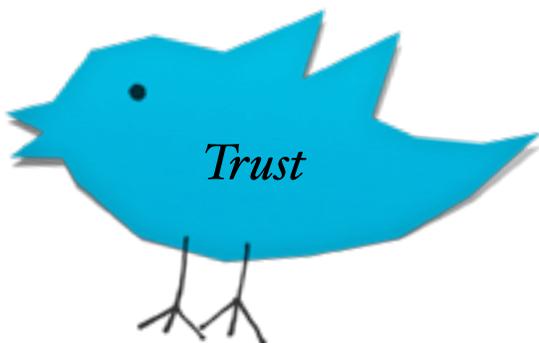




build. plant. grow.
the word this week



ordinary
time



lectionary
reading

Cycle B

Thirty-Second Sunday of Ordinary Time

Lectionary # 155

Reading I: 1 Kings 17:10-16

Today's first reading emphasizes the **trust** shown by both the prophet Elijah and the widow of Zarepath. Elijah is traveling into a hostile territory, but **trusts** that God will watch over and protect him. When he encounters the widow of Zarepath, Elijah asks her for assistance. Although the woman explains that she has little to offer him, Elijah announces that if she feeds him, the Lord will provide for her and her son. **Trusting** that the prophet's words are true, she does what is requested and her **trust** is rewarded, for *the jar of flour did not go empty nor did the jug of oil run dry as the Lord foretold through Elijah*. The **trust** of the prophet and the widow brought about both physical and spiritual abundance as the Lord promised.

Reading 2: Hebrews 9:24-28

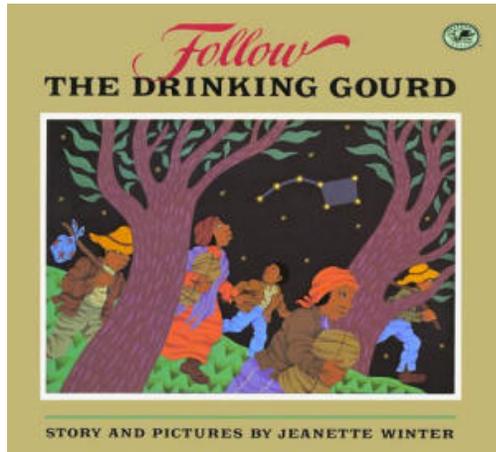
The author of the book of Hebrews speaks about how believers are called to have absolute **trust** in the one who gave himself as a sacrifice on the cross. The writer proclaims that Jesus is the seal to the new covenant and that this covenant will not be revoked by God. We can **trust** that Jesus has given his own blood to seal this new covenant with our God and that this sacrifice brings our forgiveness and reconciliation. We are called to place **trust** in the love that God has shown for us through this perfect sacrifice for all of humanity.

Gospel: Mark 12:38-44

This passage in the Gospel of Mark illustrates the complete and utter **trust** of the widow, who believed that God would care for her. As is common in Mark's Gospel, we find this story of **trust** amidst stories about people who believe that they are above others. As Jesus says, this self-confidence and lack of **trust** in God will be their undoing.



children's
story



Follow the Drinking Gourd

Written by Jeanette Winter

Illustrated by Jeanette Winter

Publication: Dragonfly Books: Reprint Edition, 1992.

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ISBN-13: 978-0679819974



character
education
activity

**Those who trust in the Lord
will find new strength!
-Isaiah 40:31**

Follow the Drinking Gourd

Follow the Drinking Gourd is a wonderful illustration of the virtue of **trust**. Throughout the story, **trust** is essential to those who work to free others from slavery. The story begins when a peg-legged sailor aids slaves with their escape plans. While working for various plantation owners, Peg-Leg Joe teaches the slaves a song about the “drinking gourd:” the star constellation the Big Dipper. The slaves learn to make their escape by following the song’s direction.

Worry and Trust Don’t Mix

Materials Needed:

- Cooking Oil
- Water
- Food coloring
- Three clear containers (2 small and 1 large)
- Masking tape
- Sharpie

Step One: Show the students the supplies you have and identify each one.

Step Two: Pour the oil into one of the small, clear containers and as you do so, explain to the students that oil is going to represent “worry.” Ask the students what it means to be worried. Label the container “Worry.”

Step Three: Place water into the second small container and add food coloring so that the water can be seen more clearly. Explain to the students that the colored water will represent “**trust** in God” and label the container this. Ask the students what they think “**trust** in God” means.

Step Four: Ask the students if they think that God wants us to worry or to **trust**. Ask them if they think it is possible to worry and to **trust** in God at the same time.

Step Five: Pour the contents of the “worry” container and the “**trust** in God” container into the third container. At first, the two will appear to mix, but have the students see that they eventually separate.

Step Six: Explain to the students that our hearts cannot hold onto worry while **trusting** in God. Tell them that God wants us to **trust** him whenever we are tempted to worry because he cares for us.

**Trust in the Lord with all
your heart and lean not
on your own
understanding; in all
your ways acknowledge
Him and He will make
straight your paths.
-Proverbs 3:5-6**



case study

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

What could you do today?

God is in control and knows about everything: the past, what is happening in the present, and what will happen in the future. Make a commitment to **trust** God each time you begin to worry about something. You can talk to God when you begin to worry and ask for his help. Imagine rolling this worry up into a ball and giving the ball of worry to God so that it is no longer in your hands. Like most things that we wish to become good at, **trusting** God with our worries will take time and practice. Eventually, we can immediately **trust** God to hold onto our worries before they take over our thoughts.

Look Feel Know Act

There are countless things that we tend to worry about, and we can easily get caught up in this “web” of worry. Even though we know that worry does not change everything, we still have a hard time listening to Jesus when he tells us not to be afraid and to put our energy into **trusting** God. The more we practice **trusting** God, the less power worry has over us. Remind yourself and others that no matter what we hear, see, or experience, we can act in **trust** by placing our worries in the hands of God and leaving them there.

Trust is crucial and critical to one's faith and relationship with God. **Trust** is also an essential element in all relationships we have. In *Follow the Drinking Gourd*, we see the virtue of **trust** practiced by all of the characters, from Peg-Leg Joe to the slaves he helps to the people who help those seeking freedom along the Underground Railroad. **Trust** is so intimately intertwined with the three theological virtues of faith, hope, and love, that without it, we are not able to be fully open to God's love.



**closing
tool**

Loving God, source of all good in creation, help me to always bring my concerns and worries to you. Strengthen my trust in you and help my trust to grow stronger with each passing day as I learn to let go of my worries and place them in your hands. Amen.



**Santa Clara
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