

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.

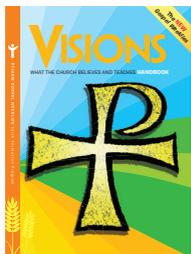
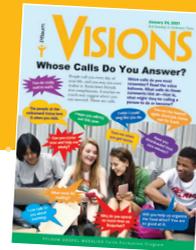
Share Experiences

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

- Pray together** Loving God, thank you for calling us as your own. Help us to listen, respond, and use our gifts to the best of our ability. Amen.
- Cover Activity • Whose Calls Do You Answer? (page 1)** Invite your child to look at the words in the voice balloons and think about similar calls your child makes and receives. Have your child write those words anywhere on the cover. Talk about what lifelong calls might grow out of these calls; for example, being good at math could lead to a teaching vocation or work in medicine. Finish by discussing the headline question.
- Article • “God Changed My Mind.” (pages 2-3)** Take turns reading the story aloud about Jorge Bergoglio’s early life and how he decided to become a priest.
- Discuss the Talk questions on page 3.** *Answers: 1. Open-ended; you might remind your child about Pope Francis’ writings about the environment and refugees. 2. Pope Francis became aware of God calling him during confession. 3. Open-ended; prayer is one of the best ways to hear God. 4. Share a newspaper or give your child time to briefly check a news site. Ask: Do you see anyone who is answering God’s call? 5. Open-ended. Discovering who we are called to be is not usually a one-day thing but a process that takes time.*

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Jesus Calls Four Fishermen (page 4)** Use the illustration to set the scene on the shore of Lake Galilee. Discuss what a fisherman’s life involves—mending nets, repairing boats, unloading fish, sorting fish, cleaning fish. Proclaim the Gospel by reading the parts of Jesus and Narrator 1 and 2.
- Discuss the Talk questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. Preaching about Jesus and gathering new followers of Jesus. Your child might mention Father Rutilio Grande from last week’s lesson, or someone from your family, the news, or local experiences. 2. They will leave a settled life and travel from place to place. They won’t always understand Jesus’ teaching or the danger to their lives, which are becoming increasingly public. 3. Open-ended.*
- Catholic Faith Word • Gospel (page 4)** Read aloud the definition. *Gospel* means “good news.” **Ask:** How is this week’s reading an example of spreading Good News?
- Connecting Gospel and Doctrine • Who Leads in God’s Kingdom? (page 4)** People in Jesus’ time had been waiting for a very different kind of Messiah—a warrior king. Read aloud the doctrine related to this Sunday’s Gospel.
- Discuss the Talk questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. Open-ended. 2. Open-ended; brave, loyal, kind, faithful, etc.*



□ **Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 23. Review in column two the essential signs of Eucharist—the bread and wine and the words of consecration that recall Jesus’ actions at the Last Supper. **Read** aloud the meaning of *transubstantiation*. Recall that in last Sunday’s Gospel, John the Baptist points out Jesus to Andrew. Jesus invites Andrew to come and see him. Andrew stays with Jesus all afternoon and then tells his brother Simon Peter that he has found the Messiah. **Discuss** the following:

- What do you think Andrew and Jesus talked about?
- What would you want to talk with Jesus about if you were in Andrew’s place?
- Why did Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John follow Jesus quickly?

Finish by turning to page 10 and reading the first three paragraphs together. Review the meaning of the term *Messiah*, and the other names of Jesus.

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

□ **Our Catholic Faith • The Eucharistic Prayer Joins the Whole Church Together (page 5)**

Ask what the priest in the photo is doing and why his arms are outstretched. *He’s praying the Eucharistic Prayer.* Extending his arms shows he is praying to God and gathering in our prayer. Read the page aloud together. Invite your child to lead the dialogue as **Priest** and say the “Holy, Holy, Holy” together. Invite your child to write a response about the great Amen.

Live the Gospel

- **Living the Gospel • Who Is Jesus? (pages 6–7)** Explain that the first chapter of Mark’s Gospel presents a day-by-day look at Jesus—who he is and what his ministry is. Read aloud the introductory text on page 6. This makes a good independent activity, but you may need to offer some assistance. **Answers, starting top left, page 6:** *Jesus’ identity: Son of God, my beloved Son, the Holy one of God; Jesus’ religion: Judaism; Jesus’ actions: teacher, powerful, caring healer, one who cures, faithful, compassionate; Jesus’ occupation: preacher, teacher, preacher and healer* **Page 7:** *Jesus’ admires: John the Baptist; Describe: beloved, astonishing, famous, devout, compassionate; Open-ended; People: Simon Peter, Andrew, James, John; Simon’ Peter’s mother-in-law; leper; Seven ways: they follow him, they are amazed by him, she gets up and serves, the town gathers at his door, he tells everyone about Jesus’ healing.*
- **Catholic Leader • Father Patrick Desbois (page 8)** Your child is likely familiar with the Holocaust from social studies classes. Invite your child to read silently this feature about Father Patrick Desbois and *Yahad-In Unum*. Read aloud the two paragraphs about the U.S. Catholic bishops’ stand against racism. Spend some time discussing the three questions as a family.
- **Closing Prayer** Lord God, we lift up our hearts and give thanks to you, especially for all those people who have called us. Bless them and keep them in your peace. 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