

JUNE 18, 2017
SECOND SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

taking⁺ faith home

Jesus sends his followers out into the world.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 9:35–10:23	The sending of the twelve
Monday	Luke 6:12-19	Jesus chooses the twelve
Tuesday	Luke 10:1-20	The sending of the seventy-two
Wednesday	Exodus 19:2-8	The Israelites go to Mount Sinai
Thursday	1 Thessalonians 3:1-5	The sending of Timothy
Friday	2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:5	The life of those God chooses
Saturday	Psalm 100	The Lord is good
Sunday	Matthew 10:24-39	The call and cost of discipleship

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

He said to his disciples, “A large crop is in the fields, but there are only a few workers. Ask the Lord in charge of the harvest to send out workers to bring it in.” **Matthew 9:37-38 (CEV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, give us the faith and good courage to want to speak of your kingdom of grace that does amazing things. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord of the harvest, thank you for feeding us with the fruits of the earth. Make us ready to serve as workers in your harvest fields. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord carry you on eagle's wings and surround you with God's care. May the Lord bless you as a treasured possession and strengthen you as you care for others.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

Lord, You Give the Great Commission



CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- What is something that you are excited to tell others about?
- What makes it difficult to tell others about Jesus?
- Tell a story about someone who talked about their faith with you.

DEVOTIONS



Read: Matthew 10:16-23.

Jesus tells his followers to be both gentle and wise in dealing with others as they tell of the kingdom of heaven. He makes it clear that those who speak of his kingdom will experience pain and rejection. Jesus comforts his followers by telling them not to worry what to say about their faith in him because the Spirit will give them the words. Reflect on how the Holy Spirit strengthens you in your witness in the world. Conclude with the following prayer, **Dear Jesus, you send us out into the world to tell of the good news of the kingdom of heaven that heals lives and makes all things new. We thank you for the Holy Spirit that helps us to be filled with the joy of your reign and gives us the courage to communicate that joy to others. Amen.**

SERVICE



Jesus sends out his disciples to do wondrous and amazing things that bless people's lives (Matthew 10:8). An act of kindness that acknowledges someone's presence as well as their needs can be an amazing and loving deed. Think of someone at school, work, or in your community who could benefit from your act of kindness with a simple, “Hello” or a deed that shows your care and concern for them. Keep that person in your prayers this week, giving thanks for them and for the gospel of Jesus Christ that frees us to love others.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



In Matthew 10:12 Jesus tells the disciples to bless others in their own homes. This Sunday is Father's Day. Take time to recognize fathers, grandfathers, uncles, and all men who have helped you grow and develop over the years. At a meal or other occasion with family and/or friends, take turns saying, **“Lord God, I am thankful for (name) because . . .”**

Conclude with the following prayer, **Dear God, thank you for the gift of fathers and all men who have made a difference in our lives, including (names). For the care they have given us and the guidance they have shared with us, we give you thanks. Amen.**