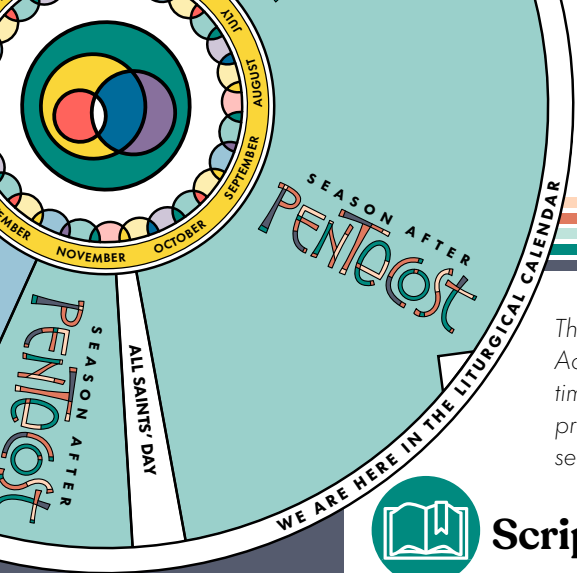


Mark 9:33–37

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost, Sunday between September 18 and September 24



The Season after Pentecost is the period between the Day of Pentecost and the First Sunday of Advent. This season makes up half of the calendar year, and its liturgical color is green. It is a time to focus on the life and growth of the Church in the world, empowered by the gift of the presence of the Holy Spirit. 12th-century mystic Hildegard von Bingen captured the essence of this season when she wrote, "The Holy Spirit is the greening power of God. Our task is to blossom."



Scripture

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." Then he took a little child and put them among them; and taking the child in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."



Questions

- The word gospel means good news. What was good news to you in this story?
- Mark's Gospel shares really good news to those who don't have much power. It challenged the ancient male-dominated power structure and showed a different way the world could be. What caught your attention when you read/listened to this story?
- The disciples argued about who was the greatest and most powerful among Jesus' disciples. When have you seen people fight to be the greatest and hold the most power?
- Instead of fighting over who has the most power, Jesus taught his disciples how to share power. What power do you have?
- How do you share your power?

Look it Up!

Research the L'Arche communities.

The people who live and work in these communities want to make welcoming spaces for people with intellectual disabilities. See if there are any of these communities near you.



mini
REVOLUTIONS





Activity

Materials:

Blank paper	Other decorating supplies (optional)
Construction paper	(optional)
Scissors	Laminating supplies
Glue/tape	(optional)
Coloring utensils	

Think about the different buildings in your community: homes, schools, churches, restaurants, libraries, parks, etc. Talk about some of the ways these gathering places use words, images, and objects to help people feel welcome (wheelchair ramps, braille menus, rainbow flags, etc.). Compare that to ways some words, images, and objects are used to keep certain people out. If you are able, use pictures from local buildings as examples, or go on an exploration walk around your neighborhood while discussing different ways of welcoming or not welcoming.

Highlight how signs are an excellent way to communicate welcome to others curiously watching from a distance—it's like a symbol saying, "Hey you! Do you feel like you don't belong anywhere? Well, you DO belong and you ARE welcome here." Explain how you are going to make your own welcome signs to hang in your window, on your bedroom door, or wherever you want!

Directions:

Lay out some blank paper for participants to design how they want their welcome signs to look. Feel free to offer a few examples of images communicating welcome in your context (rainbow, heart, smiley face, raised fist, etc.) Then invite participants to use their creativity and craft materials to make their welcome signs.

If laminating supplies are accessible, laminate the welcome signs to improve durability. Following the activity, invite kids to share pictures of where they place their welcome signs.

Alternate Activity

Write/print-out the word "WELCOME" in block or bubble letters on a piece of paper and give a copy to each participant. Provide coloring utensils to color in the letters and cut-out construction paper shapes and/or stickers to decorate their signs.



Micropractice

Every time you hold a door open for someone else, you are choosing to be last and allowing a neighbor to be first. When you have the opportunity to hold a door for someone, take a moment and thank God for the opportunity to be last.



Download a graphic to share with your community and on social media. You can download it here: illstrtdm.in/minirevBAP17



Prayer

Dear God, your great, big arms are always open wide—everyone is welcome in your kingdom! Help us love and serve everyone around us so they might feel welcome in your kingdom too. Amen.

WHOEVER WELCOMES



NO ONE

SUCH CHILD

in my

NAME

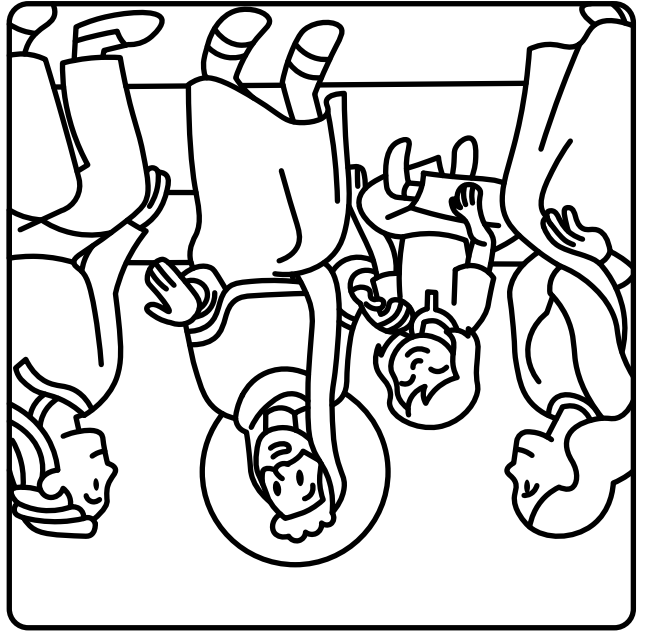
WELCOMES ME,
and

whoever welcomes me

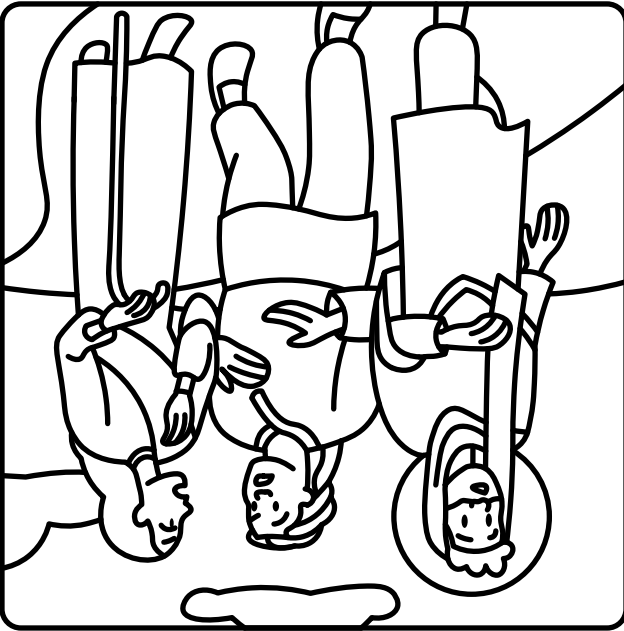
WELCOMES
(not me but)

the ONE who sent me.

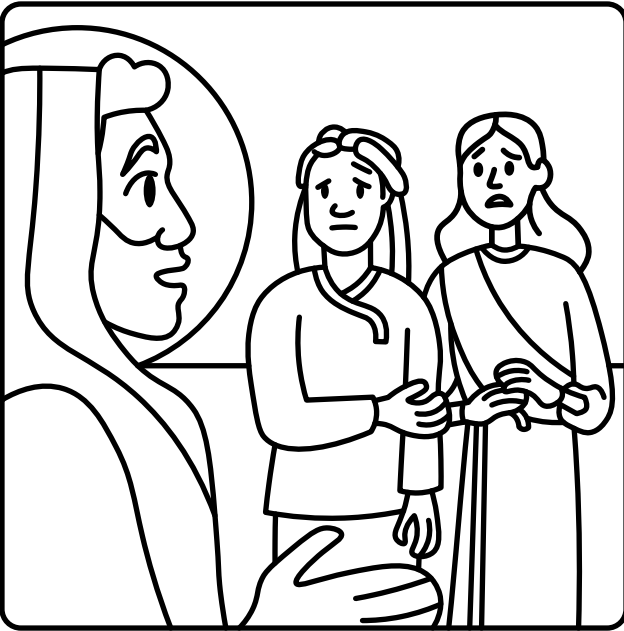
4. Jesus welcomed a child to join him. Back then, people didn't consider children important. Children were powerless. Jesus said, "When you welcome someone who isn't considered important, you welcome me, and you welcome the creator God."



1. While Jesus and the disciples were walking to a town, some of the disciples were arguing about which one of them was the greatest.



2. Jesus asked them what they were arguing about. They didn't want to tell him, but he already knew.



3. Jesus told this lesson: "People fight to be the most important and to be the greatest. To be the greatest, you must love and care for others."

