

Cycle C

Thirteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Lectionary #99

Reading I: I Kings 19: 16b, 19-21

In this passage, we encounter the prophet Elijah as he flees from a dangerous situation. He journeys to Mount Horeb and it is there that God asks him why he has fled and tells him to trust that he will be safe in God's presence and protection. Elijah does as God asks and agrees to be God's **disciple**. In the midst of the story, it is Elijah that **calls** Elisha to **discipleship**. The dramatic gesture of Elijah casting his cloak over Elisha signifies God's **call** to **discipleship**. **Discipleship** has great requirements for those who choose to answer God's **call**. Elijah had to be willing to lose his life, and Elisha had to be willing to place his family and wealth behind him. We too are asked to make sacrifices when we respond to God's **call**.

Reading 2: Galatians 5: 1, 13-18

Saint Paul speaks of the freedom that each person has as a **disciple** of God. It is important to understand that when freedom is spoken of in the Sacred Scriptures it is not so much freedom *from* as it is freedom *for*. Saint Paul addresses some of the false teachings that have spread among the Galatians about what it means to be a **disciple** of Christ. Saint Paul warns the followers not to use their freedom to do whatever they want just because they are followers of Christ. True **disciples** understand that freedom is to be used wisely and always for the good of the community.

Gospel: Luke 9: 51-62

Jesus makes it clear that there will be sacrifices and inconveniences that those who follow him must face. The **disciples** must know exactly what to expect when they answer God's **call**. The last statements Jesus makes in this passage clearly reveal that all **disciples** are to imitate Jesus in resisting distractions that may lead them away from answering the **call** of the Gospel.



build. plant. grow.
the word this week



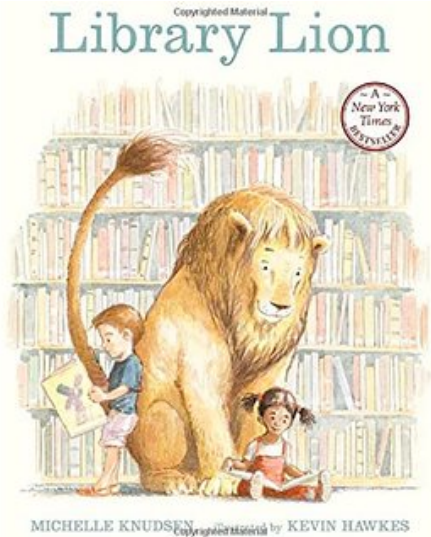
ordinary
time



lectionary
reading



children's
story



Library Lion

Written by Michelle Knudson
Illustrated by Kevin Hawkes
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ISBN-13: 978-1613835012



character
education
activity

**My hope is that the
description of God's love in
my life will give you the
freedom and the courage to
discover God's love in yours.
-Henri Nouwen**

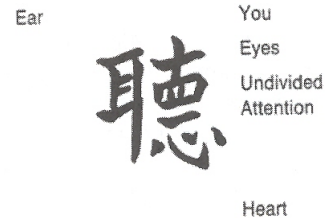
Library Lion

In *Library Lion*, we encounter a lion who wishes to spend some time in the library, but soon learns that there are a number of rules. No running allowed, and you must be very quiet. Miss Merriweather, the head librarian, is very particular about the rules, and the lion learns that if he wants to be in the library, he has to have the right behavior. Eventually, the lion becomes very well suited to the library, only breaking the quiet rule when he must roar in order to alert others to a crisis.

Learning to be a Disciple: Learning to Listen

Step One: Provide the students with a large poster of the Chinese character for the word *to listen*.

"TO LISTEN"



Step Two: Invite the students to try to understand what it means to listen with their eyes, their ears, their heart, and their undivided attention. One by one, solicit answers from students about what it means to listen from these different perspectives.

Step Three: Provide the students with small bookmarks or a card with the Chinese character for the word *to listen* that they can place on their desks in a place they can see easily.

Step Four: Discuss with the students that the beginning of becoming a **disciple** is to be a good listener. To respond to God's **call**, we must first listen the words from the Bible, listen during our quiet prayer time, and listen to other people in our lives.

To endure the cross is not tragedy; it is the suffering which is the fruit of an exclusive allegiance to Jesus Christ.
-Dietrich Bonhoeffer



case study

Look.
Feel.
Know.
Act.

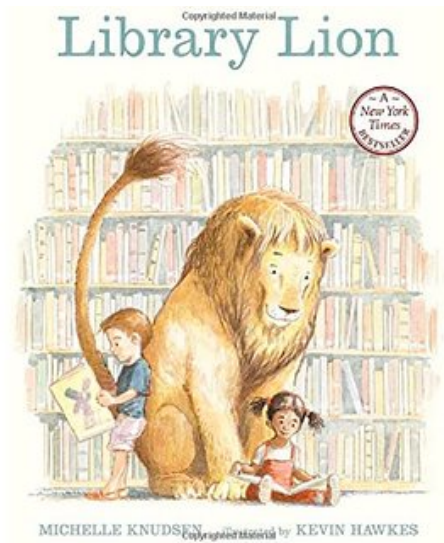
What could you do today?

The word **disciple** comes from the Greek language and literally means *learner* or *pupil*. One of the greatest endeavors for each of us is to be a lifelong learner in all aspects of our growth and development, and especially to be a close follower of Jesus. Make a commitment to yourself and to God that you strive to learn something new everyday and to let your focus each day allow you to grow closer to God.

See if there is someone in your family or among your friends that would be willing to be your buddy in this. When we have a partner, we often are more attentive and responsible in doing this, especially if our partner has the same commitment and intentions.

Look Feel Know Act

From reading the Gospels, you have come to learn that Jesus **called** ordinary people to be his **disciples**. Even though these people were not perfect, Jesus **called** them to be his followers and to learn about the Gospel and the Kingdom of God. When we believe that Jesus **calls** us right where we are and invites us to follow him, we can come to feel that we have a role and a place in the work of the Gospel. The gifts and talents that we have and continue to learn about as they unfold throughout our lives are special gifts from God, and those gifts are always to be used to help others. In learning and doing and persevering in such a way, we enter into **discipleship**, and this is an ongoing process. Commit yourself to being a **disciple** of the Lord by listening with your ears, your eyes, and your heart. Strive to give your undivided attention to the God who has given you everything you have. By using those things in good and honorable ways, you will be giving praise to God.



Throughout the Scripture passages selected for this Sunday, we encounter the many aspects of what it means to be a **disciple** and the challenges that come with answering God's **call**. In *Library Lion*, we learn about a gentle lion who wishes to be part of the library community and who must learn what it means to be in that community. Similarly, becoming a **disciple** requires learning about the community of God and to understand what is expected of us as we seek to follow Jesus throughout our lives.



**closing
tool**

Lord God, open my ears, my eyes, and my heart so that I may be truly attentive to what you ask of me. I know that you always ask me to love. Help me, O God, to see and hear the way you are calling me to love today as your disciple. Amen.



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