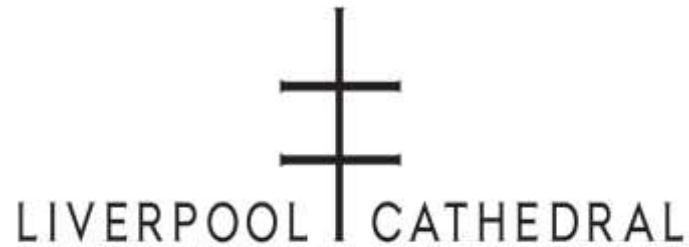
Drawing on experience

- reflect on your experience of messengers
- reflect on your experience of being a messenger
- reflect on how you may serve as a messenger for the Gospel, like Luke

LUKE THE EVANGELIST (YEAR A) SUNDAY 18 OCTOBER 2020

Creating and making

- make a poster about the missionary journey of the seventy
- make a collage of images of messengers
- create a display about Luke the Evangelist
- create a reflection, poem or prayer on the theme of Luke the messenger



EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AT HOME

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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