

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time – Family Lesson Plan

Prepare Prayer Area – Prayer cloth (green for ordinary time – our Bible readings outside of Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter/Pentecost that help us grow in our faith), candle to represent the Light of Christ, Bible, Cross/Crucifix, children’s artwork from previous weeks, items from nature, other symbols of choice.

Opening Prayer –

Alleluia, alleluia. Fill us with your word; Your word is life for our souls. **Alleluia.**

Preparation for Sunday Scripture Readings - In today’s Gospel we learn about Jesus’ first disciples. Andrew is the brother of Simon, whom Jesus renames. The brothers James and John, are the sons of Zebedee. From the very beginning of the Church, families helped one another to know and follow Jesus.

Read today’s Gospel

Mark 1:14-20. Children’s version is on the *Children’s Liturgy* page on the homepage of our website.

Reflect on the Gospel – Use the discussion points that fit the age/s of child/ren:

- Who were the brothers who left their boats and nets to follow Jesus? They were 1) Simon-Peter and 2) Andrew, 3) James and 4) John. These followers would help lead people to God and teach others of God’s great love for them.
- Many people followed Jesus and became his disciples, but Jesus chose a small number of them to travel with him and help him with his work. We read about 12 of them--do you know some of their names?
 - Jesus chose twelve apostles. The name “apostle” was given to a follower of Jesus who had been specially chosen. They were all close friends of Jesus who were chosen to preach and perform miracles in his name.
 - The names of the twelve apostles were: Simon Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, (another) James, Thaddaeus, Simon, and Judas.
- Jesus calls us to follow him, too. When we are baptized into the Christian family, we are called to be followers of Jesus. But Jesus also calls us to follow him every day. How?
- To follow Jesus, we do not usually have to leave home like the first disciples did! By loving God and our neighbor, we can follow Jesus every day by living as Jesus taught us to. Invite your family to imagine what Jesus’ presence and invitation to these first followers must have been like that they responded by leaving their livelihood to become his disciples.
- How might our life change if we understood the Kingdom of God to be as important and immediate in our lives? Ask God to help you experience the Kingdom of God.

Closing Prayer

Leader: With happy hearts let us call upon God for our needs.

- For a hunger for peace everywhere. Let us pray to the Lord & Lord hear our prayer
- For the spirit of goodwill to our neighbors. Let us pray to the Lord & Lord hear our prayer
- For the grace to accept others as they are. Let us pray to the Lord & Lord hear our prayer
- **For whom or what else shall we pray?**

Leader: Lord, help us to see you around us in our lives, and to serve you through our loving kindness toward other people. We pray in Jesus’ name. All: **Amen**

A variety of activities are available and linked on the “Gospel Reading” page on our website homepage.