

Living the Seasons at Home
June 28 – Choosing a Braver Faith

Scripture readings

Genesis 22:1–14

Psalms 13

Romans 6:12–23

Matthew 10:40–42

(focus passage for today)



Prayer

- Welcome Jesus to your table, school, or family holiday.
- Set a chair for Jesus or give him a space on your desk.
- Learn the simple prayer,
“Welcome Jesus, be our guest, may this food to us be blest.”
- Then change it to fit the situation.
“Welcome Jesus, be our guest, may this walk to us be blest.”
- Have fun and be playful.

Interaction

Tea with a ginger zing is the beverage of hospitality in Somalia, Dominican Republic, and other countries.

Have a tea party and try this recipe:

- Put a litre/quart of water in a pan.
- Slice a piece of ginger root (3–5cm/1–2 in) depending on zing preference.
- Add four whole all- spice.
- Bring to boil.
- Add 60 ml/¼ cup brown sugar.
- Cool with milk.

Reflecting on the word

Read Matthew 10:40–42 in an age-appropriate Bible or story Bible, or the story “Welcome”.

Jesus’ disciples were eager to be on their way, but Jesus had more to tell them. The twelve looked around. They had been going with Jesus from town to village, from village to town. Now Jesus was sending them out on their own to heal people.

Some of them were probably wondering how people would welcome them. They had seen that some places and people did not welcome Jesus. Would they be treated the same way?

As though Jesus knew what they were thinking, he began to talk about being welcomed.

“When someone welcomes you, it is as if they are welcoming me. And you know that anyone who welcomes me also welcomes God who sent me to you.

“When people give welcome in the name of me, the name of Jesus, it is as if they are welcoming me too. When you go to see them, and they make you welcome, treating you kindly and with respect, it is as if I were there and they were making me welcome too.

“When you tell them the good news of God’s love and they listen, it is as if I were there telling them the same good news and they were listening to me.

“What must they do to welcome you? Well, if they only give you a cup of cold water, it is the same as if they gave me a cup of cold water.”

Now the disciples were ready to go out to tell the good news of God’s love and to heal in Jesus’ name.

In the gospel of Matthew, Jesus asks us to give hospitality to three different groups of people: prophets, righteous people, and little children. We understand prophets to be people who speak out for God's way, even when it is not popular. Righteous people are those who care for others and nurture good relationships.

In Jesus' day, children were not respected as valuable people, so Jesus invites us to care for those who might not be seen as valuable.

How might you give hospitality to the prophets, righteous people, and children in your community?

Idea for enjoying life

Try a hospitality guessing game.

- One person writes the names of three or four well-known people (leaders, church members, friends) on separate pieces of paper.
- Tape them to the players' backs. (Don't show the players the names they have on their backs, though!)
- Then one of the "labelled" players asks questions to other players what it would be like to be a guest at their home, such as, "What kind of beverage would you offer me?" "What game would I like to play?" "Who would be especially happy to see me?"
- Continue until the player guesses the identity.

Thought to take with you

Everyone I meet

is thirsty for some acceptance and grace.

How can I share a small cup of kindness?



adapted from

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