

Twelfth Sunday of the Year

Do not be afraid

INTRODUCTION

Imagine how you would feel if your parents wanted to send you to Africa to tell the children there all about Jesus. How would you feel traveling to a strange country all alone? Jesus wanted his disciples to share the Good News with everyone, and they were afraid, too.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

LIGHT THE CANDLES

As you light the candles, say together Candle Prayer 2.

SORRY

Today we will hear Jesus telling his disciples that they must never feel afraid. We are not afraid to come before Jesus to ask for his forgiveness if we have done wrong. In a moment of silence let us ask God's forgiveness for anything we have done to hurt him or other people by our thoughts and actions.

GLORIA

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 4.

GOSPEL (MATTHEW 10:26-33)

Before Jesus sent the apostles out to bring the Good News to the people, he gathered them together and said: "Do not be afraid to stand before the crowds and speak, even though there will be many who wish you harm and will not listen.

"My heavenly father knows when even one little sparrow falls dead from the sky, and you mean more to him than all the birds in the world. He will watch over you and see how brave you are. If you lose your life for my sake, your reward will be great in heaven and you will share in my father's glory and have life everlasting."

DISCUSSION

Why did the apostles need great courage to go and share the gospel with other people? They had to

leave their friends and families and travel to countries where they were strangers. When they got there, they had to live as Jesus had taught them and share his message with the crowds.

Have you ever had to stand up in front of a crowd of people and read to them, or say lines in a school play? Did you feel nervous? Imagine how frightening it was for the apostles!

Can you remember who came at Pentecost to share his courage and strength with the apostles? The apostles were transformed by the Holy Spirit. They changed from being frightened men, to being brave enough to stand up before non-believers and tell them that Jesus had risen from the dead.

Do you think they found it easy to convince people that Jesus had done all the wonderful things they spoke of, including coming back to life? Many did not believe them and treated them as liars, chasing them away from their towns.

How do we share the Gospel message today? We can tell people about Jesus, but we must also try to live in the way that Jesus taught us. We must share what we believe, and the Holy Spirit will give us the same strength and courage that he gave the disciples.

ACTIVITY

Cut out two large hand shapes and a silhouette of a person for each child to complete.

CREED

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, help us to share
the good news of the Gospel.
Through the power of your Holy Spirit,
give us the strength and courage
of the apostles,
to stand up and be witnesses
to what we believe.

**Do not be afraid:
Put yourself in God's hands**

