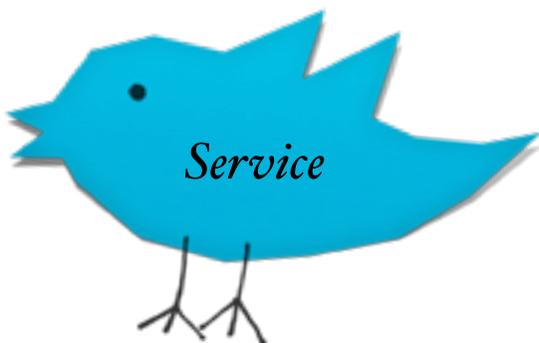




ordinary  
time



lectionary  
reading

## Cycle B

### Fourteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Lectionary #101

#### Reading I: Ezekiel 2: 2-5

In this reading, Ezekiel is called to be a prophet and is warned by God that he may not be successful in making God's message known. Given this warning, some might question the value of taking on such a mission. God answers this doubt when he says to Ezekiel, *They shall know that a prophet has been among them.* The emphasis here is that Ezekiel is commissioned to be of **service** to the Lord. God has called Ezekiel to a most difficult task: to be a prophet to a people who have long been ignoring God's word, rebelling against the divine plan, and even attempting to kill the prophets whose messages they did not want to hear. God calls Ezekiel to **serve** him by speaking His word to the people whether they accept it or not.

#### Reading 2: 2 Corinthians 12: 7-10

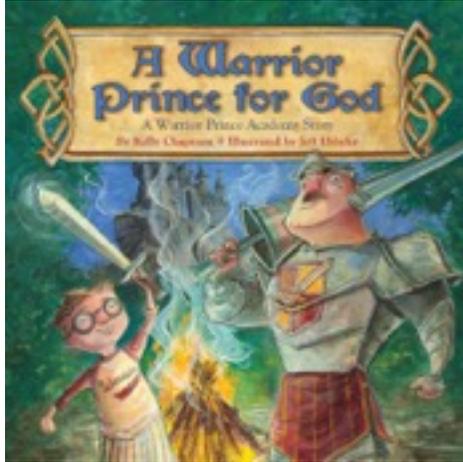
The theme of **service** continues in this Second Letter of Saint Paul to the Church at Corinth. Saint Paul recognizes that he has been called to carry out the **service** that God has given to him even in the face of resistance, threats, and trials. Saint Paul proclaims boldly that it is the power of God working within him that allows him to carry out his mission of **service** despite the hardships. It is through the grace of God that all **service** is accomplished. We learn that God's grace works through our weaknesses as much, if not more, than through our strengths.

#### Gospel: Mark 6: 1-6

Jesus proclaims that he is here to **serve** and not to be **served**. He always makes it clear that he is doing the work and the will of the Father. The people of Jesus' hometown find him all too common and ordinary and they refuse to believe that he can know anything about the Scripture. Their resistance to Jesus indicates a lack of faith, and so Jesus performs no miracles among the people *apart from curing a few sick people by laying his hands on them.* This Gospel shows that although a person may come wanting to **serve**, there must be an openness to their **service**.



children's  
story



**A Warrior Prince for God**  
Written by Kelly Chapman  
Illustrated by Jeff Ebbeler  
Publication: January 1, 2001: Harvest  
House Publishers  
ISBN-10: 0736928952  
ISBN-13: 978-0736928953



character  
education  
activity

**Service is essential to living as  
a follower of Jesus Christ, the  
One who came to serve and  
not to be served.**

## A Warrior Prince for God

*A Warrior Prince for God* is a lively story about baseball, camping, and facing one's fears. This book can help a child understand that no matter what they might be afraid of, they can be strong in the Lord's mighty power. One of the most defining elements which parallels today's second reading from 2 Corinthians is that God works through our weakness and that all things are accomplished by God's power in our lives.

## Activity

Step One: Identify the **service** men and women who might be a part of the school and parish community. Talk to the students about the importance of supporting people who are far away from their family, friends, and everything that is familiar to them. Discuss how a letter or card can be of **service** to them.

Step Two: Once the individuals are identified, have the children design cards, write letters, and compile a care package for those service men and women. It might be helpful to do research to identify the products that service men and women find most useful.

Step Three: Help the students see that their letters and care packages are very much like the encouragement that Saint Paul provides in the letters he writes to the different churches that he established.

**The best way to find  
yourself is to lose  
yourself in the service  
of others.**

**Mahatma Gandhi**



**case study**

**Look.  
Feel.  
Know.  
Act.**

## **What could you do today?**

Contributing to the home that you live in is often a **service** that we can overlook since our parents or the adults in our house are doing all kinds of things for us most of the time. Because of this, we might be used to taking the **service** being offered to us. As we grow, we are able to be of **service** to those who have taken care of us and our home.

Sit down with your parents and ask them what **services** you might be able to provide. Once those duties have been identified, make a chart that will help you to remember what the duty is and when it should be accomplished. In addition, when doing the **service**, remember to make doing the job a prayer. Saint Therese of Lisieux would often suggest that even small jobs can be a prayer when we do them with the right mindset. You may wish to post the chart of duties on the refrigerator or somewhere else where you know you will see it each day and thus remind you of the **service** you wish to do for those around you.

## **Look Feel Know Act**

When you observe all that is in the world, such as the wonderful schools, institutions, hospitals, and different service agencies, you will undoubtedly wonder how all these wonderful things came about. These places exist because someone or some group of people saw a need and decided to take action to fulfill that need. Think about what the needs are for today in the world that you live in and pray that you will constantly be inspired by God to see what is needed. Ask that you will recognize when you are called to do something and that you will be energized to act in service to people in need. You might want to involve your family in making some type of commitment to **servicing** and then perform the **service** together as a family.

*A Warrior Prince for God* emphasizes being able to do great things when we know that God is constantly working through us even in the midst of our weaknesses or failings. This story is a wonderful parallel of the letter Saint Paul writes to the Corinthians, for in that letter he speaks about the fact that it is truly God who accomplishes every good thing through us and that he does this through his grace. Fear of our inadequacies melt away when we trust in God's grace working through us for good. Any **service** we render is always God working through us. We are God's instruments!



**closing  
tool**

Loving God, allow me to serve others and never count the cost. Energize me with your Holy Spirit so that I may give of my talents, time, and treasures in ways that will most benefit your Son, who I am called to see in each person. In doing so, may I give perfect praise to you, forever and ever. Amen.



**Santa Clara  
University**

Character Education at the Markkula Center for Applied Ethics  
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