

## Sunday Gospel Background

Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John were simple, ordinary fishermen. What made them extraordinary was their willingness to follow Jesus. They answered his call immediately, and they gave their whole lives to spreading the Gospel, the Good News of Jesus. The Gospel is indeed the Good News that Jesus brings. And though we may think of ourselves as rather ordinary, we can do extraordinary things when we agree to follow Jesus with the same speed and enthusiasm as the Apostles.

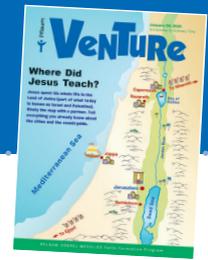
## Share Experiences

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

- Pray together** Share names of people you and your child wish to pray for. After each petition, respond together, “Loving God, hear our prayer.”
- Cover Activity • Where Did Jesus Teach? (page 1)** Look at the map together. Explain that your child already knows several things about Jesus’ home country. *Possibilities: Jesus was born in Bethlehem, grew up in Nazareth, escaped to Egypt when Herod wanted to kill him, was baptized in the Jordan River, went sailing on the Sea of Galilee.* Conclude that today we are going to meet one of the people who wrote down a Gospel account of Jesus.
- Story • The Gospel According to Mark (pages 2–3)** Have your child read the title and examine the illustration on page 2. Mark’s symbol is the lion because his Gospel begins in the desert or wilderness where John the Baptist was preaching.  
  
Read the interview aloud together. Your child might take the interviewer’s questions and you might read Mark’s responses. When you are finished, turn to the timeline at the bottom and begin with Jesus’ birth. This is labeled with a zero because our way of marking time begins with Jesus’ birth.
- Discuss the Think questions on page 3.** *Answers: 1. Have fun with this question and listen to your child’s perceptions of what life was like when you or your parents were children. 2. Open-ended. 3. People who knew Jesus when he was alive were getting old and dying. Mark wanted to get their stories written down so others could learn about Jesus. 4. Open-ended.*
- Catholic Faith Word • Sacred Tradition (page 5)** Read aloud this definition to wrap up the article on Mark’s Gospel. Help child understand that the Word of God is meant as much for us today as it was for earlier generations.

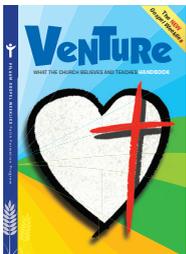
## Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Jesus Calls Four Fishermen (page 4)** Tell your child that this Sunday’s Gospel is similar to last week’s story by the Gospel writer John, but is told this Sunday according to Mark. Proclaim the Gospel by sharing the reading parts.
- Discuss the Think questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. God’s kingdom is coming! 2. Jesus wants these four to follow him and to “catch,” or gather, other people together. 3. Open-ended. Possible responses: let our Christianity show, love and include others as Jesus did, support missionaries, consider a vocation to priesthood or religious life.*
- Connecting Gospel and Doctrine • Jesus Calls Us to Community (page 4)** Read aloud the doctrine together. Your child might view the Gospel readings as ancient history. This doctrine reminds us that the work



that Jesus and his disciples did long ago continues today through the selfless, merciful acts of Christian believers.

□ Discuss the *Think* questions on page 4. *Answers: 1–2. Open-ended.*



□ Open the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 7. This can be a difficult concept for children to grasp, but one that is fundamental to the Catholic Church. We believe that we hear God's plan for us in Scripture, particularly in the Gospels. We also believe that we learn God's plan and will for us from the teaching of the Church, which we call Tradition.

Read aloud the paragraphs one at a time. Simply hearing these concepts is enough at this level of learning. Ask your child the prompt in the lesson (page 4, bottom right): How does Jesus' message to his disciples more than two thousand years ago still apply to us today in 2021? *Possible responses: It shows us how we should treat one another, how to remain close to God, how we should help the least among us (e.g., the Works of Mercy), and how to respond to God's call in our lives.*

*Once you have completed this section of the lesson, close the handbook and return to Venture page 5.*

□ **Our Catholic Faith • The Village of Capernaum (page 5)** Capernaum was near a busy Roman road that went north to Syria and east to what are now Iraq and Iran. More people lived in Capernaum than in Nazareth. This fishing village is where Jesus called his first followers and where he worked his first healing miracles. Have your child find Capernaum on the cover map. Read the article aloud together, and discuss the two questions. *Answers: The location of Capernaum makes it a crossroads for business and for spreading the Word of God. It's an ideal spot for Jesus to begin his ministry. Jesus' message may not have been as well-received in his own hometown.*

## Live the Gospel

- **Living the Gospel • God Calls a Reluctant Prophet (pages 6–7)** This excerpt from the story of Jonah is the First Reading for this Sunday. Read aloud the prologue together and then the setting for Scene 1. Read the play together, speaking the various parts. Pause just before the Epilogue to answer the Narrator's question. *Open-ended; God, of course, is very happy that the Ninevites have repented.* Divide the reading of the Epilogue between you and your child. **Ask:** Why do we read this story? What does it have to do with today's Gospel? With our Christian lives?
- **Saints • Saint Monica and Saint Augustine (page 8)** Have your child read this comic feature about two of the Church's best-known saints.
- **Closing Prayer** Say the **Pray Think Act** prayer on page 8 to finish the lesson.



## 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