

# Living out our Discipleship this Week at Home

Based on the lectionary reading for this week

Compiled by Rev Linda Driver, Athelstone Uniting Church from Seasons of the Spirit resources.

## July 4, 2021 – *Resilient Leadership*

### Lectionary Readings for this Week

**Mark 6:1–13** the focus for this resource   Psalm 48   2 Samuel 5:1–5, 9–10   2 Corinthians 12:2–10

### Read

**Mark 6:1–13** in your Bible. You might also like to read **Jesus Returns Home** over the page

### Something to think about, talk about or do

Jesus returns to his hometown to teach, but the people simply cannot accept God's message from someone they have known since childhood. Still, Jesus' mission doesn't come to a crashing halt as a result of their rejection. Instead, Jesus sends his disciples out two-by-two to proclaim God's love in word and deed. They are to take nothing with them to help them in their task; instead, they are to be utterly dependent upon the hospitality of those who would welcome their message.

Together this week, talk about times when it has been challenging to share Jesus' message. What obstacles might the disciples face if they were to go out two-by-two today?

### Prayer

Generous God,  
your love for the world  
is so big it just needs to be shared.  
Sometimes that is hard to do.  
Help us to find the courage to share your love with others.  
Amen.

### Further Reflection:

Read **Every New Morning**, by Dietrich Bonhoeffer (scroll down)

Do these words give you hope?

What Bible passages, songs or images come to mind?

# Jesus Returns Home

Based on Mark 6:1–13

**W**ow! Who is this guy?" they whispered.

"I heard he can perform miracles; I heard he can heal the sick."

"Well, I heard he works on the Sabbath!"

Jesus had just finished preaching at the synagogue in his hometown of Nazareth. It had been a long time since he had been home and he was excited to bring his disciples with him to the place where he grew up. He had been looking forward to seeing his family and catching up with old friends, all while sharing the good news of God.

But soon, a new whisper went around the crowd. Someone said, "Wait – this is Jesus! You know, the carpenter's son! Remember him? I know some of his sisters." Then another spoke up, "Why does he think he is so special? He's just one of us!" "Yeah," added another, "We don't have to listen to him; let's go home." The crowd dispersed, mumbling, and Jesus was left alone with his disciples.

The disciples looked warily at Jesus. Surely he would be disappointed, angry even, that the people in his hometown didn't take him seriously. But Jesus sighed deeply. "Funny," he chuckled, "people come from all over Galilee to hear me talk about God, but the people here still see me as a 12-year-old, reading in the temple." He shook his head. "I guess they aren't ready yet." And because the people didn't believe, Jesus found he could do only a few miracles there, healing a few of the sick. Jesus then moved on to the next village.

Along the way, Jesus smiled at his disciples and said, "I want you to travel to villages and help me show and tell the people about God's love." The disciples looked at each other and shook their heads. They were full of questions, "What if people won't listen to us like they didn't listen to you in Nazareth? To what villages will we go? What will we take with us?" "You don't need to take anything with you; no food or money will be needed. Just go, and in each village find a home that will welcome you for as long as you need to stay there. If you find people won't listen to you, don't get angry. Just dust off your sandals and move on to the next village, like I did."

The disciples did as Jesus asked, healing the sick and spreading the word to all who chose to listen and believe.

# Every New Morning

*Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

Every new morning  
is a new beginning of our life.  
Every day  
is a completed whole.  
This day, today  
is the limit of our  
sorrows and efforts.  
It is long enough  
to find God  
or to lose him,  
to keep faith  
or to fall into sin and shame.  
Just as the good old sun  
rises every morning anew,  
so is God's eternal mercy  
new every morning.

*From Meditation and Prayer by Dietrich Bonhoeffer.  
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