



# DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

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

## Children's Liturgy of the Word THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



The readings focus on the call for disciples to follow Jesus.

Jonah is called and sent. Our passage for today picks up the story after the whale and tells us that Jonah was sent to preach repentance to the people of Nineveh. The heart of the story is the faith response of the people of Nineveh: when they heard God's message, they did, in fact, believe and change their lives.

In our passage from Mark, Jesus calls the first disciples while doing their ordinary work. They change their lives and follow Jesus. As we will hear on a later Sunday, they too are eventually sent out to preach the message Jesus gives in the opening verse of this Gospel, "The good news that comes from God."

## Objectives

- † To help children learn to follow Jesus.

## 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, 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: Jonah

- † As one of the great characters of the Bible, Jonah preached far more effectively than he had ever hoped to do.
- † When we meet him in today's reading, he has already tried to hide from God and has done time in the belly of a whale.
- † That first learning experience helped him discover that he could not escape the God of creation by fleeing the Holy Land.
- † When he did preach to the Ninevites, enemies had taken over the northern kingdom of Israel and humiliated his people.
- † They repented, and God did not destroy them.

### Gospel: Mark

- † This Sunday, we begin a time when Mark will dominate our Gospel readings.
- † Verse 1 of Mark, "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God," can be considered the title of the work.
- † Today's selection is true to the description above.
- † In the first fourteen verses of the Gospel, Mark has introduced John the Baptist, Jesus' baptism, and his forty days in the wilderness.
- † Now, after John is off the scene, Jesus appears and preaches.
- † Jesus spoke of God as active in the hearts of people in the world.
- † Jesus is calling forth our faith in a thoroughly new way.
- † During most of Ordinary Time in this coming year, we will see how Mark presents Jesus as the expression of God's reign, the one who calls us to new life.
- † The kingdom of God is at hand.

### Leader's Reflection Questions

- † Jesus goes out to look for his followers. Do I allow Jesus to find me?
- † Do I hear Jesus calling me by name?
- † How can I help children know Jesus?

# The Liturgy

## Procession from the main Church

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



Invite the children to listen to the Gospel.

**Priest:** Dear children, Jesus calls us to follow him. Go with your leaders and listen to the word of God as Jesus calls you.

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 invite us to follow you. Help us to listen to your voice. Amen.**

## First Reading

The children sit during the proclamation of the reading.

### A reading from the book of the prophet Jonah

**T**he Lord spoke to Jonah and said, "Jonah, go to that great city of Nineveh and speak to them for me."

Jonah obeyed the Lord and went to Nineveh. The city was so large that it took three days to walk through it. After walking for a day, Jonah told the people, "Forty days from now, Nineveh will be destroyed."



They believed in God and fasted. Then everyone in the city, no matter who they were, also dressed in sackcloth.

When God saw that the people had stopped doing evil things, he had mercy on them.

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 Mark**

After John was arrested, Jesus went to Galilee and told the good news that comes from God. He said, "The time has come! God's kingdom will soon be here. Turn back to God and believe the good news!"

As Jesus walked along Lake Galilee's shore, he saw Simon



and his brother Andrew. They were fishermen and were casting their nets into the lake. Jesus said to them, "Come with me! I will teach you how to bring in people instead of fish." Right then, the two brothers dropped their nets and went with him.

Jesus walked on and soon saw James and John, the sons of Zebedee. They were in a boat, mending their nets. At once, Jesus asked them to come with him. They left their father in the boat with the hired workers and went with him.

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

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.

An excellent place to begin is the question:

### **What did you hear?**

In today's Gospel, two brothers, Simon and Andrew (the same men we heard about last week), were fishing. That was their job; they were working when Jesus walked on the shore. Jesus called to them in their boats. They heard him say something very unusual. Jesus asked Andrew and Simon to come with him. He promised to teach them how to fish for people instead of fish!

### **What did Jesus mean?**

To catch fish, fishermen needed boats, rods, hooks and nets. They didn't need any of those things to catch people.

### **What do you think they needed to fish for people?**

They needed to follow Jesus to act as he did toward the poor, sick, and hungry. They needed to tell people about the Word of God. They would not be using their own tools but God's tools: God's Word, care, and love. Simon and Andrew heard Jesus' call to a new life, a new way.

They weren't going to be fishermen but fishers of men. Simon and Andrew left their boats and followed Jesus. They knew it wouldn't be easy catching people. It was hard work just to catch fish. It would be much harder to catch people! They knew Jesus would teach them. They knew this would be important work. Since it was so important, Jesus even gave Simon a new name as he began his new work.

We heard it in last week's Gospel passage; **do you remember?**

Peter

### **What would make you follow Jesus?**

Jesus calls to us, too. We've been called ever since we were baptized. We learn to follow Jesus by putting into practice all that he has taught: by helping people who need us, by knowing the stories about Jesus and sharing those stories with other people who haven't heard them yet, and by praying. That's a lot we can do!

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:** **Jesus is the light of the world and calls upon us to follow him. Let us pray.**

**Lector:** **That the Church follows Jesus, we pray:**

**Lector:** **That governments follow Jesus, we pray:**

**Lector:** **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.

**Lector:** **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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**DIOCESE OF HAMILTON**



JANUARY 21, 2024 + THIRD SUNDAY *in* ORDINARY TIME

# Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

## Today's Readings

Jonah 3:1–5, 10  
Psalm 25:4–5abc, 6 &  
7cd, 8–9  
Mark 1:14–20

## We Pray

Lord, may we hear your call to follow you.  
May we help others follow you, too. Amen.

## The Word of God This Week



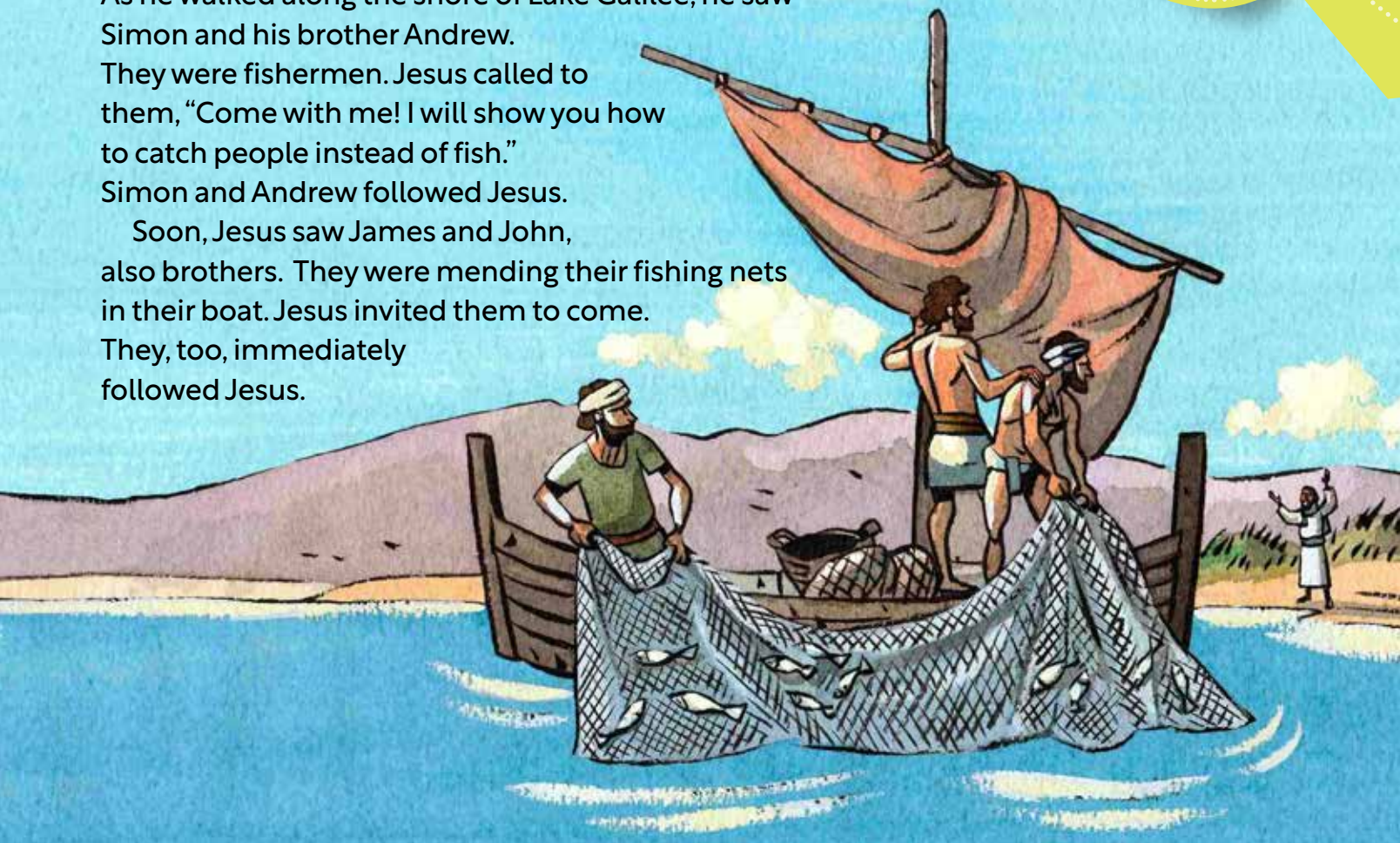
### We Are Called to Follow Jesus

Jesus decided to begin teaching people about God. As he walked along the shore of Lake Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew. They were fishermen. Jesus called to them, “Come with me! I will show you how to catch people instead of fish.” Simon and Andrew followed Jesus.

Soon, Jesus saw James and John, also brothers. They were mending their fishing nets in their boat. Jesus invited them to come. They, too, immediately followed Jesus.



Scan here for this week's Gospel Reflection, Saint Spotlight, and more.



# Activity

Jesus wants you to follow him. **Draw a boat with you and Jesus on board so that he can lead the way!**



**SCAN  
HERE**  
for family  
resources



## Family Corner

### FAITH FOCUS

Being chosen to do something specific gives each person in the family an opportunity to learn about the unique gifts God gives to him or her. We are all different, and we are called to celebrate our differences by recognizing the uniqueness of each person. This acceptance of each member makes family ties stronger and works to help us be the best that we can be for God's Kingdom.

### FAMILY ACTIVITY

Make or use a drawing of a large gift box. In turn, have each family member put his or her name on the gift box along with a unique gift God has given to them. As the drawing is passed along, each person should also add a gift they recognize in each of the other family members. Circulate the drawing until everyone has affirmed a God-given gift in each family member.

