

Read

1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19

Psalm 40:2, 4, 7-8,
8-9, 10

1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a,
17-20

John 1:35-42

LIVING THE WORD

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 17, 2021



REFLECTION

Jesus asks, "What are you looking for?" (John 1:38). Standing in front of an open refrigerator or while crawling around on a floor, we hear this question literally. When the Son of God asks this of disciples who have chosen to follow him, it takes on a whole new meaning, drawing our attention to the deepest desires of our heart. At first, the disciples call Jesus "Rabbi," as if to say they were looking for a teacher of truth and wisdom. Perhaps they couldn't quite put into words what they were looking for, so instead, they expressed a desire to stay with him. Jesus met that desire with the same personal invitation posed to each of us: to come and see, to find out for yourself. As we learn more about Jesus and follow him more closely, we discover that he is the Messiah, the one who saves us from our sins and offers us eternal salvation.



ACTION

The simple question Jesus poses to the disciples offers us a profound method of prayerful reflection. Spend some time in silent prayer, asking yourself what you are looking for in the different areas of your life. Think about your relationships with others and hear Jesus ask: What are you looking for in your friendships? in your family? Think about how you spend your time, talent, and treasure and hear Jesus ask: What are you looking for in school? in your extra-curricular activities? in what you spend your money on? As you reflect, consider whether what you are looking for—what you desire—is leading you toward or away from the goodness of God. Meditate on Christ's invitation to come and see.



Learn about the daily
Examen as a method of
prayerful reflection: *https:*

://www.ignatianspirituality.com
/ignatian-prayer/the-examen

? QUESTIONS

- ❖ What do today's readings teach you about the Christian life?
- ❖ In your journey of faith, what are you looking for?
- ❖ How might Jesus be asking you to transform your life in response to his call?

Introduction to **ORDINARY TIME** during Winter



The Season

The brief period of Ordinary Time during winter seems a liturgical breather between the seasons of Christmas and Lent. It is much more than this, however. While short in duration, this season bridges the Incarnation with the ministry, teaching, passion, death, and Resurrection of the Lord. Through key Gospel narratives, we hear the stories of Jesus' first miracles and teachings, and we learn that not everyone is open to his message. These are important lessons for us, particularly teens, as we consider the call of discipleship and its consequences in our lives.

For many, the months of January and February are colder outside; the days are shorter, and the pace of life is perhaps a bit slower. It is appropriate, then, to take this wintertime as a gift in which to reflect on our own encounter with Jesus, through reflection on the Sunday readings and prayerful consideration of our openness to the message of Christ.

Celebrating Ordinary Time during Winter with Teens

While the pace of winter may be a bit slower for some of us, for teens, classes, activities, athletics, and relationships continue in their normal routines. This produces an opportunity through which to help your teens develop a regular rhythm of Gospel reflection, prayer, and application of faith in their daily lives. Winter is the perfect time to encourage youth to take the Gospel to heart day by day, week by week. The Gospel passages for this season seem perfect to help teens to take on appropriate faith-driven attitudes and action in their lives.

Preparing the Liturgical Environment

Even though we return to green for this brief season, our environment will often be a bit sparser, reflecting the shortness of daytime sun, and the dormancy of many plants. Consider using a few stems of evergreen or a small evergreen plant in your prayer environment, reminding your teens that Christ's life and love are eternal.



January 17, 2021

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

LECTIONARY #65B

1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19

Psalms 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10

1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20

John 1:35-42

Prepare for the Word

The following elements may be used by the catechist, teacher, or youth minister to prepare to facilitate today's session with teens. You may integrate this information into the reflection and discussion on today's readings.

Leader's Context

Sacrifice was a part of ancient worship practice of the Jewish people. Our Lord was a sacrifice himself; he was the Son of God sent by God to be the final sacrifice. John the Baptist identified Jesus as the Lamb of God. In John's words, we hear an echo that this perfect, innocent, and fragile human being would be killed for the sake of all of creation. God himself was among the people, and God himself would die for them. Those who followed Jesus that day were at first followers of John. Through his ministry, they were ready to welcome Christ into their lives and to follow him wherever he led. We too are called to follow our Lord and learn his ways. Following God isn't an occasional act, it is a way of life.

Q FOCUS: *We are called to follow Jesus, the Lamb of God.*

Liturgical Calendar Connection

This week, on January 22, we have a day of prayer for the legal protection of unborn children. On that day, we recall the need to protect those who cannot speak for themselves but are still made in the image and likeness of God. Following in Jesus' example, all Christians are called to serve and protect the most vulnerable in our society and on this special day we pray for those who depend totally on our care.

Church Teaching Connection

All Christians are called to continue Christ's ministry on the earth, and indeed we are called to be the hands and feet of Christ in this world. We must live our lives in imitation of Jesus, who came to earth to serve us and save us from our sins. This is the Good News that our faith helps us believe. This is the Good News that we share with others, so that they may come to be saved by the love of God (*Gaudium et spes*, 3).

Hear the Word

Use this resource, a Lectionary, or a Bible to proclaim the reading. The book should be held reverently or placed on a lectern. If possible, light a candle that is placed near where the Gospel will be proclaimed. Gesture for teens to stand.

Gospel Acclamation

Use the same musical setting that is used in your parish or at school Masses. Teens may help with music and proclaim the Gospel.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

John 1:35-42

Reader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

All make the Sign of the Cross on their forehead, lips, and heart.

John was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God." The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi"—which translated means Teacher—, "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come, and you will see." So they went and saw where Jesus was staying, and they stayed with him that day. It was about four in the afternoon. Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was one of the two who heard John and followed Jesus. He first found his own brother Simon and told him, "We have

found the Messiah"—which is translated Christ—. Then he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John; you will be called Cephas"—which is translated Peter

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Everyone may be seated.

Reflect on the Word

When beginning the reflection and discussion about today's readings, first refer to the handout for today. Ask teens what they learned about themselves and about Christian discipleship from performing the action for the week and journaling. Ask teens about the readings of the day: What struck them? What do they think the readings mean? How do the readings affect their own lives? Then begin the following reflection:

► What do you know about the story of the Exodus or Passover?

In Temple-based Jewish worship, animal sacrifice was offered to the Lord. People brought different types of animals for sacrifice at the Temple in Jerusalem, and the priests were the ones who offered them to the Lord. Many years before the Temple was built, the Jewish people lived in slavery in Egypt. God sent the plagues to Egypt so that Pharaoh would let the Israelites leave. (You can find this in Exodus 1:1—15:21.) To prepare for their departure and save them from the last plague, Moses shared God's instructions with the Israelites. Each family was to kill a lamb and spread its blood on the door of the home. Since that time, the Jewish people commemorate that event with the celebration of Passover. Each year, Jewish people remember that day when God freed their people from slavery. They follow the instructions God gave the people through Moses, and they kill the sacrificial lamb and consume it. They remember how God spared them.

In today's Gospel reading, we hear John the Baptist say, "Behold, the Lamb of God" (John 1:36). Each Sunday we hear these words at Mass as the priest presents the consecrated Body and Blood of Christ to the people. This happens after we sing the *Agnus Dei*/Lamb of God.

► What does it mean to call Jesus the Lamb of God?

Like the lambs were offered as sacrifice for the ancient Israelites to save them from the plague and from their slavery to the Egyptians, Jesus would be offered as sacrifice for us. This sacrifice, however, was different than the animals offered to God; the sacrifice of Christ would be complete and would take away the need for any animal sacrifice. Through the sacrifice and Resurrection of Christ, we are saved from the chains of death and sin.

► How did people react when John called Jesus the Lamb of God?

Before Jesus' ministry began, John the Baptist also had followers. Sent to prepare the way of the Lord, John helped people be ready to meet their Messiah. This humble cousin of our Lord proclaimed a truth at the start of Jesus' ministry. When he made the statement, "Behold, the Lamb of God," two of his followers heard his words and began to follow Jesus. How did they know that Jesus was worthy of their time and devotion? Clearly, the men trusted John and began their journey to understanding the identity of Jesus. They didn't know it at the time, but soon they would come to know Jesus as their Lord.

► What is it that impels you to follow Jesus?

The two disciples who followed Jesus that day did not yet know that he was the Messiah or that his life, death, and Resurrection would bring salvation to the world. Still, they followed Jesus, and sought him in the place he was staying.

► What does it mean to follow Jesus every hour and every day?

Wrapping It Up

Consider these points to conclude the discussion and reflection. Integrate the thoughts and ideas that surfaced during the discussion as well as the “Church Teaching Connection” on page 116.

Sacrifice was a fundamental aspect of the relationship between God and his people in ancient times.

John the Baptist proclaimed the identity of Christ and named his unique role as the one from God offered in sacrifice.

We too are called to seek Jesus and follow him.

Act on the Word

Called and Chosen by Christ

For this activity, you will need poster board or chalkboard space, writing tools, masking tape, and printed pictures of people engaged in ministry. Include pictures of those in religious orders, diocesan priesthood and diaconate, married couples and parenting pictures, and single people ministering in different capacities. Be sure to include pictures of cloistered nuns and monks in their prayer ministry and work for their communities.

In the Catholic Church, we recognize the idea that people are called to particular places and positions in life. These are called vocations. For example, a young man might wish to serve the Church and become a priest or deacon. Or he might feel called to serve the Church as a married man and father, raising a family in the faith. A young woman may feel called to lead a life of dedicated service through Christ and discern if she is called to be nun or sister. In today’s activity, students will learn about the different ways in which people serve God and one another.

Divide the chalkboard into sections or use each piece of poster board as a section. Label some of the vocational ministries into which people in the Church are called to participate—for example, “monastic life,” “married life,” “lay ministry,” and “ordained ministry.” Ask the young people to look at the pictures and decide under which vocation they belong. When the teens have finished this task, let them look at the different focuses each vocation offers to the faithful. Using markers, ask the teens to write in words that describe these different ways of life; words such as “quiet,” “desert,” “richness,” and “faithful” can be suggested. Compare the differences and similarities among the different vocations. If possible, invite parishioners who are part of those different vocations to join your group for the evening and share in the conversation.

Closing Prayer

*God of goodness, source of love,
listen to your Church as we call out to you this day.
May we, who have heard your Son calling us
and who have entered into your service,
be resolved to listen anew for the direction
of your Spirit.
Allow us to come and see all the good things
your love promises.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

For Next Sunday

To help teens prepare for next Sunday’s Mass, print, email, or share on a blog or social media the handout found on the next page. The JPG and PDF files are available at www.ltp.org/lwgr. Encourage teens to attend Mass with family or friends.