

Living the Seasons at Home June 21 – Solidarity



Scripture readings

Genesis 21:8–21

Psalms 86:1–10, 16–17

Romans 6:1b–11

Matthew 10:24–39 (focus passage for today)

Prayer

- Our understanding of who Jesus is can shape who we want to be.
- The following prayer starters say something about who Jesus is as our leader.
- You can finish the prayer by thinking about who you want to be as a follower:
“Jesus, you teach us God’s way, and I want to...”
“Jesus, you trusted in God, and I want to...”
“Jesus, you served God no matter what and I...”

Interaction

- Jesus, as a teacher and leader, was caring, healing, sharing, insightful, honest, challenging, direct, courageous, and much more.
- Consider a leader in your life who reflects one or two qualities of Jesus.
- Write that leader a note of appreciation and tell him or her what you see (for example, Dear Coach, thank you for being both caring and challenging).

Reflecting on the word

Read Matthew 10:24–39 in an age-appropriate Bible or story Bible, or this story *“Conversations with Myself”*

Have you ever been conflicted? If you haven’t or don’t understand what the word means it’s like this: you know deep in your heart there is something you should do, need to do, but you also know deep in your heart that if you do it, other people will not like it, or be hurt by it. You have to sort out what to do, and your thoughts swing and sway from one idea to the next, trying to see if there is a way you can do what you

need to do, without there being any negative consequences; but a perfect solution never turns up. You feel a bit torn apart inside, queasy in the stomach.

I come from a time long ago, a time when a man named Jesus was on Earth.

Recently I have come to know Jesus. He is the most interesting and thoughtful person I have ever met. I guess you could say he is an itinerate preacher, he travels from town to town with a band of followers, talking about God, curing people of their illnesses. I have seen the way he brings joy into people's lives, he takes notice of those who have been overlooked and excluded, and makes those who thought life was not worth living rethink and see their own value. He cares.

Jesus is asking people to join him, to be part of his team, to travel around and tell more and more people about God, to be a person who brings hope and joy to those who feel lost and alone. I would love to do this with all my heart...but I'm conflicted.

This is the conversation I am having with myself in my head:
"If you choose to go ahead and join Jesus, you will upset your family. They will be really disappointed and feel let down because you have responsibilities that you won't be able to fulfil. There is a good chance they will be really angry. There are some pretty big consequences for you and your family if you go.

"If you go, you could end up in some scary situations. Not everyone likes Jesus, and some people will behave badly toward you. Jesus says God will be with you no matter what happens; but are you courageous enough to cope with the hardships?

"If you choose to do nothing and stay at home, you know you'll live with regret. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity. There will never be another moment like this and your heart is aching to be part of something so exceptional. If you stay home, the consequences will be

living your life a little bit heartbroken, but you will have been true to your family and fulfilled all your obligations.”

Jesus can see that I'm struggling with all this. He knows what he is asking me to do is hard, but I'm asked to choose. What do you think I should do?

Following Jesus does not promise to be easy. Jesus was true to God's way, yet many people disagreed with him, including many of his family, friends, and religious leaders. This is the Jesus who invites us to follow and be true to God's way, even if others might not understand or might disagree with how we live.

When have you been a daring disciple and lived in God's way?

Idea for enjoying life

Watch a movie about someone making tough choices – someone who follows God's love even when it is difficult.

Here are some suggestions:

- *Millions* – two brothers in England want to spend money in different ways
- *Emmanuel's Hope* – A disabled athlete of Ghana works for dignity
- *Charlotte's Web* – A spider selflessly befriends a pig

Thought to take with you

Display this thought in a place where you need courage:

**I am daring
to be a disciple of Jesus**

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