

**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 9**  
**July 8, 2007**  
**Luke 10: 1-11, 16-20**

Trial run. The disciples have received their basic training, and now it is time to do a test case. Two by two, Jesus sends them where he intends to follow — no lone rangers, here. Some will receive the pairs, and some will not. Sent out as raw recruits, the disciples return seasoned disciples. They discover they can do the work Jesus has given them to do. Will we choose to do the work Jesus has given us to do?

### **Lesson Plans for Older Children**

**Theme: Sent where Jesus intends to go.**

**Before Class.** A scavenger hunt type activity is suggested, so you will need to think through what will work in your facility. The concept is to send children out in pairs to "notice," record, and then report what they saw. Depending on how many children you expect, come up with "assignments." Example: if the worship service is going on, stand outside the doors and silently notice what is on the altar and behind it. Or, go out the front door of the church and describe all you can see as you approach the door. Or, peek into the clergyperson's office and describe all you can see there. Other options: Our own classroom, or what does one wall of the classroom look like?

The purpose will be for a pair of children to go, look, record what each sees, then combine what both saw. They will probably each see something slightly different and the combined report will be more inclusive. Each child will need a piece of paper and a pencil with a good eraser.

If you normally teach alone, it would be very good to recruit a friend to join you today. (Two is usually better than one!) The friend could either be the other half of a pair, if you have an uneven number of children -- or could help you gather the children when they have finished their task.

You may also want to alert the ushers and the clergy about the plan, so they are not concerned at children out of a class space.

**Beginning.** Tell the children that Jesus said that for most work two is better than one. We will experiment with that idea today.

**Opening Prayer.** Thank you, Jesus, that you don't ask us to do things we cannot do. Amen.

**The Story. Luke 10: 1-11.** Although almost the entire passage is the voice of Jesus, you could divide it to make it easier to read: Verses 1 - 1 - 2; verses 3 - 3 - 7; verses 8 - 11.

### **Some Questions.**

Why do you think Jesus is sending his disciples out? (He has gotten them sufficiently trained to do the work of getting people ready to hear from Jesus himself.)

Why do you think Jesus sent them out in pairs? (Two could take care of each other and help each other.)

What do you think Jesus meant by "lamb in the midst of wolves?" (Many people will not be ready to hear their message and, in fact, may even be angry about the message, but the disciples are not to argue with anyone.)

What does Jesus tell them about traveling light? (Verse 4)

What are the disciples to do if they are welcomed? (Verses 7- 9)

What are they to do if they are not welcomed? (Verses 10-11)

**Activity. Going out in pairs.** Tell them you will define the task and then give them their assignments.

They are to go in pairs quietly, especially if other classes or worship is going on. They will notice as many details of the site they have been assigned to, making notes or sketching what they see — each person of the pair doing their own sketch or notes. Then, the pair will compare notes and combine what they have seen into one report to bring back. Then give each pair an assignment. Tell them how long they have to do the task and when to be back in class.

When all are back in the room, give each pair time to report what they saw, which things one of them noticed and which things the other noticed.

**Getting Closure.** Ask the pairs to think about something they noticed that was encouraging and if there was anything that was bothersome. (There may be something you think merits sharing with the church leadership. Use your discretion on how you may honor your class' observations in a helpful way)

**Closing Prayer.** Thank you, Jesus, for helping us to help each other. Amen.