



## Children's liturgy – Fifteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time

**Welcome:** Today we hear how Jesus sent his disciples out to spread his word, but even though they had to travel far and wide, Jesus told them not to take any of their belongings with them. Let's think a bit more about this...

**Opening prayer:** God of truth, inspire us to share all that you have given us and to be friendly and welcoming to all people. Amen.

### **Gospel: Mark 6:7-13**

Jesus called the twelve disciples together and sent them out two by two. He gave them authority over the evil spirits and ordered them, "Don't take anything with you on your journey except a stick—no bread, no beggar's bag, no money in your pockets. Wear sandals, but don't carry an extra shirt." He also said, "Wherever you are welcomed, stay in the same house until you leave that place. If you come to a town where people do not welcome you or will not listen to you, leave it and shake the dust off your feet. That will be a warning to them!"

So they went out and preached that people should turn away from their sins. They drove out many demons, and rubbed olive oil on many sick people and healed them.

**Gospel reflection:** What do you remember from today's reading?

Jesus sends his disciples out to spread his word, but what did he say they could take with them?

They weren't allowed to take anything with them except a stick, to help them walk on their journey. They couldn't take a bag, or any food, or any money. Not even a change of clothes! How do you think the disciples felt about this?

When was the last time you went away? Can you remember it? What did you take with you? How do you think you would like to go away without any clean clothes, any toys or books, any money to spend?

The disciples had nothing – it must have been very difficult. And without food or money to buy food, they could have been very hungry. They had to rely on the people they met along the way being kind and generous, inviting the disciples to stay with them and share their food.

In the world today some people have to leave their homes very quickly, because of fighting nearby, or because of floods or other natural disasters. They do not get to take very much with them – just what they can carry.

Khodesa had to leave her home in Myanmar and travel to the neighbouring country of Bangladesh, because of violence.

She waited until her baby was a week old before she set out. Before then they hid with her three older children outside their village for safety.

Khodesa said, “We walked for days through the jungle before reaching the border with Bangladesh, then we had to wait to cross. We started with four bags but had to abandon them on the way. We survived by begging food from other refugees but there was still not enough food.”

How do you think Khodesa felt, having to flee her home with her family? And how do you think she felt when others shared their food with her?

All that we have is given to us by God and is meant for all people to share. So, this week let’s try to be open to others, share what we have and be friendly and welcoming to everyone.

How will you share and be welcoming to others this week?

### **Activity**

Colour in the accompanying illustration of a traveller being welcomed and, on the back, write or draw what you will do in the coming week to share and be welcoming to others.

Make a list of all the things that you would take with you if they had to leave your home, or of all the things that you took with you the last time you went on holiday. If you can only take the two most important things on your list – what would you take and why?

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