

**Lesson Plans that Work**  
**Year A – Season after Pentecost, Proper 7**  
**Gospel Lesson for Adults**

**Scripture: Matthew 10:24-39**

In this season after Pentecost, we hear stories of Jesus ministry in the world and our call to engage in that mission. This season is also known as Ordinary Time coming from the word “ordinal” which means counted time. This time is not ordinary as in common or regular, but it is the time of counted weeks between Pentecost and Advent. The color for this season is green and it is often referred to as the green growing time as we hear stories of what God is calling us to do in the world, we join in that call, and we grow in our faith.

**A Notation for This Week’s Gospel and Reading**

The reading for today can be a difficult one if we do not look at what lies beneath the word. Jesus tells us that what we instinctively do or don’t do, we should be doing the opposite. Jesus talks about setting family members against one another and turning things upside down. These are challenging words for us because it means that all those relationships, all the things we think are important, all those cultural norms we try so hard to abide by are turned on their head. The central message in all this upendedness is that God comes first before anything else we think might be important AND God knows all of those things in our hearts and minds. The good news is that because God knows all, it means that we do not need to keep anything hidden, we do not need to fear, we do not need to keep secrets. All is known by God and nothing comes before God. Nothing.

**Theme: God Knows Us**

**Before Class:** You will need two different translation of today’s reading. You can either supply enough Bibles (of both translations) or make copies of the scripture for each person. If you are going to do the activity, you will need plain paper, markers, pens, and crayons.

**Beginning:** Invite everyone to gather. Tell them a bit about what this Season after Pentecost means (you can use the description found at the beginning of the lesson if you would like to) and invite them to think about what this green growing time can mean for them.

**Opening Prayer:** Loving God, we ask you to be with us as we explore what your words mean for our lives. Guide us as we seek to do your mission in the world. Amen.

**The Scripture: Matthew 10:24-39**

You will be reading the lesson today twice and will need two different readers. Think about having two very different voices read this such as male or female, young or old. Before reading the lesson the first time, invite people to listen for a word or phrase that stood out for them.

Invite the first reader to read the lesson.

After a few moments of silence, invite the group to say what word or phrase stood out for them.

When you feel everyone has shared, invite the group to listen once more and to listen for what Jesus is saying to them. Invite the second reader to read the lesson.

After a few moments of silence, invite the group to say what they heard Jesus saying to them.

After everyone has shared, you can begin with the questions or go to the activity.

**Questions:**

- I wonder what it was like for those listening to Jesus' words for the first time?
- What do you think their response may have been?
- I wonder why these words are difficult to hear?
- I wonder how these words might make us feel liberated?

**Activity Option:** Invite the group to respond to the lesson by creating a drawing, poem, or representation of what this world may look like. What would it look like to have all things spoken, to have no fear, to have God come first, etc.

**Getting Closure:** Invite them to share what they came up with in the activity time or, if you did not do the activity, pose the question to them – what would this world look like to have all things spoken, to have no fear, to have God come first, etc. – and invite them to share how the world might be different.

**Closing Prayer:** Loving God, help us put you first in our lives, to listen for your guidance, and to hear the call to serve you. Guide our ears, eyes, mouth, hands, and feet that we may engage in your mission in the world. Amen.

## **Matthew 10:24-39**

Jesus said to the twelve disciples,

"A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

"So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

"Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

"Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

"For I have come to set a man against his father,  
and a daughter against her mother,  
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;  
and one's foes will be members of one's own household.

"Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it."

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