

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (YEAR C) Sunday 26 June 2022

## EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AT HOME

# OBSTACLE COURSE

### EXPLORING NEXT SUNDAY'S THEME

#### *Introducing the Gospel*

##### *True discipleship (Luke 9: 51-62)*

In Luke's account of Jesus' ministry the first verse of this gospel reading marks the turning point when Jesus began his journey to Jerusalem and to the cross. The first teaching on this journey concerns the true nature of discipleship. Those who begin the journey with Jesus must commit themselves wholeheartedly to completing it. There is to be no turning back. Nor is there to be any supernatural intervention to make the going easy.

The image to stimulate reflection on Luke's teaching about discipleship is *obstacle course*.

#### *Core extract from the Gospel (Luke 9: 57-58; for reflection throughout the week)*

As they were going along the road, someone said to him,  
'I will follow you wherever you go.'  
And Jesus said to him,  
'Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests;  
but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.'

#### *Gospel prayer (for use throughout the week)*

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you call your people  
to follow you wherever you lead.  
Give us grace to follow you,  
that we may overcome the obstacles in our way;  
for you are our God.  
Amen.

**READING NEXT SUNDAY'S GOSPEL**

**Luke 9: 51-62**

**A Samaritan Village Refuses to Receive Jesus**

When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; but they did not receive him, because his face was set towards Jerusalem. When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, 'Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?' But he turned and rebuked them. Then they went on to another village.

**Would-Be Followers of Jesus**

As they were going along the road, someone said to him, 'I will follow you wherever you go.' And Jesus said to him, 'Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.' To another he said, 'Follow me.' But he said, 'Lord, first let me go and bury my father.' But Jesus said to him, 'Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.' Another said, 'I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home.' Jesus said to him, 'No one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.'

## **ENGAGING WITH THE THEME**

### *Dwelling with the text (Luke 9: 51-62)*

Begin to explore Luke's account concerning the true nature of discipleship by employing the SIFT approach of Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking. You may find that one of these approaches comes easier to you than the others. But it is worth trying all four.

- What details in the passage catch your attention (Sensing)?
- What big ideas in the passage spark in your mind (Intuition)?
- What most touches your heart in the passage (Feeling)?
- What most stretches your mind and makes you think in the passage (Thinking)?

### *Thinking and talking*

Identify topics within the passage that can get you thinking and talking. Here are some ideas to get you started.

- What do you understand by the time for Jesus to be taken up?
- What do you understand by Jesus setting his face to Jerusalem?
- What was significant about Samaria?
- What is the significance of setting your hand to the plough?
- What does this narrative say for us today?

### *Using your Bible*

Explore the distinctive Lucan theme of Jesus setting his face to Jerusalem.

- Luke 13: 22
- Luke 17: 11
- Luke 18: 31
- Luke 19: 11, 28

Explore parallels in Matthew.

- Matthew 8: 19-22

Explore images of obstacles in the path of discipleship.

- Psalm 64: 1-6
- Psalm 91: 1-11
- Psalm 119: 105-110
- Psalm 140: 1-8
- Psalm 142: 1-9

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### *Exploring online*

Widen your exploration of Luke's account concerning the true nature of discipleship by looking up some of the following themes and others of your own choosing.

- Jesus set his face toward Jerusalem
- costly discipleship according to Luke
- obstacle courses

### *Drawing on experience*

The image to stimulate reflection on Luke's account concerning the true nature of discipleship is *obstacle courses*. Draw on your own experiences of obstacle courses. For example:

- What experience have you had of obstacle courses?
- What obstacles have stood in the way of your discipleship journey?
- How do you feel about obstacles in the pathway of discipleship?

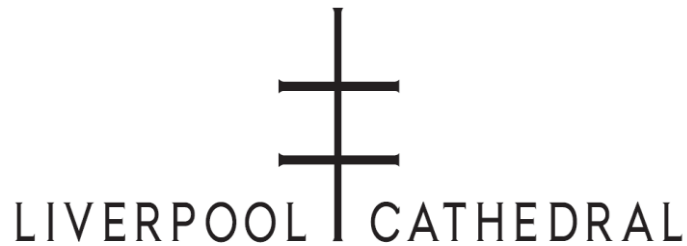
What have you learned about obstacles?

### *Creating and making*

This section offers pointers to some creative activities that may be inspired by Luke's account concerning the true nature of discipleship or the image of obstacle courses.

- Make a poster of obstacle courses.
- Make a display of the images in Luke's teaching (foxes, birds, ploughs, burial).
- Make a collage about discipleship today.
- Create a reflection, poem, or prayer on the theme of facing obstacles on the path of discipleship.

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## **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 [smc.lesliefrancis@gmail.com](mailto:smc.lesliefrancis@gmail.com).

These materials have been developed by the Canon Theologian of Liverpool Cathedral working in collaboration with the staff team here at the Cathedral, and with sponsorship and support from the St Mary's Centre in Wales.



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