

# 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 14, 2024



#### REFLECTION

Sometimes a thing can only be known from the inside out. When John the Baptist, Andrew, and the others first encountered Jesus, they were drawn to him and wanted to know more. They wanted to know where he was staying. Jesus could have easily answered their question. He could have pointed out the house he slept in and went on his way. Instead, Jesus invited them to participate and experience life with him. He didn't give a quick answer, he gave an invitation into a deeper life.

What about us? Jesus does the same thing. Instead of straightforward answers, we are invited to journey with him throughout our lives to discover, from the inside, the answers to our deepest questions. The answers are revealed when we walk with the Lord. We find them when we live within Christ's life, seeing with his eyes, and living as he did.

What happens when we follow Jesus in this way? Andrew immediately found his brother Peter and told him what he experienced and brought him to Jesus. When we follow Jesus, we are empowered to be missionary disciples to a world in need.



#### ACTION

Go to church intentionally this week. Get to church early and look at what is present in the space. Spend time in the front of the Blessed Sacrament and see where Jesus stays. If possible, visit another Catholic church that you are less familiar with and see how it compares to your church. Pray that you will be empowered to share the Gospel with others.



Take a virtual tour this week of some of the most famous Catholic churches in the world. [https://www.vatican.va/various/basiliche/index\\_en.html](https://www.vatican.va/various/basiliche/index_en.html)

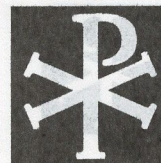


#### QUESTIONS

- ❖ What do today's readings teach you about the Christian life?
- ❖ If you were to encounter Jesus like Andrew did, what would you ask him?
- ❖ Who is a person in your life that could use a hope-filled message today?



# 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 teaching 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 winter time 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 more sparse, 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 14, 2024

## 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

Today's Gospel gives us an account of the first disciples encountering Jesus and choosing to follow him. It is interesting to note that in this Gospel account, these first disciples started as disciples of John. Although that should not surprise us, it highlights the fact that John's purpose and calling was always to point to Christ. This story also demonstrates that those early disciples were clearly motivated not by anything extraordinary that Jesus did, but rather by their own faith and desire to seek God. This presents an example for us to follow; to see ourselves as seekers, always desiring to be closer to God.

**Q FOCUS:** *The first disciples of Jesus followed him because of their own wish to find God.*

### Liturgical Calendar Connection

Today is the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time. We might ask ourselves what happened to the First Sunday. It is usually the same day that we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, and so we never truly have a "First Sunday" in Ordinary Time. This year is especially odd because the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord was transferred to a Monday because of the date Epiphany was celebrated. In any case, we now begin this season of counting or ordered time, where we number the weeks that pass between the end of Christmas Time and the beginning of Lent. Ordinary Time will continue after we celebrate Pentecost at the end of Easter Time.

### Church Teaching Connection

"[T]he laity become powerful heralds of the faith in things to be hoped for (see Heb 11:1) if they unhesitatingly join the profession of faith to the life of faith. This evangelization—that is, the proclamation of Christ by word and the witness of their lives—acquires a special character and a particular effectiveness because it is accomplished in the ordinary circumstances of the world" (*Lumen gentium*, 35).

## 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:*

Today's Gospel might not seem very exciting. No miracles, no challenging words from Jesus to sink our teeth into. Instead, we get the story of how some of the early disciples came to follow Jesus.

► **Did anything stand out to you in this Gospel passage?**

Even in this simple story, there's more going on underneath the surface. In this Gospel's account of the calling of the disciples, the first disciples of Jesus started as disciples of John. There they are, standing with John, and Jesus walks past and John says, "Behold, the Lamb of God." And two of John's disciples hear that and follow Jesus. Can you imagine that? These two people have already taken a leap of faith in following this preacher named John. Based on the descriptions of John from Scripture, he doesn't look or act like most other preachers, either. At first glance he might strike people as crazy, or at least eccentric. So these two people who have already put themselves out there to follow John, upon hearing him call Jesus the "Lamb of God," take yet another leap of faith and follow him. After spending some time with Jesus, they become so convinced that he is the messiah that one of them, Andrew, goes to bring his brother Simon.

► **When have you believed in something strongly enough or been so excited about something that you tell all your family and friends about it?**

Imagine how firm the faith of those two first disciples must have been! It could be easy for us to dismiss this by saying that Jesus was just that impressive. But there were many people who did not choose to follow Jesus at first or at all, so it's important for us to look not just at Jesus, but at those who chose to follow him. In the case of these early disciples, they were clearly already seeking something. For them to follow John, they obviously had a desire to serve God and be faithful. These men didn't just hear John or Jesus preach and agree with what they said. No, these first disciples believed in the promise of the messiah and changed their lives in order to follow John, and then follow Jesus.

How often do we live like these disciples? How often do we ask ourselves about what we believe and then choose to act on those beliefs? The actions of Andrew and the other disciple, and then Simon Peter, show us that discipleship is not just about our internal faith, but our external living of that faith.

## 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.*

**The early disciples of John and Jesus believed in God's promise to send the messiah.**

**When presented with an opportunity, the first disciples took a leap of faith to follow through on that belief.**

**After recognizing Jesus as the messiah, Andrew shared the Good News with his brother. We should do the same.**



# Act on the Word

## Encountering and Sharing the Word

*For this activity, you will need a candle (or an electric candle), matches, and space for the students to spread out comfortably.*

Begin by sharing this with the teens:

"This activity is based on the practice of *lectio divina*, which means divine or holy reading. This form of prayer reaches all the way back to some of the earliest Christian monastic communities and is still prayed regularly in both individual and group settings to this day. This contemplative practice helps us to open ourselves to hearing God's Word within our hearts. In order to begin this prayer, please find a place and posture where you are comfortable, but not so comfortable that you become drowsy or distract others."

Pause briefly to light the candle while the students find themselves a prayerful space. Then instruct the teens to listen carefully as you read today's Gospel again, listening for a word or phrase that stands out. After you've read this passage, allow for a few moments of silence, and then invite the students to share aloud the word or phrase that stood out to them. No explanations are needed. After this period of sharing is complete, read the passage aloud again. Give some additional time for silence before asking students to expand on the word or phrase that struck them. Why did this particular line speak to their heart today? What does this mean for them

in their life? After this round of sharing, read the passage one final time.

Once the process is complete, invite the students to share with a partner or small group how this experience can help them in their witness of Christ. How does praying with God's Word prepare them to share that Word with others? Finish the activity by inviting the teens to share with the group any prayers intentions they have for others. Use the closing prayer below to conclude your time together.

## Closing Prayer

*O divine Teacher,  
grant that we might never hesitate  
to follow you and to abide with you.  
Help us to know and live  
within the sovereignty of your Father's  
eternal kingdom  
You live and reign with the Father in the  
unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.  
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](http://www.ltp.org/lwgr). Encourage teens to attend Mass with family or friends.*