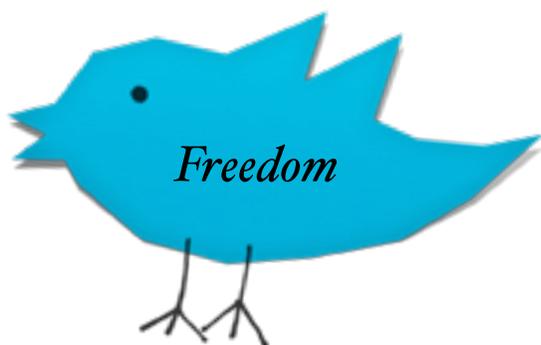




build. plant. grow.
the word this week



ordinary
time



lectionary
reading

Cycle B

Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Lectionary # 71

Reading I: Deuteronomy 18: 15-20

The Book of Deuteronomy, in general, is composed of speeches delivered by Moses to the Israelites during the forty years they wandered in the desert. As the Israelites approach the promised land, their **freedom** from the Egyptians becomes fully realized. Yet, their **freedom** is connected to how faithful they are at maintaining God's law. In today's reading, Moses foretells the arrival of a prophet who will deliver God's word and guide them. The future prophet will assure them of God's continuing presence among them, which is their **freedom**. This prophecy of Moses is a foreshadowing of Christ, who will bring **freedom** from both sin and death to believers.

Reading 2: 1 Corinthians 7: 32-35

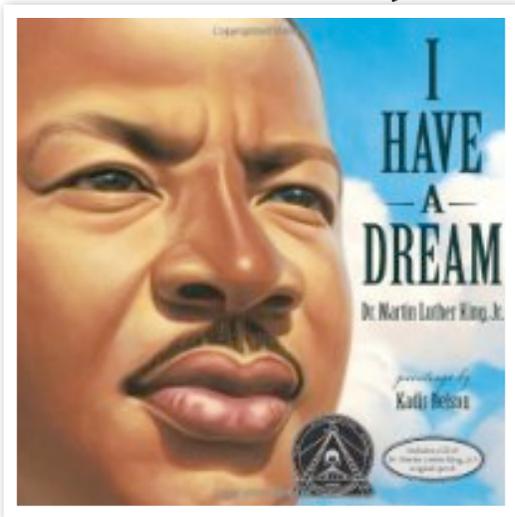
In this passage, Saint Paul is responding to some of the questions posed to him by the community at Corinth. His opening statement reassures Corinthians that they should be **free** of the anxieties that sparked the questions. There are many questions regarding how people should live, depending on if they are married or not. Saint Paul assures the community that whether married or unmarried, each person is called to be loving in their life and community. Married individuals should be attentive to their spouses, while the unmarried should be more attentive to things of the Lord.

Gospel: Mark 1: 21-28

In the opening chapters of Saint Mark's gospel Jesus is presented as performing many miracles. Jesus performs miracles of healing and exorcisms that create a new **freedom** for those who are healed. It is Jesus' authority, his connectedness with the will of the Father, and his care and regard for those in need that enable him to work these miracles of healing and exorcism that bring **freedom** to the recipients.



children's story



I Have a Dream

Written by: King, Jr., Martin Luther
Illustrated by: Kadir Nelson
Published 2012, Schwartz and Wade
ISBN-10:0375858873
ISBN-13:978037585887



character
education
activity

**Freedom is an inalienable right
given to each person by God to
seek a meaningful life
without hindrance from any
person or society.**

I Have a Dream

This inspirational book is about Dr. King Jr's lifelong message. His dream was to bring about **freedom**, equality and peace to people everywhere. On August 28, 1963, on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, Dr. King Jr. gave one of the most memorable and powerful speeches in the history of the United States. This book is a presentation of his speech with magnificent illustrations by Kadir Nelson. The words and illustrations combine to make a truly wonderful picture book that can be enjoyed by both children and adults. The themes of **freedom** and equality continue to be relevant for today's society and provide a historical context for young children regarding the nation's past. The book also includes an audio CD of the speech.

Activity

Step One: After the students have heard the great speech of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. invite the students to identify various words that are meaningful to them.

Step Two: After they have identified a few words invited them to do a search either online or using a dictionary to deepen their understanding of those words.

Step Three: Using magazines, have the students cut out letters to spell their chosen words and design an artistic picture with those words.

Step Four: Provide students with large foam board letters that spell out in capital letters the word **FREEDOM**. Since there are 7 letters in the word **FREEDOM**, divide the students into 7 groups and give each group one of the letters.

Step Five: Place a large picture of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on the classroom wall and have the students frame his picture with the word **FREEDOM**.

**Jesus Christ brought
humanity ultimate
freedom when He gave
his life on the Cross to
free us from sin and
death.**



case study

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

What could you do today?

This activity involves both parents and children.

Parents: Have your child make a fist with his or her right hand. With masking tape, wrap the closed fist tightly so your child cannot move his or her fingers. Write the word SIN on the tape. Explain to your child that without Christ, we are bound and cannot move **freely**. Now ask your child to try to open their fist and shake your hand. Sin (the tape) makes it impossible for your child to shake your hand. Now explain that having trust in Jesus will allow them to be **free**. As you are saying this, break the tape from their fist so that they are now able to grasp your hand. While there is still tape on their hands, you can then tell them that sin is always present in the world but it is our choice whether we will allow it to bind us up and prevent us from being **free**, or live freely with Christ.

Look Feel Know Act

Recall a time when you were given a “time-out” by an adult because you were not being your best. Remember that not being your best limited what you were able to do and where you were able to go. The “time-out” gave you an opportunity to think about what you had done and taught you there would be consequences for your actions or words. The “time-out” although restricting you from doing something gave you the opportunity to think about how much you would like to be **free**. God is always looking to give us opportunities to think about what we have said or done so that we can be **free** to live as God’s image. We are most truly ourselves when we live, speak, think and act as God would. When we reflect on this, we begin to know the importance of reflecting God in our lives. This knowledge can then inspire us to live **freely** through having a relationship with God.

The book *I Have a Dream* is very much connected to the theme of **freedom** that is present in Sunday's scripture passages. We see in both the Scripture passages and the book themes of personal and societal freedom and how they are intertwined. Personal freedom is crucial to societal freedom just as societal freedom is crucial for personal freedom. They are absolutely interconnected. There is an anonymous saying that states: *When one person is not free then no one is free.*



**closing
tool**

Closing Prayer

Pray that you will be an element of freedom in the world. Pray that your words, your thoughts and your actions will be those elements that will seek and foster the good of the other. Amen.



**Santa Clara
University**

Character Education at the Markkula Center for Applied Ethics
ethics programs for communities that learn, live, pray, or work together

www.scu.edu/character