

Lesson Plans that Work
Year B – Season after Pentecost, Proper 9
Lesson Plans for Adults

Scripture: Mark 6:1-13

Background: We are now in the long season known as Ordinary Time, which runs through Christ the King Sunday. As we take this journey, nourished by the scriptures appointed for the season and empowered by our baptisms, we are invited to be on the lookout for all the blessings found in the ordinary – to see God at work here and now. And we are compelled to share our blessings with others.

A Notation for This Week's Gospel

Although Jesus was stung by the hardened hearts of those in his own hometown, he realized that the prophet is not without honor -- except in his own hometown. So he moves on and begins to train his disciples. Two by two he sends them out to work in pairs, building their own relationships as they work with those who accept their ministry.

Theme: Two-by-Two

Before Class: Divide your group into pairs, either letting them self-select or go around the group having them number off. (The first person says "1," the second person says "2," the third person says "1," etc.) If you are going to do this, you will need to have a copy of some questions for each pair. Some suggested questions are offered, feel free to add your own, and then make sufficient copies. Or write all the questions on a sheet of newsprint and post it where all can see it.

Beginning: Describe to the class that you have planned for them to work in pairs and come together as a group as the end of your time together. Allow them to select a partner or pair them off.

Opening Prayer: Thank you, God, for the reminder we find in today's scripture that you do not expect any of us to do all of the work that needs to be done by ourselves. Thank you for the concept of sharing the responsibilities. Amen.

The Scripture: Mark 6:1-13 Invite one person to read Mark 6:1-6 and a second one to read verses 7-13. If you have provided copies of the questions and you have a small space, some of the pairs might take chairs out into the hall, or even outside.

Reflection Questions:

(These are also printed at the end of the lesson with the scripture verse so you can print them for the pairs if you wish.)

- Share a time when you, or someone you know, was in the position of being a prophet "not without honor except in their hometown." As you get in touch with how that felt to you, consider how it might have been to Jesus. Why do you think he was "amazed at their unbelief"?

- Why do you think Jesus found it so important to send his disciples out two-by-two?
- In our times of suitcases, hair dryers, sunscreen, etc., how can we follow the instruction Jesus gave?
- What might verse 10 have to say to us as a church community?
- Share a time you brought a message that was welcomed by a person who really wanted to hear about your faith and truly listened.
- Share a time you thought you had a compelling message and you were not well received.

Getting Closure: Bring the groups back together and invite them to share one thing that really struck them. Conclude by considering our roles as the other half of a team that ministers in this community. What are we doing to help our clergy, lay leaders, youth, children, and fellow ministers in the work we are being called to do in this place?

Closing Prayer: Thank you, God, for the privilege of ministering and for the people you place in this work with us. Amen.

Mark 6:1-13

He left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. ²On the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! ³Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joseph and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. ⁴Then Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house." ⁵And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. ⁶And he was amazed at their unbelief. Then he went about among the villages teaching.

⁷He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. ⁸He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; ⁹but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. ¹⁰He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. ¹¹If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them." ¹²So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. ¹³They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

Reflection Questions:

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Why do you think Jesus found it so important to send his disciples out two-by-two?

In our times of suitcases, hair dryers, sunscreen, etc., how can we follow the instruction Jesus gave?

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