

JULY 8, 2018  
SEVENTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST

# taking† faith home

*Jesus sends out his disciples.*

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Mark 6:1-13</b>	<b>Jesus sends the twelve</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Ezekiel 2:1-5</b>	<b>The Lord chooses Ezekiel</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>2 Corinthians 12:2-10</b>	<b>Paul's visions</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Jeremiah 1:4-19</b>	<b>The Lord sends Jeremiah</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Philippians 4:2-14</b>	<b>Giving encouragement and thanks</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Luke 10:1-20</b>	<b>Jesus sends the seventy</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalms 123</b>	<b>A prayer for mercy</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Mark 6:14-29</b>	<b>The death of John the Baptist</b>

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

But [God] said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

**2 Corinthians 12:9 (NRSV)**

## PRAYERS AND BLESSING

### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Lord, your grace is all we need. Help us to rely on you as we live as your followers each and every day. Amen.

### **Mealttime Prayer:**

Lord, all good things come from you. Give us hearts that are grateful and lips that are true. Amen.

### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the Lord show you grace; may God fill your life with power perfected in weakness.



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JULY 8, 2018  
HYMN OF THE WEEK  
*Go My Children*

# taking† faith home

## CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- When you pack your bags for a trip, what do you bring with you? Do you travel light or with lots of stuff?
- How do you rely on God's presence when you travel?
- Jesus sent out his twelve disciples to preach and help others (Mark 6:7-13). He told them to go without food, money, and bags. The disciples needed to rely on God. In what ways do you need to look to and rely on God more?

## DEVOTIONS

*Read: 2 Corinthians 12:2-10.*

Paul tells his faith story. It includes a rather ecstatic, heavenly experience, yet he tells it as a detached third person and with great humility. It would be very tempting for him to brag about his religious experience. Instead, he recounts his struggle, his "thorn" that keeps him "from being too elated" (v. 7). Paul's message is that the grace of God is enough to sustain us. Weakness is not the opposite of God's power; God uses weakness to show God's power. Paul concludes, "Therefore, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong" (v. 10). Reflect on your own faith story. Include experiences of joy as well as struggles and see how God is present in the midst of it all.

*Pray: Lord, your grace is all we need. Help us to rely on you as we live as your followers each and every day. Amen.*

## SERVICE

When Jesus went back to his home town of Nazareth, he was not made to feel very welcome, even by his own family (Mark 6:1-6). We can easily take family, friends, and acquaintances for granted. Think of those around you and work on showing appreciation for their efforts and contributions to others. Name things they are good at or that make them a positive influence in the lives of others.

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

In 2 Corinthians 12:3-4 the Apostle Paul had a very significant experience of being in God's presence. Paul refuses to boast about that experience and instead speaks about his struggles and weaknesses. Without boasting about our lives in the presence of God, it is important to affirm that Jesus is Emmanuel, God with us, and to be comforted by that presence. This week designate a chair in your home and place a cross on it; call it the "Jesus chair" as a way to be reminded that in our joys and struggles, God in Christ is with us each day.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)