



Sunday Gospel Background

In Sunday's Gospel, John the Baptist points out Jesus to two of his own disciples. After these men meet Jesus, they tell others about him. This Gospel includes Jesus' invitation: "Come, and you will see" (1:39)—a message for his first followers and for us today.

Share Experiences

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

- Pray together** "Thank you, God, for our friends. Help us to be good friends to them and to you. Help us to follow you and share your love with others. Amen."
- Story • Rosie's Birthday Surprise.** Read this story about friends to your child:

"Good morning, Birthday Girl!" said Rosie's dad. "Time to get up." Rosie sat up. "Get dressed quickly and come to the kitchen. Your mom has a special breakfast for you." Rosie jumped out of bed, got dressed, and ran to the kitchen. She could smell the birthday breakfast before she saw it. "Waffles!" Rosie said. "With syrup and whipped cream," her mom said. Rosie ate two big waffles.

Rosie's dad came into the kitchen with his coat on. "Hurry up," he said. "The school bus is coming." When the school bus pulled up, the bus driver opened the door, stepped down on the curb, and bowed to Rosie. "We are honored to have the birthday girl on our bus today," the bus driver said. Rosie

looked at her dad. "How does he know it's my birthday?" she asked.

Just then, Rosie heard knocking on the bus windows. She looked up. Boys and girls were laughing and pointing to her front porch. Rosie looked. Attached to the flower pot were six red balloons and a big sign that said, "Happy Birthday, Rosie!" A card was taped to the bottom of the sign. It said, "To our favorite birthday girl. Love, Grandma and Uncle Don." Rosie hugged her dad. "I love my birthday surprise," she said. "I'm going to call Grandma and Uncle Don as soon as I get home from school." Rosie climbed on the bus. The bus driver climbed on too, and off they went to school.

Ask: How did Rosie's family make her birthday special? How can you make others feel special on their birthdays?

- Activity • Who are my friends? (page 2)** Invite your child to draw a bus driver and friends in the school bus windows. Look at the house picture and **ask:** How does our family show we are friends with each other? Invite your child to draw your family's faces in the house picture.
- Cover Activity • Which friends would you follow? (page 1)** Read the page title aloud and talk about the pictures as your child proceeds with the circling and crossing out. Optional: Play a game of Simon Says or Follow the Leader together.

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Jesus Calls Followers** Explain that after Jesus was baptized, people began to follow him. Share the Sunday Gospel:



A man named John the Baptist was teaching people and baptizing them in the Jordan River. One day, John saw Jesus walking by. John said to two of his followers: "See that man? He is Jesus, God's chosen one, the Lamb of God."

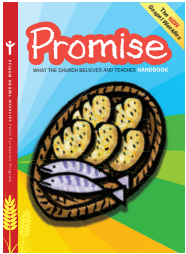
Andrew said to the other man, "Let's go meet him." So they left John behind and went to see where Jesus was going. Jesus turned around and saw them. He asked, "What do you want?"

They asked him, "Teacher, where do you live?" Jesus said, "Come and see!" They went with him and saw where he lived. They stayed there for the rest of the day.

The next day, Andrew found his brother, Simon Peter, and told him, "We have found the Messiah!" Andrew brought Simon Peter to meet Jesus. When Jesus met him, he said, "Simon, from now on, you will be called Peter."

Ask: How did Andrew and the other man learn who Jesus was? *John the Baptist told them.* **Ask:** How did Peter meet Jesus? *His brother Andrew introduced them.* Explain that Peter means "rock." Simon Peter would need to have strong faith for the job Jesus would ask him to do.

- Activity • Jesus makes friends. (page 3)** Help your child cut off the strip at the bottom of the page. Then cut apart the three figures. Read the page with your child. Then read the back of the figures to identify which belongs in each of the scenes. Show how to tape each figure at the top in its place so your child can still read the words on the back. Have your child use the pictures to retell the Gospel to you. Discuss the question left over from the paper strip to summarize.



- Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 32. Point to *Holy Communion*, *Lord's Day*, and *Mass*. Help your child get a basic grasp of the meaning of each. You might say, the Last Supper was a very special meal Jesus had with his friends. Jesus told them the bread was his Body and the wine was his Blood. We remember this at Mass. We share Jesus' Body and Blood in Holy Communion. Write the words: *Jesus invites me to Mass* on a white board or piece of paper. Have your child copy these words on the top of a sheet of drawing paper. Then invite your child to draw your family at Sunday Mass.

Note that Andrew invited his brother Simon to meet Jesus. **Ask:** How can you invite others to meet Jesus? *Invite them to come to Mass or a parish activity, tell them about Jesus, treat them with kindness like Jesus would.* *Once you have completed this section of the lesson, close the handbook and return to Promise, page 3.*

- Word of the Week • Sunday (page 3)** Help your child locate the Word of the Week on page 3. Share this definition: *On Sunday, we come together at Mass to remember and thank Jesus.*

Live the Gospel

- Activity • How do friends of Jesus act? (page 4)** Turn the Gospel page over to find a *Promise* classroom. **Ask:** Can you tell me some things that are happening in this classroom? Read the title and **ask:** How are these children and adults acting like Jesus? *Sharing, helping, praising, being friendly and polite, learning about Jesus and God.*
- Closing Prayer** "Dear Jesus, thank you for being our friend and inviting us to follow you. Help us to live as your followers. Amen."



Parent Resources

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