

The Question of the Week

Breaking Open the Word

Week of February 22, 2009

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1. The Call to Prayer

Leader: My friends, let's pause to spend a few moments in prayer and conversation with each other. [Lead all in the Sign of the Cross] + In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

2. The Word of God

Leader: May the Lord be in our hearts as we recall and re-listen to a reading from last Sunday's Liturgy of the Word.

[Re-read all or part of the suggested reading.]

Readings from last Sunday are:

First reading: Isaiah 43:18-19, 21-22, 24-25

Second reading: 2 Corinthians 1:18-22

Gospel reading: Mark 2:1-12

Reading suggested for this Week's sharing: **Today's Gospel**

3. The Two Faith Sharing Questions

Leader: As we consider this Sacred Scripture, I invite you to think about it in two dimensions. [You may wish to work in small groups if your number is large.]

- First, ask about the text itself, to draw attention to the Scripture.
 - What word or phrase in this text caught your ear?
 - What story did you hear, or image did you get?
 - What touched you as you heard this reading?
- Second, when the first sharing is complete, ask about the people's lives.
 - Use this "Question of the Week" to help people get started sharing faith:
 - What signs have you seen that God forgives us and heals us? Do you believe Christ can forgive your sins?

4. The Prayer. At the end of the sharing period, invite folks to pray in one of the following ways:

- The Lord's Prayer out loud together
- Spontaneous prayers
- A moment of silent prayer
- Listen to a recorded hymn