

Cycle C

Fourteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Lectionary #102

Reading I: Isaiah 66: 10-14c

This particular portion of the book known as Third Isaiah covers the time period where the Israelites are returning to Jerusalem following their captivity. They are filled with hope and an overwhelming **joy** after their long ordeal in exile. Although they return to find the city and Temple destroyed, they enter **rejoicing** because the prophet assures them that God will undo the destruction and spread prosperity over them like a river.

Reading 2: Galatians 6: 14-18

While it might be strange to think of **joy** when considering the cross of Jesus Christ, Saint Paul's letter to the Church at Galatia presents the cross as a source of comfort and **joy** because of what Jesus accomplished on the cross. The **joy** lies in the fact that in Christ we have been made entirely new and have become heirs of salvation. Saint Paul is clear that this **joy** shall not be taken from him nor any other believer because within his body, he bears the marks of the Lord. For this he is **joyful**.

Gospel: Luke 10: 1-12, 17-20

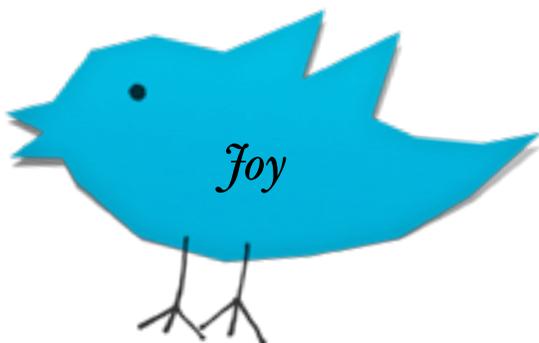
Joy is the operative word in the Gospel selected for today. This **joy** is the fruit of a job well done, announcing to those who chose not to hear the Good News that God's Kingdom is near. The missioning of the 72 is steeped in **joy**, for Jesus sent them out to announce great news and alerts them to the abundant harvest to be gathered. The Lord sent them out and gives them warning, but also assures them that they will be successful, and indeed they are for when they return they are **rejoicing** over all that they were able to accomplish in the name of Jesus. This commission is also ours and we will also be able to **rejoice** in the same success that is rooted in our belief in Jesus Christ.



build. plant. grow.
the word this week



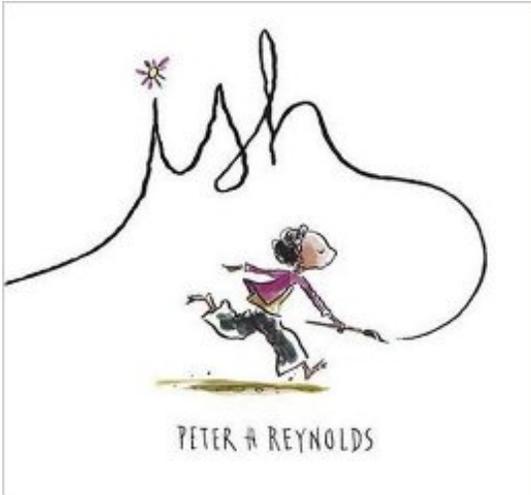
ordinary
time



lectionary
reading



children's story



Ish

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Illustrated by Peter H. Reynolds
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character
education
activity

Joy, rather than happiness, is the goal of life, for joy is the emotion which accompanies our fulfilling our natures as human beings. It is based on the experience of one's identity as a being of worth and dignity.
-Rollo May

Ish

Ramon, the main character of this story, loved to draw anything anytime and anywhere. He was most **joyous** when he was drawing, yet in a split second, a careless remark from his older brother, Leon, changes Ramon. Suddenly Ramon's carefree strokes become **joyless** struggles. Luckily, Ramon's younger sister, Marisol, sees things differently and helps Ramon regain his **joy**. She opens Ramon's eyes to something more valuable than getting things just right. This is a wonderful story to express the importance of the inner virtue of **joy** that is available to everyone.

Letting Your Inner Butterfly Out

Using an online search engine, purchase a caterpillar and have the children watch the metamorphosis that occurs in the classroom. The Painted Lady Butterfly is an easy one to care for, and can be found at educationalscience.com. If you are unable to do this, you can show a video version of the metamorphosis instead.

Step One: Talk about how God will instill **joy** within each person and how it is a gift given to each of us.

Step Two: Using the video or the experience of seeing a caterpillar turn into a butterfly, discuss how the butterfly can represent the **joy** that has always been inside and that emerges naturally as a gift from God.

Step Three: Invite the students to make butterflies with colorful pipe cleaners and tissue papers to represent the beauty of **joy**.

Step Four: Assist the students in understanding that happiness and **joy** are similar, but that **joy** is something that comes from within whereas happiness usually occurs as the result of doing something outside of ourselves.

Step Five: Have the students place a name tag on their butterfly and then arrange them on a classroom wall. Write **JOY** underneath the collection of butterflies.

**Joy is prayer; joy is strength; joy is love; joy is a net of love by which you catch souls.
-Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta**



case study

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

What could you do today?

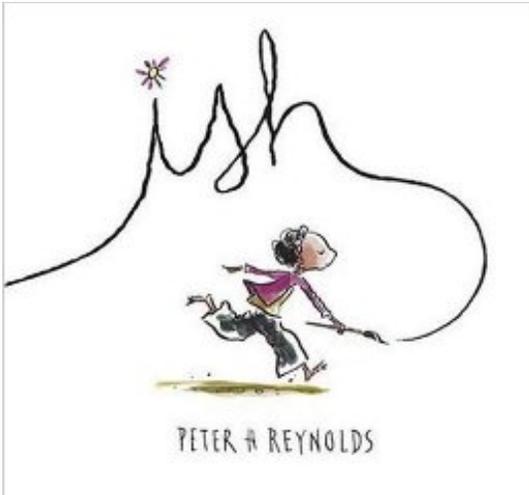
Talk with your parents and family members and see if they would be interested in getting up early one day to watch the sunrise. You might pack a breakfast picnic to share while you are waiting or to enjoy once the sun rises.

As you witness the sunrise, listen to the sounds around you. When the sun comes up, see it as God painting the sky for you to enjoy. Take a picture of the sunrise to remember the moment.

Look Feel Know Act

Think about what **joy** looks like to you. What does it feel like? How do you know when you are **joyful**? What are signs that you are experiencing **joy**? How do other people act when they are filled with **joy**? How do you act? What experiences or actions lead to the experience of **joy**?

Take some time and look around you to identify people who seem to be very **joyful**. Ask them how **joy** feels to them and how they express their **joy**. The way people feel and experience things and the way that they express things are quite unique, and **joy** will show up in many different ways among different people.



The primary lesson about **joy** is to recognize that it is an inner gift given to everyone by God. Just as with any gift, the gift of **joy** must be unwrapped to be recognized and celebrated. The real **joy** that we experience often comes out of a period of sadness and disappointment. The scripture passages for this Sunday speak to this, as does the delightful book *Ish*. When we come to the realization that **joy** comes from within as a gift from the Holy Spirit, we can call on that gift even in the midst of difficulties, for our relationship with God and knowing that God loves us is our true **joy**.



**closing
tool**

O Holy Spirit, help me to know of your joy that dwells within me. Help me to evoke that same joy and allow it to be a part of the lives that I touch. It is only with your help in union with the Father and the Son that I am able to do this. Through these actions, may I give glory to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.



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