



DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

700 King Street West, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8P 1C7



Children's Liturgy of the Word

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Our readings this Sunday focus on "call and response" leading towards commitment to Jesus. When taken together, they show stages of discipleship. From Samuel's introduction to the Lord's invitation, we humbly praise the God who has given us ears to hear the Word.

The emphasis in the call of Samuel is on listening: "Speak to me, God, I am listening." Samuel is called to be a prophet—one who must constantly listen to God to honestly speak for God.

The emphasis in the Gospel is on seeing; "come and see." To "see" means more than to view with the physical eye. Biblically, it means "perceiving with the eye of faith." The disciples see Jesus as the Messiah and follow him in faith. The disciples drop everything to "come and see."

Our Christian responsibility, which we receive in baptism, is to proclaim and live the will of God. This "call and response" theme will continue through the Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time.

Objectives

- † To invite children to be open to hearing God's particular call to each of us at the present moment.
- † To introduce and define the words commitment, vocation and holy.

Leader's Preparation:

- † Pray the Lectionary readings.
- † Review the background.
- † Reflect upon the reflection questions.

Environment and Materials

- † Two screened adult leaders.
- † Liturgical space; the liturgical colour is **Green**.
- † White cloth, a Lectionary and a candle.
- † Place the Bible in a prominent location for the children to see.
- † Select volunteers (older children or adults) to proclaim the readings.

Background

First Reading: Samuel

- † Before Samuel's birth, his mother, Hannah, begged God to reverse her barrenness. When Samuel was weaned, Hannah entrusted him to Eli to serve the Lord.
- † The biblical author informs us that because Samuel was not yet familiar with the Lord, he mistook the divine voice for that of Eli.
- † It was Eli who realized that the Lord was calling Samuel.
- † Upon hearing the fourth call, Samuel took the step that would be decisive for the remainder of his life: he identified himself as God's servant. He turned his ear to the Word and will of God.

Gospel: John

- † In the Gospel, John the Baptist watches Jesus pass by.
- † Rather than address him, John points him out to others, calling him the Lamb of God.
- † John is the only person to call Jesus by that title. Two of John's disciples responded to that statement by leaving him to follow Jesus.
- † Jesus turned and asked the two what they were seeking.
- † Their response indicated they did not understand what John said about Jesus.
- † John had already stated that the Lamb would take away the sin of the world, that he had seen the Spirit come down on him and that he was the Son of God.
- † The disciples addressed Jesus as "Rabbi," a term of respect but not of deep faith.
- † All they could ask was, "Where are you staying?" Jesus' response, "Come and see," was a call to vocation and a promise that their vision of him would deepen until they understood who he was and why he was worthy of their discipleship.

Leader's Reflection Questions

- † Who has unexpectedly helped you to recognize God's presence and action?
- † How do you respond to God's presence with the gifts you have to offer?

The Liturgy

Procession from the main Church

After the opening prayer, when all are seated, the leaders come forward and stand facing the altar.

Priest: Dear children, God asks us to respond by saying we will do what God wants. Our parish supports you. Go in peace to listen to God's Word.

When most of the children have formed a procession, the leader with the book proceeds to the place of the celebration. The second leader usually walks behind the children. Upon arrival at the location of the celebration, the leader places the book on the prepared table.

Welcome.

The leaders assist the children to sit and prepare. Begin with the Sign of the Cross. Help the children think about and connect their actions as they touch their foreheads, shoulders, and stomachs. The leader may say the following prayer in these or similar words.

Loving God, you call us to love you and everybody. Help us to listen to your voice and do what pleases you. Amen.

Invite the children to listen to the Gospel.

First Reading

The children sit during the proclamation of the reading.

A reading from the first book of Samuel

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.

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.

Children: Thanks be to God

Gospel

The children stand for the Gospel. The leader proclaims the Gospel. All sign themselves on the forehead, lips and chest.

Minister of the Word: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

All sign themselves on the forehead, lips and chest.

Children respond: Glory to you, O Lord

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel, according to John

John was with two of his followers. Seeing 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!" 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 "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."

At the end of the Gospel, the Minister of the Word proclaims The Gospel of the Lord.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Children: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The children sit to listen to the reflection.

Reflection

An excellent place to begin is the question:

What did you hear?

Today's Gospel starts with John the Baptist telling people that Jesus is the Lamb of God. The Lamb of God is a reference to Jesus.

What did Jesus ask the two disciples who were following John to do?

(Jesus invites them to "come and see.")

Making a commitment to follow a new path is not always easy. John's followers were used to following John. Still, as soon as they heard him identify Jesus as the one they were all waiting for, they didn't hesitate to go in the new direction of following Jesus. The first disciples trusted John, so they knew they could trust Jesus. So they were to come, to follow Jesus, and then to see, which is a commitment to faith.

Andrew then invites his brother Simon by telling him they have found Jesus, who will save them.

What did Andrew do after he saw Jesus?

Of course, Simon would come and see! Wouldn't you if you thought you would meet Jesus? Jesus knows who Simon is right away. Jesus gives Simon a new name: Peter.

In what practical ways can we follow Jesus?

As we grow in faith and trust, the teachings of Jesus will become part of us. They will become easier to live and talk about. Commit to praying and learning about Jesus, God the Father, and the Holy Spirit. Follow up what you are learning with actions that show your belief in Jesus, who saves you.

The leader may offer this reflection in these or similar words. Please consider the amount of time available to return to the main assembly. The leader may wish to reduce the number of questions.

Following the reflection, the prayer leader invites everyone to stand to profess our faith.

Recite the Creed or use the sample below to ask the children to respond.

The Creed

Depending on the time, a simple profession of faith may be made (see below).

Leader: Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth?

All: We do believe.

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, who became our brother and gave his life for us?

All: We do believe.

Leader: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit who lives in our hearts and gives us everlasting life?

All: We do believe.

Leader: This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it.

Prayer of the Faithful

Invite the children to think of the needs of others and to announce their petitions. The leaders may begin the intercessions by announcing the needs they know. It may be necessary for the leader to repeat and/or paraphrase the petition and conclude it with the cue for the response: For this, we pray. All respond to each petition by saying: Lord, hear our prayer. Sample intercessions are below.

Leader: The brightness of God illuminates the world, so we bring our prayers and petitions to God.

That the Church follows Jesus, we pray:

That governments follow Jesus, we pray:

That those who suffer see hope in Jesus, we pray:

The leader may invite other intercessions from the children or add intercessions based on the Church's current needs, the world, or the local community.

That those who have died live in God's Light forever, we pray:

Leader: God, you love all people and want them to know Jesus. Make us know him better, and by how we live, may others get to know him through us. We ask you this through Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

The leader may invite other intercessions from the children or add intercessions based on the Church's current needs, the world, or the local community.

Ask the children to return to the main assembly. Ask them to return quietly and perhaps think about what they have heard and are now doing.

Be mindful of children having difficulty finding their families.

Readings: Lectionary for Masses with Children, 1992, USCCB, Washington, DC, USA.
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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

We Pray

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

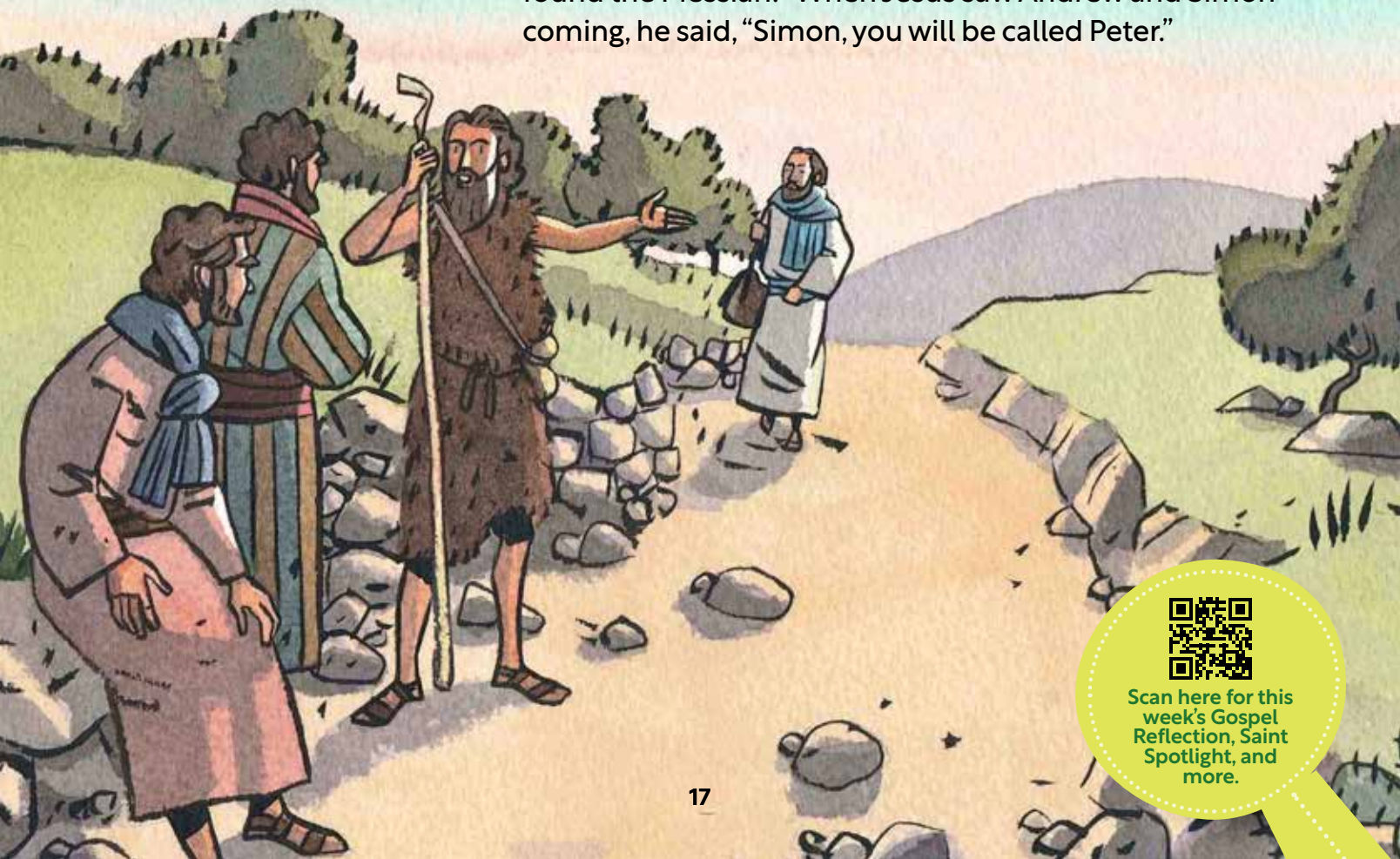
The Word of God This Week



Here I Am, 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.”



Scan here 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!

WORD BANK

ear * near * heart * hear * ears * hears * year * dear



God wants to speak to you, because you are very _____ 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 _____ !

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.