

Cycle C

Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Lectionary #75

Reading I: Isaiah 6: 1-2a, 3-8

In today's first reading, we witness God's **call** to Isaiah to become a prophet. Those who are **called** to be prophets are often unwilling to accept that call for various reasons. Isaiah protests this **call** because he believes that he is unworthy to be a prophet. In the midst of a vision, Isaiah experiences God's glory and finds that he has been touched by God through an angel who purifies his lips so that he can be the voice of God for the people. After this, Isaiah takes up God's **call** to be a prophet.

Reading 2: 1 Corinthians 15: 1-11

In this letter to the Corinthians, Saint Paul reminds the Corinthians of their **call** to be a community. Divisions have occurred among the members of the Church at Corinth, and Saint Paul writes to encourage them to return to what they had embraced when they were first **called** by God. Reminders are important for any of us who wish to stay on track when it comes to living as followers of Jesus. Although we might initially answer this **call** with enthusiasm, that excitement often goes away and is overshadowed by distractions. Reading the Scriptures is one way that we can remind ourselves of God's **call** to his followers in the past and his **call** to us today.

Gospel: Luke 5: 1-11

The **call** of Saint Peter comes in a very ordinary manner, especially in comparison to Isaiah's **call** in today's first reading. Saint Peter's **call** comes in the midst of a normal day under normal circumstances. Peter had just finished a night of fishing, where he caught nothing, when Jesus invites him and his fellow fishermen to *put out into deep water and lower the nets*. After Peter does this, the nets are filled with fish. Like Isaiah, Peter also felt unworthy of his **call**, yet it is important to remember that God **calls** us just as we are and works with us wherever we are in life.



build. plant. grow.
the word this week



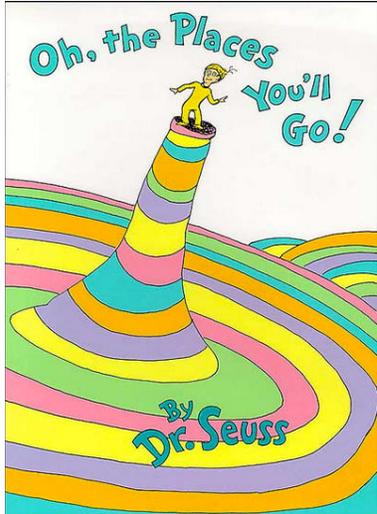
ordinary
time



lectionary
reading



children's
story



Oh, the Places You'll Go!

Written by Dr. Seuss

Illustrated by Dr. Seuss

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character
education
activity

Oh, the Places You'll Go!

This book by Dr. Seuss is a great source of encouragement in understanding what it means to be **called** to do things. From *soaring to high heights and seeing great sights* to *being left in a lurch on a prickly perch*, Dr. Seuss addresses life's ups and downs with his trademark humor and illustrations that encourage the reader to reach for success. This story is ideal for addressing new beginnings and allowing each student to understand that in living life and in answering God's call, there will be many ups and downs.

God's Call: Our Gifts and Talents

Step One: Explain to the students what an inventory is.

Step Two: Hand each student a piece of paper and invite them to draw a line down the center of the paper from the top to the bottom. Have them title the column on the left "My Gifts" and the column on the right "How I Could Use My Gifts to Serve God."

Step Three: Invite the students to list the gifts that they have on the left side of the paper. After they have listed as many as they can, have them look at each gift individually and imagine ways that they can use that gift to serve God. Have them write their ideas in the second column.

Step Four: Ask the students to identify one of the gifts that they have and have them share that with the class, along with the ways that they came up with to use that gift to serve God.

**I have not come to call the
righteous, but the sinners.
-Jesus Christ**

**Trust in the LORD with
all your heart, and lean
not upon your own
understanding. In all
your ways
acknowledge him, and
he will direct your path.
-Proverbs 3: 5-6**



case study

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

What could you do today?

Place the paper that you worked on in class with your gifts and ways to use those gifts somewhere in your bedroom, such as on your wall or taped to the mirror. Use this list as a way to remind yourself of the many gifts and talents that God has given you. Take time to reflect and act on the ways that you can use some of your gifts every day to serve God by serving those around you.

Look Feel Know Act

When you look around at your family and friends, you can see that everyone has goodness and special talents. Think of all of those talents as a great bundle of energy that has the potential to do a lot of good in the world. This is one of the ways that we can be aware of the greatness of God: by seeing all the different talents and the ways that those talents can help others.

The next time your family and friends get together, pay attention to how each person contributes given their own skills and talents. Recall that God **calls** each person to contribute what they can and that he never asks us to give something we do not have. As you grow older, think about how you will be **called** to continue contributing to the goodness in the world.

The readings selected for this weekend all deal with understanding and answering God's **call**. Both Isaiah and Saint Peter feel unworthy and unsure about why they are being **called** given their shortcomings and positions in life. Yet God assures them that they are **called** simply as they are, and that God will be with them in their journey of faith. In Dr. Seuss' *Oh, the Places You'll Go!*, we are given the chance to see life as an adventure despite its ups and downs. While we may not always be sure what direction God's **call** will take us, we can be sure that God will always be with us.



closing tool

Loving God, I pray that you may grant me a heart of wisdom so that I may always follow your call in my life. I pray that I will make wise choices, and that I will trust you when making decisions. Give me a heart that is willing to obey you and that responds to the wisdom you offer me. Amen.



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