

Prophets and Losses
13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

FIRST READING

2 Kings 4:8-11, 14-16a

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 89:2-3, 16-19

SECOND READING

Romans 6:3-4, 8-11

GOSPEL

Matthew 10:37-42

KEY WORDS

Righteousness, Chosen, Rejoice, Promise, Receptive, Worthiness

KEY THEMES

1. Those who have been baptized are not only born into new life but are also baptized into His death; death precedes life.
2. We are called to love God with our entire heart and our call to love Him carries with it the challenge to be single-hearted, abandoning other loves for His alone.
3. God is always faithful to His people and His faithfulness gives us a reason to rejoice.

LECTIO

Our Voice (5 min)

Use the following question to prepare the group for the topic of the reading:

- When was the last time you found yourself in need of something to drink? Describe the experience.

God's Voice (5 min)

Read Matthew 10:37-42 aloud and then invite a teen to read the passage aloud. Encourage the teens to actively listen. After the second read-through, invite the teens to open their Bibles and silently read the passage a third time. Allow time to pause and reflect between read-throughs.

MEDITATIO

Reflecting on God's Voice (5 min)

Invite the teens to take a few minutes to silently reflect and journal on the following question:

- Reflect on Jesus' words, "He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for my sake will find it" (Matthew 10:39).

ORATIO

Discussing God's Voice (5 min)

Following the silent reflection, guide the teens in a time of discussion. The following questions are a great starting point for the discussion, but be open to where the Holy Spirit may guide it:

- Why is it so difficult to put Christ first in our lives? What obstacles seem to prevent this?
- How do you receive Christ in your life? Do you receive Him by receiving others? Why or why not?