

**Early Summer - Cycle C - Revised Common Lectionary**  
**Pentecost through Proper 10**  
**May 27, 2007 - July 15, 2007**

We remain Easter people, now with the wind of the Holy Spirit in our sails. Our task for the months ahead, in this season of Ordinary Time, which extends to the end of November, is to look at what Jesus so tenaciously taught his disciples and see what is in these teachings for us, as we carry out the work we have been given to do. Jesus promised his disciples a helper, an Advocate, who would stand with them making the work possible. This same helper, the Holy Spirit, hovers over us, still eager to quench the fire of fear and replace it with the powerful energy of love.

**Proper 8**  
**July 1, 2007**  
**Luke 9: 51-62**

**A notation for this week's Gospel**

Rejection. To the disciples' horror, the people of the village did not receive Jesus. Retribution, they insisted! "No," said Jesus, moving on. Follow, they decided. But what would "follow" mean? Maybe to follow is to hold focus. Staying on focus involves choosing the important and not getting bogged down in the urgent. What is the "important" that we follow?

**Lesson Plans for Adults**

**Theme: Where do we go when we follow?**

**Before Class.** You might choose to download this passage from the Internet ([www.devotions.net/bible/00bible.htm](http://www.devotions.net/bible/00bible.htm) is one site), make copies and highlight the different voices.

**Beginning.** Invite the group to notice that our most difficult decisions are often not between a really poor option and a really good one — but deciding between two apparently equally good options. For example: do I stay late at work and finish this project which my company really needs, or do I take off in time to get to my child's baseball game?

**Opening Prayer.** Dear God, amid the tyranny of options we face, help us to make the choices that result in truly following you. Amen.

**The Scripture.** Luke 9: 51 - 62. This passage has several voices: the narrator, the disciples, Jesus and three people with speaking parts as they walk with Jesus and the disciples. Have the volunteers read through their highlighted part in the passage.

## **Some Questions.**

### **What's going on here?**

Is your group clear about the relationship between Samaritans and Jews? (Jews tended to see Samaritans as "mongrels" and Samaritans had little use for Jews although they both read from the same scriptures. Here, Jesus is clearly on his way to Jerusalem; Samaritans did not worship God in Jerusalem but on the mountain, instead.)

The disciples rage at not being invited in by the Samaritans is understandable, but what is Jesus' response to their rage? (Verses 55-56)

Three people are walking along with Jesus and the disciples. With the first one speaking, who initiates the conversation? (Verse 57b) and what is Jesus' response? (Verse 58)

What is the sequence in the second conversation? (Verses 59-60) and in the third? (Verses 61-62)

If we do not think Jesus opposed a follower attending his own father's funeral, what do we think he means? (In what ways is Jesus helping these people set priorities?)

### **How does this speak to us as we choose to follow Jesus?**

Where did following Jesus take the disciples?

Where did Jesus go?

If we really follow Jesus, where will we need to go?

### **How do we make choices?**

Invite a discussion about making choices and what has worked for each of us. How does it help to have someone listen as we talk through our options?

When have we found someone "wiser" to talk with?

When have we noticed that we learned something by making the wrong choice and learning from our mistakes?

When has choosing not to choose until we have had time to reflect helped?

When has summoning up our courage to do the hard thing energized us for the next decision?

How does a consistent pattern make these decisions easier to make?

**Getting Closure.** Discuss how our world might look if everyone really chose to "love one another?" How might that affect the decisions each of us makes?

**Closing Prayer.** Thank you that you lead us, Jesus, inviting us to follow you. Amen.