



build. plant. grow.
the word this week



ordinary
time



Endurance



lectionary
reading

Cycle C

Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lectionary #156

Reading I: 2 Maccabees 7: 1-2, 9-14

The faithfulness to the law of God and the **endurance** exhibited by the mother and brothers in this reading is exemplary. Each of the brothers remains faithful and **endure**, even in the midst of the terrible trials of being tortured and seeing others tortured. We are called to remain faithful and **endure** during all of the trials and tribulations of life. Our trials and tribulations will be very different from those experienced by the characters in this passage from Maccabees. The point for us is to remain faithful and know that God's grace is available for us so we can **endure** whatever life throws at us. God will always be with us and part of **enduring** is remembering that God is with us in the midst of difficulties.

Reading 2: 2 Thessalonians 2:16-3-5

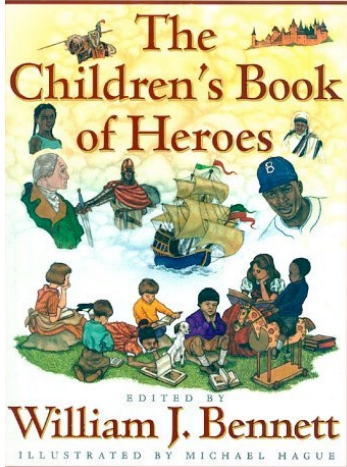
Saint Paul is known for challenging the communities to which he writes but is also known for sending letters that celebrate their advancement and fidelity to the faith. His letters of encouragement serve as a means by which the community may **endure** and hold fast to the faith and make their faith active and lively. Saint Paul speaks of the fact that the Lord is faithful, and this brings us strength and **endurance** especially in the midst of difficult times and living among difficult peoples. Saint Paul's final prayer for the Thessalonians in this segment of the letter is that the Lord will direct their hearts to the love of God and that His love will provide them with the **endurance** of Christ himself.

Gospel: Luke 20: 27-38

In this gospel passage from Saint Luke we see the Sadducees, who do not believe in the resurrection, asking Jesus a question about something they don't believe in. Jesus is always willing to answer a valid question but he sees this group for who they are and answers the Sadducees in manner that defies their disbelief. He recalls for them that God is an enduring God, by stating that in God's encounter with Moses, God refers to Himself as the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, a God of the living and not of the dead. God **endures**.



children's
story



The Children's Book of Heroes

The collection of stories in *The Children's Book of Heroes* provides many and varied stories, poems and illustrations, both real and fictional, to help the students appreciate the importance of **endurance**. Included in this collection are stories of secular individuals but also of heroes within the Church such as Father Flanagan and Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta. A Children's Book on the Saints, such as Robert Elsberg's *All Saints*, would also work to demonstrate that holiness consists of being a person of **endurance**, especially in prayer and communion with God.

The individuals spoken of in all the readings are showing **endurance** because of their beliefs in God and God's law. As people of faith we are called to delve deeper and deeper into our understanding of God's law and by doing so we delve into a deeper relationship with God.

The Children's Book of Heroes
Edited by William J. Bennett
Illustrated by Michael Haus
Publication: 1997 Simon & Schuster
ISBN-13: 9780684834450
ISBN-10: 0684834456



character
education
activity

Thanking Our Heroes

Step One: Think of some of the heroes in your own life. They can be individuals you have read about and also people that have had a direct influence on you. In one column make a list of those names and across from each name write a word or phrase that describes why they are a hero to you. What kinds of things did they have to **endure** or overcome to make them a hero?

Step Two: Take the list of individuals that you have made and the words or phrases that you have associated with them and write a "Thank You Note" to them. If they are a person of history, hold onto the note, but if you know them personally, send them the note of thanks so that they can know that you are grateful for them and that they have been an influence in your life. Having and expressing gratitude is an essential part of being a follower of Jesus.

Step Three: Write a note to yourself recognizing a time when you have **endured** and been faithful, especially in the midst of a difficulty.

Endurance, much like perseverance, is the capacity to last and continue going especially against difficulty or trials.

Endurance in prayer is similar to an athlete remaining faithful to his or her practice of a particular sport. The only way to grow into deeper prayer is to stay at it!



case study

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

What could you do today?

Who are some of the heroes in the school and the church that you attend? Make a list of them and also write words or phrases that describe them. Is there a manner in which the school or the church recognizes their contributions and their **endurance** in remaining faithful to activities within the community. For example, you might want to recognize people who have worked for the poor through the Saint Vincent de Paul Society in the parish or some other such organization that is constantly called upon to help those in need, this is certainly an example of **endurance**.

Look Feel Know Act

Endurance begins by making a commitment and remaining faithful to something. When we make a commitment to someone or something, we begin by stating that we will **endure** and remain faithful. To be in any relationship means that we may have to **endure** some difficulties. That is just how relationships are. Working through or **enduring** differences can make relationships stronger. Once we make a commitment, **endurance** is another of those friends that can accompany us on the journey of life. Reflect on some events or a relationship that required patience and **endurance** and how that experience has allowed you to grow. Once you have seen the success of **endurance**, you may take hope that **endurance** will accompany you on the next challenge in life, an achievement, or relationship. Tell yourself that you were able to **endure** before and that in itself is proof that you can **endure** in the future. Remember that one of the most important ways to **endure** is to do so in prayer.

In *The Children's Book of Heroes* there are a great number of individuals, real and fictional, from secular society and from within faith traditions that exemplify the virtue of **endurance** in the the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual realms of life. These stories act as a springboard for the students to identify their heroes for them from the viewpoint of **endurance**, and to see how these lessons can be applied to see how these lessons can be applied to their lives and learn to **endure** in the midst of challenges.



closing tool

Pray that you will always allow endurance and strength of mind body, and spirit to be an aim of living your life with God and with others. Pray that God will give you the endurance you need to thrive in your relationships.



**Santa Clara
University**

Character Education at the Markkula Center for Applied Ethics

ethics programs for communities that learn, live, pray, or work together

www.scu.edu/character