

## 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. *Seeds* celebrates the senses of seeing and especially hearing. Young children need to be listened to; they also need to develop good listening skills. This week's lesson gives children listening experiences through story, games, and activities.

## Share Experiences

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

- Pray together** "Thank you, God, for the gift of hearing. We are happy we can hear all the sounds around us. We hear our family. We hear our friends. We hear our pets. We hear about Jesus. Please help us to listen well. Amen."
- Story • What Does Mark Hear? (pages 2-3)** Ask your child to listen carefully to this story about Mark, a boy who needed to learn to listen.

Mark was going to visit his grandparents' farm. Grandpa and Grandma were so happy to see him. Mark was eager to see all the farm animals, but Grandpa said he would have to wait until morning. When Mark was watching TV after supper, Grandpa asked him to close the door since it was getting chilly. Mark just sat there. Grandpa asked him again. Still Mark just sat there.

Later on, Grandma told Mark it was time to go to bed. Mark just sat there. Grandma told him again. Mark just sat there. Finally, Grandma turned off the TV. "Mark, didn't you hear what I said?" "No, Grandma," answered Mark. Later in the evening, Grandpa told Grandma, "I think Mark needs some help learning to listen."

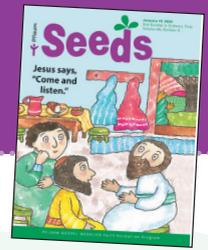
The next morning, Grandpa took Mark outside for a walk around the farm. He showed him the new red tractor. Mark saw the sheep and her lamb, the horse getting a drink, the sow with her piglets, the hen and her chicks, the rooster, the brown and white cow, even the farm dog and cat. The rooster was busy waking up the world. The cow was chomping hay for breakfast. The little chicks were busy hunting for food.

After the walk when Mark was inside having some cookies and milk, Grandma asked him what sounds he heard outside on his walk. Mark looked puzzled. He hadn't been aware of any sounds except Grandpa talking to him. "Go back outside and really listen this time, Mark," Grandma said.

Have your child open *Seeds* to pages 2-3. Reread paragraph 3 of the story about Grandpa's walk with Mark. As you mention each animal, invite your child to find it in the picture and make the animal's sound. Go through the walk again, mixing up the sequence. This time, you can make the sound and have your child circle the object or animal. **Ask:** Can you find any sounds in the picture that even Mark's grandpa didn't notice?

## Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Jesus says, "Come and listen." (page 1)** Say: Now I want you to open your ears as I proclaim the Gospel story:

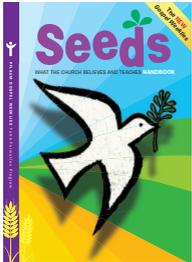


After John had baptized Jesus in the river, John went to two of his followers. “Do you see that man?” John asked them. “He is Jesus, God’s chosen one.” Andrew said to the other man, “Let’s go meet him.” So Andrew and his friend followed Jesus. When Jesus saw them following him, he said, “What are you looking for?” Andrew asked, “Teacher, where do you live?” Jesus

said, “Come and see.” The two friends went home with Jesus.

The next day, Andrew found his brother, Simon Peter, and told him, “We have found the great leader God has sent. His name is Jesus. Come and meet him.” Andrew introduced Simon to Jesus. “Jesus, this is my brother, Simon.” Jesus said, “Simon, you will be called Peter, which means rock.”

Remind your child that the Gospel tells us that Andrew and his friend went home with Jesus. Have your child look at the cover of *Seeds*. **Ask:** What are the two men doing? *Listening to Jesus*. What do you think he is telling them? *Open-ended; that God loves them*. Explain that it is very important to listen well so we can learn all about Jesus.



- **Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 19. Show your child the picture and **ask:** Do you know the name of this special book? Explain that the Holy Bible has lots of stories about Jesus and the good people who lived before Jesus was born. It tells stories about Jesus’ life and Death and about all the people he helped. It tells how Jesus came back from being dead and lives in Heaven today.

**Ask:** What do we have to do when someone tells us a message from the Bible? *We have to listen*. Have your child color the title of the book. Print the words one at a time on a board or sheet of paper. As you print each word, say that word out loud. Then ask your child to repeat the words as you point to them.

*Once you have completed this section of the lesson, close the handbook and return to Seeds page 3.*

- **Word of the Week • Gospel (page 3)** Help your child find the Word of the Week on page 3. Share this definition: A *Gospel* is a book in the Bible that tells us the Good News about Jesus. We listen to a Gospel reading at every Mass.

## Live the Gospel

- **Activity • We listen at Mass. (page 4)** Invite your child to look at page 4 of *Seeds*. **Ask:** What are some sounds you might hear in this church? *Possible answers: Priest, bells, choir, baby crying*. Are there other sounds in our church that are not in this picture? Conclude by saying the sounds we hear in church are happy sounds of people praising God together.
- **Closing Prayer** “Jesus, help us to always listen to your words about God’s love for us. Thank you for the wonderful gift of hearing. Amen.”



## Parent Resources

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