

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FIRST READING

A reading from the first book of Samuel

1 Samuel 3:4-10, 19

*Speak, O Lord,
your servant is listening.*

Samuel was sleeping in the temple
when the LORD called out to him.

"Here I am," Samuel answered.
He ran to Eli and said,
"Here I am, sir. What can I do for you?"

Eli replied, "I didn't call you. Go back to bed."
So Samuel went back.

Once more the LORD called Samuel's name.
Samuel got up.
He went to Eli and said,
"Here I am. What can I do for you?"

But Eli told him, "Son, I didn't call you.
Now go back to sleep."

Samuel did not realize that the LORD was speaking,
because this was the first time the LORD had spoken to him.
When the LORD spoke a third time that night,
Samuel again went to Eli and said,
"Here I am. What can I do for you?"

Eli now knew that it was the LORD
who was speaking to Samuel.
So Eli told him, "Go back to bed.
If someone speaks to you again,
answer, 'LORD, I am your servant.
Speak, and I will listen.'"
Once again Samuel went back and lay down.

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Psalm 40:1 c

The LORD came and stood beside Samuel.
Then he called out as he had done before, "Samuel! Samuel!"

The boy replied, "LORD, I am your servant.
Speak, and I will listen."

As Samuel grew up,
the LORD was with him
and made everything he said come true.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm *R. Here am I, Lord;
I come to do your will.*

*Psalm 40:1 and 3ab, 8 and 11
(8a and 9a)*

*I patiently waited, LORD,
for you to hear my prayer.
You listened
and you gave me a new song,
a song of praise to you.*

*R. Here am I, Lord;
I come to do your will.*

*"I enjoy pleasing you.
Your Law is in my heart."
You, LORD, never fail
to have pity on me;
your love and faithfulness
always keep me secure.*

*R. Here am I, Lord;
I come to do your will.*

Alleluia

John 1:41, 17b

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

*We have found the Messiah:
Jesus Christ,
who brings us truth and grace.*

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

John 1:35-42

✦ A reading from the holy gospel according to John

On one occasion John was with two of his followers.
When he saw Jesus walking by,
he said, "Here is the Lamb of God!"
John's two followers heard him,
and they went with Jesus.

When Jesus turned and saw them,
he asked, "What do you want?"

They answered, "Rabbi, where do you live?"
The Hebrew word "Rabbi" means "Teacher."

Jesus replied, "Come and see!"

*They saw where Jesus lived,
and they stayed with him.*

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It was already about four o'clock in the afternoon
when they went with him and saw where he lived.
So they stayed on for the rest of the day.

One of the two men who had heard John
and had gone with Jesus was Andrew,
the brother of Simon Peter.

The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother
and tell him,

"We have found the Messiah!"

The Hebrew word "Messiah"

means the same as the Greek word "Christ."

Andrew brought his brother to Jesus.

And when Jesus saw him, he said,

"Simon son of John, you will be called Cephas."

This name can be translated as "Peter."

The gospel of the Lord.

January 17, 2021

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Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

Today's Readings

1 Samuel 3:4–10, 19
Psalm 40:1 & 3ab, 8 & 11
John 1:35–42

Here am I, Lord

Preparation

Children's Leaflet

Have on hand copies of the Children's Leaflet for this Sunday. Distribute copies either at the start of the session or before the children return to the assembly.



Prepare with Prayer

You, LORD, never fail to have pity on me; your love and faithfulness always keep me secure. (Psalm 40:11)

Scripture Background

Young Samuel lived in a time before the Israelites were one unified nation under a single king. They were, instead, 12 loosely related tribes occupying the land to which Moses had led them some 200 years earlier.

The center of worship was not Jerusalem but Shiloh, where the long-suffering Eli and his corrupt sons served as priests.

To fulfill a vow made by his mother before his birth, Samuel had lived in the house of Eli from the age of three. Essentially, he had grown up in the Lord's service. (See 1 Samuel 1.)

The night he received his call to be a prophet of God and leader of the people, Samuel was sleeping in a place where the ark of the covenant was kept. The ark contained the stone tablets given to Moses on Mount Sinai. Scholars are not sure if, at this time, the Israelites worshiped in a temple or if they were still worshiping in a meeting tent.

The youth's night duty probably included guarding the ark and keeping a sanctuary light burning near it, as decreed by the law of Moses. (We observe a similar law today in our churches by keeping a lit sanctuary candle near the tabernacle that houses the Blessed Sacrament.)

Prepare the Meeting Space

In the worship area, on a table draped with a green cloth, place:

- ▶ a Lectionary
- ▶ a battery-operated candle
- ▶ optional: an illustration of Andrew the Apostle (available online by searching the phrase "Saint Andrew images").

Have ready for use during the Gathering activity:

- ▶ a timing device (egg timer, wrist-watch or clock with a second hand or a cell phone with a timer)

Suggested Music

See page 62 for more information.

Gathering: "Saying Yes" (Seeds CD-2, Track #8) or "Come and Follow Me" (Promise & Good News CD-2, Track #14)

Gospel Acclamation: "Gospel Acclamation; Alleluia" (Promise & Good News CD-2, Track #24)

The Gospel story about Andrew's call is fairly straight forward and needs little comment. Note, however, God's use of ordinary human interaction to gather disciples around our Lord. First, John the Baptist had told his disciple Andrew about Jesus, then Andrew told his brother Simon. Isn't that how most of us come to faith, through the trusted word of somebody we know?

Children's Connections

Year in and year out, one rule never changed at a girls' summer camp run by the Sisters of St. Agnes in the scenic Wisconsin woods: *No radios*. Their thinking was that for one week of the year, God deserved a chance to speak to the girls through the beauty of nature, without any outside competition.

For similar reasons, you are encouraged to tell children to build silence into their daily routines. Suggest that sometimes they go to their rooms, lie flat on their backs, breathe deeply, and silently repeat with the rhythm of their breathing the words of Samuel, "I'm listening, Lord. What do you want me to do?" Besides being a good way to pray, this can help an angry or upset child to calm down.

"Obey your elders" is childhood advice as old as the Fourth Commandment. Nevertheless, no child should obey an adult who wants him or her to do something wrong. You may wish to stress this point when discussing with children the voice of God in other people. If an adult ever says something that conflicts with what a child feels inside to be right, that child should always trust her or his own inner voice.

The Children's Leaflet

The children's leaflet for this week helps them learn about hearing God's call in their lives, through a summary of the Gospel, prayer, and a creative activity.

Distribute copies of the leaflet. If time permits, read with the children the summary of this week's Gospel. Point out the artwork and ask the children what is happening in the picture.

More About ...

Saint Andrew the First-Called

Because of an early tradition identifying Andrew as the first apostle to become a follower of Jesus, Eastern Christians to this day honor him as "Saint Andrew the First-Called." According to another tradition that dates back to Eusebius, third-century bishop of Caesarea, Andrew's missionary travels took him as far as the shores of the Black Sea and along Russia's Dnieper River. From earliest times, therefore, Russian Christians have claimed Andrew as their nation's patron saint.

The type of crucifix adopted by the Russian Orthodox Church proclaims the nation's continuing devotion to their *Svetoi*



Andrei. The slanted bar near the bottom of the crucifix represents the X-shaped cross on which, according to legend, Andrew was martyred.

His death came while preaching the Good News in the Roman province of Achaia, home of the cities of Athens and Corinth.

Activity

Families will be surprised at what they hear when they listen to silence in this week's activity. The children's word game highlights how we best listen to God.

God wants to speak to you, because you are very d e a r to God.
Are you listening?

God is not far away, God is N E A R to you
each and every day of the Y E A R.

You can H E A R sounds and noises with one E A R
or with both E A R S, but the "ear" that listens to God
and H E A R S God
is really your H E A R T!

God speaks to you with love. Are you listening?

Word Bank

ear
near
heart
hear
ears
hears
year



The Liturgy of the Word Gathering

When the Gathering song is ended, invite the children to be seated. Tell them you are going to give them one minute to spend in complete silence. During that time, they are to listen to all the different sounds around them. When the time is up, ask the children to name the sounds they heard.

Explain that each sound they identified is a little like the voice of God. Make a few comparisons using sounds the children mentioned: God's voice is powerful, like the sound of a car motor; God's voice is gentle, like the sound of your own breathing.

Opening Prayer

Leader: Please bow your heads for the Opening Prayer. Our response to each short prayer will be, "Open my ears, Lord," each time you hear me say them. Whenever you speak to me in quiet times, open my ears, Lord.

Children: Open my ears, Lord.

Leader: Whenever you speak to me through good words from good people, open my ears, Lord.

Children: Open my ears, Lord.

Leader: Whenever you speak to me in the words of the Bible, open my ears, Lord.

Children: Open my ears, Lord.

Leader: Lord, always you speak to us through the words of sacred Scripture. We promise to listen carefully as you speak to us now, through Christ our Lord.

Children: Amen.

Invite the children to be seated. Light the candle and begin the First Reading.

First Reading

Leader: In today's First Reading you will meet Eli and Samuel. Eli was an old, half-blind priest in the city of Shiloh, and Samuel was his young helper. Listen to what happened one night while Samuel was keeping watch in God's house.

Read 1 Samuel 3:4–10, 19. Then say, "The word of the Lord."

Children: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

The psalm may be either sung or spoken. Before beginning the psalm, sing or announce the response.

Leader: Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.

Children: Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.

Leader: *Read Psalm 40:1 and 3ab, 8 and 11.*

Gospel Acclamation

Invite the children to stand. Sing the suggested Acclamation or another familiar one. If you choose not to sing the Acclamation, proceed to the Proclamation of the Gospel.

Proclaim the Gospel

Leader: In today's Gospel, we are going to hear the story of how Andrew received his call to be a disciple of Jesus.

The Lord be with you.

Children: And with your Spirit.

Leader: A reading from the Gospel of John.

Children: † Glory to you, O Lord.

Leader: *Read John 1:35–42.* Then say, "The Gospel of the Lord."

Children: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

Tell the children you are going to share a few ideas on how God speaks with people. Then base a Homily on these ideas and questions:

- ▶ God spoke to Samuel in the silence of the night.
 - Samuel's story teaches us how important it is sometimes to be silent, without any loud music or TV shows blocking out God's voice.
 - When are the quiet times in your day?
- ▶ God spoke to Andrew through another human being: John the Baptist.
 - What did John tell Andrew when Jesus walked by? ("Here is the Lamb of God!")
 - "Lamb of God" meant that Jesus was the Messiah. Like an innocent lamb, he was ready to offer his life for his people.
 - This story teaches us how important it is to pay attention to the words of people around us.
 - Whenever good people tell us to do good things, God is speaking through them.
 - We should never listen to people who tell us to think or do bad things.
- ▶ God also spoke to Andrew through the Lord Jesus.
 - What did Jesus ask Andrew and his friend? ("What do you want?") How did they answer? ("Rabbi, where do you live?")
 - Jesus then took the men home with him, and that's how Andrew became a disciple.
 - This story teaches us how important it is to pay attention to the words of Jesus. We hear his words in the Gospels. Do you pay close attention to the Gospel when it is read at Mass?

Profession of Faith

Leader: Please stand for our Profession of Faith and repeat, "This I do believe" each time I say it. God is a loving parent who speaks to us every day. This I do believe.

Children: This I do believe.

Leader: Jesus is God's Son, whose words show us the way to life everlasting. This I do believe.

Children: This I do believe.

Leader: The Holy Spirit is God's own Spirit, who speaks to us in the silence of our hearts. This I do believe.

Children: This I do believe.

Leader: The holy, catholic Church is built on the word of God. This I do believe.

Children: This I do believe.

Prayer of the Faithful

Leader: Knowing that God will hear our prayers, let us pray in confidence for all that we need. To each petition, please respond, "Lord, hear our prayer." That the leaders of our Church will lead people to Jesus, just as John the Baptist did, let us pray to the Lord.

Children: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: That the people of our parish will answer the call of Jesus, just as Andrew did, let us pray to the Lord.

Children: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: That the leaders of our town and country will do what God wants, just as Samuel did, let us pray to the Lord.

Children: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: *Invite the children to pray their own petitions. Then pray:*

Loving God, we know you hear and answer us whenever we call upon you. With the help of your Holy Spirit, may we hear and answer you, too, whenever you call upon us. This we ask through Christ our Lord.

Children: Amen.

Return to Assembly

The Liturgy of the Word ends with the Prayer of the Faithful. Prepare the children to return to the assembly in a respectful manner. If you haven't already done so, distribute the leaflets. Remind the children to take the leaflets home and share them with their families. Encourage them to watch this week's Gospel Reflection video and complete the Family Corner activities as a family.

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Today's Readings

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Psalm 40:1 & 3ab, 8 & 11
John 1:35–42



We Pray

Help us, O Lord to hear your voice. May we always listen when you speak to us.
Amen.

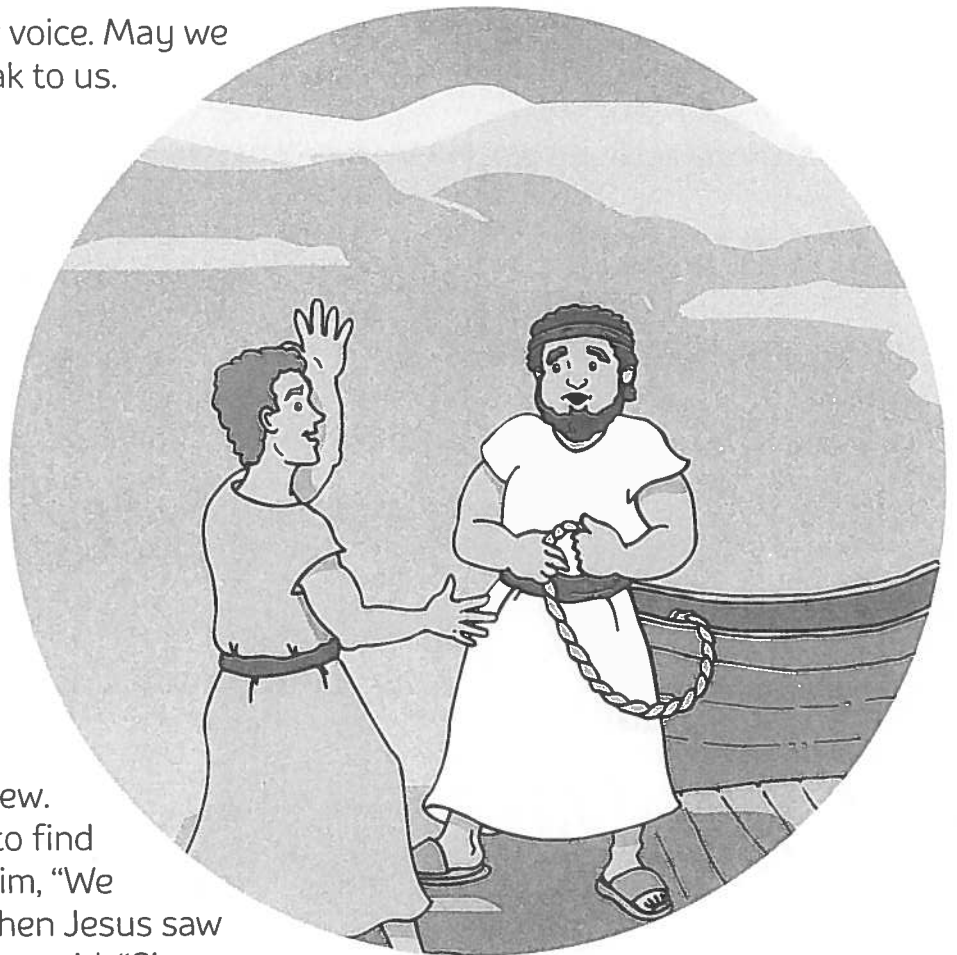


The Word of God This Week

Here Am I, Lord

John and two of his followers saw Jesus. John said, "Here is the Lamb of God!" The two men started following Jesus, who asked them, "What do you want?" They asked where he lived. Jesus said, "Come and see!"

One of the men was Andrew. After a while, Andrew went to find his brother, Simon. He told him, "We have found the Messiah!" When Jesus saw Andrew and Simon coming, he said, "Simon, you will be called Peter."



Visit pflaum.com/2020WinterB for this week's Gospel Reflection, Saint Spotlight, and more.

Scan here
for family
resources.



Activity

How does God speak to you? How do you listen to God? Fill in the blanks using the word bank to find out!

God wants to speak to you, because you are very d e a r to God.

Are you listening?

God is not far away, God is _____ to you

each and every day of the _____.

You can _____ sounds and noises with one _____

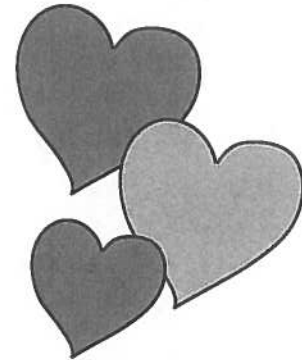
or with both _____, but the "ear" that listens to God

and _____ God

is really your _____!

Word Bank

ear
near
heart
hear
ears
hears
year



God speaks to you with love. Are you listening?

Family Corner

Faith Focus

Today we recall when Samuel heard someone call him during the night. When he listened with full attention, he heard that it was God. In the Gospel, John pointed to Jesus and said, "Here is the Lamb of God." His disciples listened with full attention, and they heard God's call. God speaks to us through Jesus, through one another, and through our hearts. When we listen with full attention, we can also hear God's call.

Family Activity

Good listening requires our full attention. Gather the family in any room of your house. Everyone should get comfortable and close their eyes for exactly one minute. Pay attention to the sounds around you. When the minute is over, open your eyes and tell one another what you heard.

Throughout the week, listen carefully to one another. Repeat what you hear to the person who said it, so he or she knows you are listening.



DRAW

Draw a picture of yourself telling a friend about Jesus' love.



GOSPEL

Mexican families share a special treat called a Kings' Cake on January 6th. Hidden inside the cake is one tiny little doll shaped like the baby Jesus. If you find Jesus in your piece of cake, you tell everyone. In today's Gospel, Andrew met Jesus for the first time. Andrew was so excited to find the Savior, he ran to tell his brother he had found Jesus.



PRAYER

Jesus, help me tell my family and friends about you.



BECAUSE VIBRANT
CHURCHES MATTER

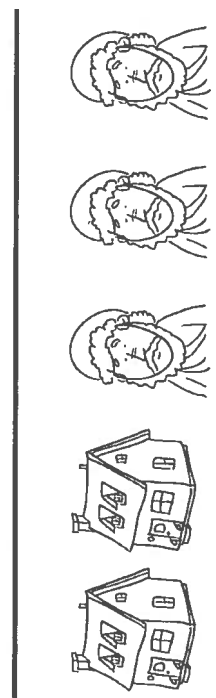
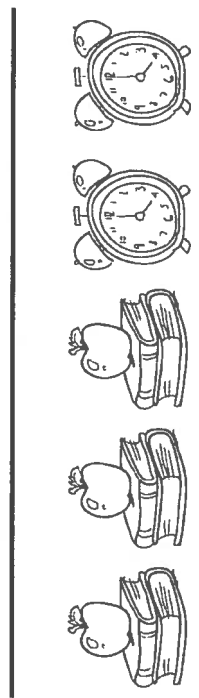
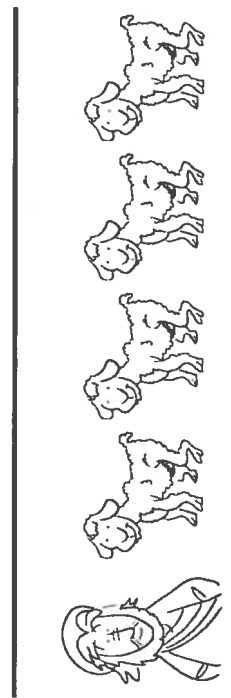
GROWING

WITH THE Gospel

CYCLE B

PUZZLE

Circle the picture in each group that has more.
Then color all the pictures.



MISSION

I will tell others about how God has been good to me.

COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



BECAUSE VIBRANT CHURCHES MATTER



DRAW

Draw Jesus at home giving Simon the new name, "Peter."



GOSPEL

Jesus changed Simon's name to Peter. Peter means rock. He knew that Peter would be strong enough to hold his church together. Pretend that God is changing your name today. God might choose a name that says what he wants you to become: Patience, Courage, or Honesty. God could choose Bible names: Moses, Noah, Mary, or Joseph. Choose a name for yourself. God will call you by your new name. He will be proud of you.



PRAYER

Lord, call me by name. I am listening.