

# BRINGING HOME THE GOSPEL

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July 14, 2024 • 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Mark 6:7-13

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## Two by Two

*Jesus gathers his twelve apostles and sends them out two by two. He gives them authority to heal and drive out unclean spirits. He tells them to take nothing but a walking stick, the sandals on their feet and the tunics on their backs. If they were not welcomed in a town, they were to leave. The apostles cured many people on their journey.*

Jesus sends his apostles out on a practice run. They are to preach as he preached. They will be anointing the sick and driving out demons. He deliberately sends them out in pairs because he knows they will need each other for support and discernment.

Parenting, too, is a job best done in pairs. It is an exhausting, frustrating, uncertain, business that can lead a single person to doubt his capability and sometimes even his sanity. If you are a single parent, get help! Find a couple of friends or relatives who will listen and help out. Connect with other parents who will listen, support (advise if needed) and champion you.

When there are two of you raising a child, learn to rely on each other. It doesn't matter if both parents work outside the home or one parent is the primary wage-earner, both partners should share equally in the job of parenting. Consult with each other often, making sure you provide an undivided front. If you disagree about a decision or position, discuss it in private.

Jesus tells his disciples that where two or three are gathered in his name, he is with them (Matthew 18:20). This is the distinct advantage of Christian parenting; we know we are not alone. Just as the apostles knew Jesus walked with them in their ministry, we know Christ is also with us.

### FAMILY RESPONSE

Ask each family member to talk about the last time they needed help from someone. What did they do?

### PERSONAL RESPONSE

What part of parenting do you most need help with? Where and how can you get that help? What do you want to remember from last week? What are you looking forward to next week? What are your concerns?