

September 2021

Ordinary Time

Proper 21



### Inside this issue:

Welcome 1

Collect & Readings 1

Memory Verse 1

*Bible Study:*  
Numbers 11:4-6,  
10-16, 24-29 2-4  
James 5:13-20  
Mark 9:38-50

Activities 2-4

Questions 2-4

Word Search 4



### Memory Verses:

Mark 9: 40-41

Whoever is not  
against us is for us.  
For truly I tell you,  
whoever gives you a  
cup of water to drink  
because you bear the  
name of Christ will by  
no means lose the  
reward.

# The Diocesan Sunday School Teacher

Welcome

Greetings My Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Today we focus on All Parts Working Together With Christ.

If we were using a rope to lift an object, we would find that when we pull together in one direction we are able to accomplish our task. However, when we work against each other, and pull in different directions then we would not be able to complete the task. When we all work together we are able to get things done.

Christians are called to work together with Christ to share the Good News of Salvation to other persons.

Every part of our lives must work towards this goal. Therefore if any part of our lives would cause us not to do God's will, then we must remove that part from our lives.

We often think only of our physical health, but today we must also pray for our spiritual health. We must confess our sins and be restored by God's reconciling love.

The Psalmist reminds us to pray to God to cleanse us from every sin that we think, say or do, so that all parts of our lives will work for Christ. When we do so, we will be free to encourage others to follow Christ as well.

Blessings,

The Sunday School Team



## Collect & Readings

### The Collect

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Numbers 11:4-6,

10-16, 24-29

Psalm 19:7-14

James 5:13-20

Mark 9:38-50

## The First Lesson (*Numbers 11:4-6,10-16, 24-29*)

The rabble among them had a strong craving; and the Israelites also wept again, and said, “If only we had meat to eat! We remember the fish we used to eat in Egypt for nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; but now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at.”

Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, all at the entrances of their tents. Then the Lord became very angry, and Moses was displeased. So Moses said to the Lord, “Why have you treated your servant so badly? Why have I not found favor in your sight, that you lay the burden of all this people on me? Did I conceive all this people? Did I give birth to them, that you should say to me, ‘Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries a sucking child,’ to the land that you promised on oath to their ancestors? Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they come weeping to me and say, ‘Give us meat to eat!’ I am not able to carry all this people alone, for they are too heavy for me. If this is the way you are going to treat me, put me to death at once—if I have found favor in your sight—and do not let me see my misery.”

So the Lord said to Moses, “Gather for me seventy of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tent of meeting, and have them take their place there with you.

So Moses went out and told the people the words of the Lord; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again. Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. And a young man ran and told Moses, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.” And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, “My lord Moses, stop them!” But Moses said to him, “Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord’s people were prophets, and that the Lord would put his spirit on them!”

This is a story about leadership and the responsibility of freedom. Both Moses and the Hebrew people are learning that freedom carries with it tremendous responsibilities. The story also shows however, that they are not left alone but God provides for His people

### QUESTIONS:

This passage shows that people are not easily satisfied.

1. Why is this so?
2. How should leaders deal with the complaints of dissatisfaction?
3. How do you think God deals with unreasonable complaints?

### ACTIVITY:

Discuss some of the unreasonable complaints made in your community or country. If you were the leader how would you deal with these complaints?

Write a letter to Moses offering support and encouragement.

### BIBLE STUDY: *Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29*

The Israelites began to complain about the hardships of the wilderness and to rebel against God and Moses. They quickly forgot all that God had done to free them from slavery in Egypt. Instead, they demanded that Moses provide meat for them to eat.

Moses complained to God and God directed him in the selection of persons to work with him in leading the people. God anointed them with the divine spirit.

## *Psalm 19:7-14*

- 7 The law of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul; \*the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent.  
 8 The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart; \* the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.  
 9 The fear of the LORD is clean and endures for ever; \* the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.  
 10 More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, \* sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.  
 11 By them also is your servant enlightened, \* and in keeping them there is great reward.  
 12 Who can tell how often he offends? \* cleanse me from my secret faults.  
 13 Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; \* then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.  
 14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, \* O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.

There is beauty in the orderliness and laws of creation. The universe obeys these laws and so bears witness to God who created and sustains it. Likewise, the Psalmist sees beauty in the laws of God and is enthusiastic about pursuing a godly life by obeying them.

## The Second Lesson (James 5:13-20)

The author encourages those who are sick to pray for healing. The Church works together through ritual acts of healing such as the anointing and prayer of the elders. The sick person is encouraged to confess their sins while the whole church prays for them.

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

### ACTIVITY:

Write a prayer for someone who is sick.

Story & Colouring Pages are available online at:  
(Press and hold the ctrl button and click the link at the same time)

<http://www.anglicandioceseja.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Praying-Is-Talking-To-God-Colouring-Pages-Proper-21.pdf>

<http://www.anglicandioceseja.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Praying-Is-Talking-To-God-Proper-21.pdf>

### BIBLE STUDY: JAMES 5:13-20

According to the author, when sickness and suffering occur, there is need for physical and spiritual wholeness and the primary method of healing is prayer.

The anointing and prayers of the elders, those persons who were formally ordained to their office in the Church, would be particularly effective, as Christ heals through them.

Those who are sick are to make confession of their sins, and all members of the Church should pray for them.

Additionally, those who have strayed from faith have the hope of reconciliation.

The entire church has the responsibility of the ministry of reconciliation; to offer the reconciling love of God to all persons who have fallen away from faith.

### QUESTIONS:

Have you ever been sick? What medicines did the doctor use?

Did you ever think prayer is a medicine?

How can the church become a place of welcome and healing for those who are sick in body, mind or spirit?



## St. Mark 9:38-50

**There is a reward for those who work in support of Christ.**

**There is also punishment for those who work against Christ.**

**All things that cause the followers of Christ to sin or stumble should be removed from their lives.**

John said to Jesus, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

"If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

"For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

# St. Mark 9:38-50 Cont.



## BIBLE STUDY: ST. MARK 9:38 - 50

John alerted Jesus about a rival exorcist. Jesus told him not to stop the person, because whoever does a good deed in Jesus' name is supporting his mission, not working against it.

Jesus then gives a warning against those things or persons that act as stumbling blocks to those who follow him.

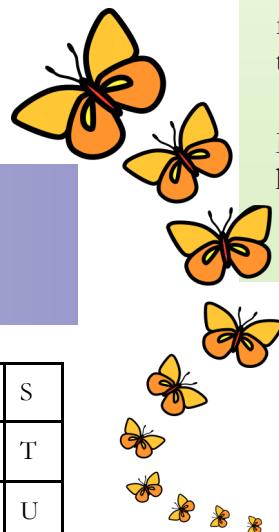
Jesus was very radical in his message to his followers. He told them that they were not to allow anything to prevent them from fully doing God's will. When they identified such an area of sin in their life, they were to remove it.

Jesus takes sin very seriously also He is very serious about those who lead others into sin. To make His point He says some very strong things.

Discuss how it is that 'your hand' could cause you to sin.

Repeat for the feet and for the eye.

The passage therefore calls us to avoid evil as best we can.



### QUESTIONS

How do persons work for God's mission in this world?

How do persons work against God's mission in this world

What are some of the habits that prevent us from following God? That lead us to sin.

How can we stop these habits?



R	R	I	O	Z	R	E	T	N	E	T	S	Y	S
E	U	V	K	E	V	E	I	L	E	B	W	E	T
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E	L	C	A	S	T	I	N	G	E	T	O	O	F
S	E	U	N	I	T	Y	T	S	N	I	A	G	A
A	L	B	D	R	E	N	O	T	S	L	L	I	M

Season Demons Power Unquenchable Believe Enter Eye Hand

Teacher Kingdom Peace Stumbling Reward Evil Salt John

Casting Following Against Millstone Little Foot Stop Fire

We hope you found this newsletter informative and useful.

Please feel free to share it with others.

We extend our thanks to all the persons who assisted in the preparation of this newsletter.

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A Publication of the Department of Education & Youth  
The Diocese of Jamaica & The Cayman Islands 2021

