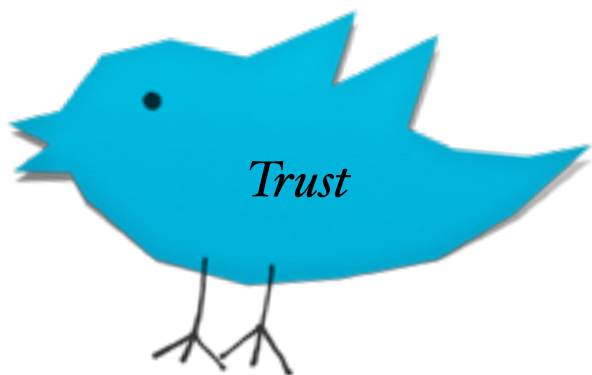




build. plant. grow.
the word this week



lent



Trust



lectionary
 reading

Cycle A

2nd Sunday of Lent

Lectionary # 25

Reading 1: Genesis 12: 1-4a

This section of the first book of the Old testament, the Book of Genesis, presents Abram with a call from God to enter into change, or a transformation from one way of life to another. The call of Abram comes out of the blue and demands great **trust**. God promises to make of Abram a great nation, to make his name great, and to make him a blessing to all the communities of the earth. This passage sets the tone for the fact that God's action with humanity throughout history will require individuals and communities to **trust** in God's love and providence for them. Note that the name of Abram will eventually be changed to Abraham as a sign of change and newness through the covenant with God.

Reading 2: 2 Timothy 1: 8b - 10

It is evident that Saint Paul has great affection for and admiration of young Timothy. He has much confidence in Timothy's leadership abilities, but like any good mentor, reminds Timothy of the fact that he will need great courage to remain strong in his faith to accomplish the good work God has called him to do. Saint Paul shares with him that there will be great hardships that he may accompany him as he leads the people entrusted to his care. Saint Paul reaffirms that Timothy will find his strength by placing his complete **trust** in God. The same is true for any person who chooses to give their lives over to God. **Trust** in God is the key to living the life of faith and most especially that God will always see to our greatest good.

Gospel: Matthew 17: 1-9

The story of the Transfiguration places Jesus on a mountaintop with the figures of Moses, the greatest of the law givers on one side and Elijah, the greatest of the prophets on the other side. The positioning of the the three indicates that Jesus is the fulfillment of both the Law and the prophets. The disciples that have accompanied Jesus to the mountaintop are coming to **trust** that Jesus is indeed the fulfillment of the law and the prophets, the messiah. The voice from the heavens declares that this Jesus is indeed the beloved and the one to be listened to and **trusted**.



children's
story



The Donkey Who Carried a King

Written by R. C. Sproul

Illustrated by Chuck Groenink

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character
education
activity

Trust is a key element to living a full life. Time and again, Jesus will remind us to trust in him. It is true that fear, the opposite of trust, can paralyze us from doing good things.

The Donkey Who Carried a King

This story is an excellent preparation for the supreme event of Easter and places great emphasis on **trusting** in the providence of God. When a little boy named Riley gets upset because his playmates pick him last for their games, he returns home crying and in great distress. It becomes an opportunity for Riley's grandpa to tell the story about the donkey who carried a king. Davey was a young donkey who was bored and unhappy because he never had anything to do. Then one day, some strangers came to the gate and Davey's master picked him for a special task. Davey carried the King, Jesus, into Jerusalem. Afterward, Davey felt proud of himself and believed he should do only special jobs. But Davey's master put him to work doing ordinary things and that made Davey grumpy. A few days later, Davey saw something terrible--some angry people were making the King carry a heavy beam of wood. Davey could not understand it, but another donkey, old Barnabas, helped him see that the King was doing what was asked of him. The story speaks eloquently of humility, service, and **trust**. The book includes a series of discussion questions for use by teachers, catechists or parents.

Activity

Taking children on a **trust** walk is a very good way for them to learn and practice confidence in others. Depending on the age level of the children this can be employed successfully and safely with a number of adults to oversee the activity. It would be advisable to have a number of room parents available on this day and to have a very safe area in which to carry out this activity, again making sure the **trust** walk course is age appropriate.

Step One: Divide the students in half and explain how a **trust** walk works and the importance of each person to be responsible in leading and being led.

Step Two: Group the students into pairs and have them take turns leading and being led blindfolded. After the activity have a class discussion on how they felt.

Trust is the belief that someone or something is good, honest and effective. In the case of our faith our complete trust is always placed in God alone.



case study

**Look.
Feel.
Know.
Act.**

What could you do today?

Recall some of the times that you were fearful. It might be when you were younger and were afraid of the dark. Recall that when a light came on or one of your parents came to comfort you, that you were able to feel better. Remind yourself that Jesus is the light that will take you out of the darkness of fear. **Trusting** in God will help the fear to go away in every situation. There is a mantra prayer, that is, one that is said over and over again. Try using this prayer throughout your day, most especially when you seem to be fearful; *Lord Jesus Christ, I place my trust in you.*

Look Feel Know Act

Ask yourself, who are the people in my life that I trust? In addition to this question you might want to list the reasons why you trust these people. For example you might list something such as the fact that a parent or guardian provides you with food and clothing, shelter and education and all kinds of things that make your life enjoyable and comfortable. God does that for us by giving us all the resources of the earth. We **trust** that God will always provide these wonderful things for us. However, God places a **trust** in us that we will be good stewards (caretakers) of the resources given to us out of love. It is out of our love for God and God's creation that we respond by caring for the earth. Once we recognize all the great gifts God has given to us we are called to act in a way that honors God by caring for these gifts. In some way we might be able to say that watching and caring for the gifts God has given to us is a way of giving a gift back to God.

In *The Donkey Who Carried a King*, we see that whatever task we are given to do is meaningful and contributes in some way to the order of the universe; we trust that God gives meaning to everything we are called to do. Historically there have been many saints, both men and women, that have been able to see God in all things. One example would be Saint Ignatius of Loyola who inspired his followers to do an examination at the end of the day to recall where they encountered God. In addition, Saint Teresa of Lisieux would live and write of seeing God's holiness in even the smallest of tasks.

Pray that you will be open when God calls for a change in your life, and that you may imitate the trust of persons such as Abram and others in the Scriptures. Amen



**closing
tool**



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