



## Sunday Gospel Background

In Sunday's Gospel, Jesus calls four fishermen to leave their boats and follow him. By responding to this call, Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John become Jesus' first followers. Jesus tells them that he will teach them to fish for people—catching them with the bait of the message of God's love.

## Share Experiences

Check off the boxes as you complete each part of the lesson.

- Pray together** "Loving Jesus, we want to follow you. Bless our family. Help us to be good news to one another. Amen."
- Cover Activity • Jesus Calls Us (page 1)** Invite your child to look at the picture on the cover of *Good News*. **Ask:** What do we mean by *good news*? *Something that is going to make people happy.* Read the directions about finding people who are being good news. *Some answers:* girl encourages child to walk, children play football and jump rope, scouts pick up litter (implies a scoutmaster who helps them organize their project), library with free books to read (paid for by people of town who pay taxes), boy watching birds cares about the environment. Remind your child of last week's lesson about how God calls us. Conclude that people in this neighborhood are listening to God's call to live together in peace and harmony.

## Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Jesus Calls Followers (page 2)** Invite your child to describe some of the pictures on pages 2–3 to you. *A map with a lake, river, cities, hills, two sets of human figures.* Explain that the map shows the places where Jesus grew up and worked as an adult. Look at page 2 together and read the parts of Narrator and Jesus to proclaim the Gospel.
- Discuss the *Know* questions related to the Gospel.** Discuss how you would respond if you were one of these people—would you have been able to leave everything to follow Jesus? Why or why not? **Ask:** How do Jesus' followers "catch people" for him today? Who are some people in our parish who do this? *Priest, deacon, teachers, religious sisters and brothers, catechists, other parents, friends, volunteers, etc.*
- Map Study • Galilee Is Jesus' Neighborhood (pages 2–3)** After reading the text on page 2 aloud, give your child some time to complete the coloring.
- Connecting Gospel and Doctrine (page 4)** Read together "Jesus Calls Us to Love." Share about some of the people who have shared the Good News of God's love with you and invite your child to do the same. Point out that these people are living their vocations as Jesus' disciples. **Ask:** Who can you share the Good News of God's love with?
- Catholic Faith Word • vocation (page 4)** Review the meaning of the word *vocation* with your child. Emphasize that every Christian's first vocation is to love.



- Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 32 and find the section titled "The Good News." Take turns reading aloud the bulleted items. **Ask:** How would you tell people in a few sentences what the Good News is? *God loves us. God wants us to spend forever in Heaven with him. Jesus died for our sins and opened the gates of Heaven.* **Ask:** If Christians have such Good News, how should we be—happy or sad? Kind or mean?



Invite your child to each choose one of the statements about the Good News on page 32 and draw a picture of it. Display your child's drawing in your home.

*Once you have completed this section of the lesson, close the handbook and return to Good News, page 4.*

## Live the Gospel

- Activity • We Can Be Missionaries (page 4)** Ask: Do you know what a missionary is? *Missionaries are priests, deacons, religious women and men, and laypeople who spread Jesus' message of God's love around the world.* Your family might have heard a missionary speak at church. Point out that the four men in the Gospel followed Jesus right away and stayed with him until his Ascension into Heaven. Ask: What do you think Jesus' followers did after his Ascension? Listen to your child's speculation. Your child may remember Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit gave the disciples strength to tell about Jesus to everyone in Jerusalem. We know from Saint Paul's letters that some of them sailed all around the Mediterranean Sea and that many people became believers in Jesus because they heard their stories about him.

If needed, help your child with the backpack activity by brainstorming things your child would need. *Possible answers: picture book of the Gospels; Bible; puppets of Bible characters, especially Jesus; paper and crayons; crucifix.*

You might also explain that Maryknoll is a missionary organization. Their missionaries go to the most dangerous countries in the world and to places where people are most in need. The Maryknoll Classroom Program "Discover Your Neighbor" is an interactive education program that promotes mission engagement by Catholic youth. Learn more at [discoveryourneighbor.org](http://discoveryourneighbor.org).

- Family Corner (page 2)** Say the prayer together, or a form of it, as a morning prayer this week. Share the Question of the Week as a conversation starter.
- Closing Prayer** "Thank you for loving us, Jesus, and for choosing us to be your followers. Help us to listen to you and follow you always. Amen."



## Parent Resources

For weekly videos, assessments, and more, scan this code or go to [pflaumweeklies.com/family](http://pflaumweeklies.com/family)  
Visit [www.usccb.org/bible/readings](http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings) to read this Sunday's Scripture