

Sunday Gospel Background

Luke's account of Jesus' calling his disciples focuses on Simon Peter. Jesus suggests that he lower his nets in deep waters even though he has fished all night without catching a thing. Simon Peter does what Jesus asks and catches so many fish that two boats can barely haul them to shore without sinking. This great catch makes Simon Peter aware that he is a sinful human being and gives Jesus the opportunity to call him to his new vocation as "a fisher of people." The boat symbolizes the Church or Christian community in which missionaries called and gathered the new community of Jesus' followers in the A.D. 80s. Jesus teaches in the boat, and Peter gathers fish into the boat. Jesus' call to disciples to gather others into the Christian community continues in our everyday lives.

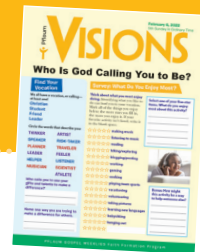
Share Experiences

Check off the boxes as you complete each part of the lesson.

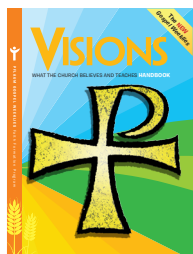
- Pray together** You may wish to close your eyes for this prayer and invite your child to do the same. Reflect quietly together on all you have accomplished today, this week, and in the last month. Think about tasks you have done with your hands. Join hands and pray: "Lord God, bless these hands that have done so much work, have shown so much love, and hold the promise for so much to come. Amen."
- Cover Activity • What Is God Calling You to Be? (page 1)** Young people can often identify what they are good at and what they enjoy doing; however, your child may not think of these things as vocations. Begin with the survey on the cover. Invite your child to fill in the stars based on favorite activities. Then go to the Find Your Vocation sidebar and go through the first list together. Ask if your child has ever considered being a friend as a vocation. Have your child follow the directions to circle the words.
- Article • How Did I Get Here? (pages 2-3)** Most young people will not find their vocation all at once. It will be a longer journey in which they will try out different experiences and situations. This is the story of a young woman who started the journey toward her vocation on a high school mission trip. Take turns reading the story aloud.
- Discuss the Talk questions on page 3.** *Answers: 1. She has found her vocation over time, starting with her high school trip; then with more education, reading, and travel. 2. She followed her heart, lived with the poor, and committed herself to helping others; open-ended. 3. Open-ended; if your child has trouble answering, refer to the responses on the cover. 4. Open-ended; encourage discussion but do not push. Coming to faith in Jesus is a personal journey for all of us.*

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Jesus Calls Three Friends to Follow Him (page 4)** Proclaim the Gospel by dividing up and reading the parts of Narrators 1 and 2, Jesus, and Simon Peter.
- Discuss the Talk questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. Jesus asks Simon Peter to take him fishing, then asks him to fish for people instead. 2. Simon Peter's faith in where Jesus wants him to fish. The Gospel is talking about calling people to believe in Jesus. This is called evangelizing, or spreading the Gospel message. 3. Simon Peter is willing to try what Jesus asks of him; even though he makes mistakes, he keeps trying again. Open-ended.*
- Connecting Gospel and Doctrine • Jesus Calls Us to Love as He Does (page 4)** Read aloud this feature about the many ordinary ways Jesus calls us.



- **Discuss the Talk questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. Read aloud the definition on page 5, and then discuss the different roles. 2. A job can be one's vocation, but it does not have to be. Some jobs are intended more for making money; they may not call us to use our God-given talents. 3. Open-ended; prompt discussion by naming a talent your child has and talk about who would most want your child to use it well.*



- **Open the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 19.** Explain that in this Sunday's First Reading, God calls Isaiah to be a prophet and, in Sunday's Gospel, Jesus calls Simon Peter to fish for people. Share the meaning of the word *mission*. A mission is "something one is sent to do." In Greek, the word *apostolein* means "to send." An apostle is one sent on a mission, a missionary. Then read aloud the first three paragraphs on page 19. This introduction prepares for the Living the Gospel activity (pages 6–7) that focuses on how God calls each of us.

Once you have completed this section of the lesson, close the handbook and return to Visions page 5

- **Catholic Faith Word • Vocation (page 5)** Read aloud the definition to reinforce understanding of our calling from God.
- **Our Catholic Faith • How Can We Respond to God's Call? (page 5)** Read this feature, which explores God's calls to Isaiah and Peter in the Sunday Readings, and invite your child to complete the questions.

Live the Gospel

- **Living the Gospel • The Church Calls Us to Continue Jesus' Mission in the World (pages 6–7)** Read aloud the introduction on page 6. Then have your child review the six sacraments and answer the questions. Invite your child to find a quiet space to complete page 7. Emphasize that it is OK if your child does not yet know what God is calling him or her to do. This is just the beginning of your child's story.
- **Catholic Leaders • Sister Jean Dolores Schmidt (page 8)** Sister Jean combines her loves of teaching, counseling, and coaching as the long-standing team chaplain for the men's basketball team at Loyola University-Chicago, the Ramblers. Read aloud this feature together.
- **Closing Prayer** Pray this vocation prayer together by having your child respond to each petition, "Open our hearts to your call."

Parent: Loving God, you call us by name. You invite us to share your love with others. Strengthen the hearts of people you choose to follow you. Inspire us to know your plan for our lives. May we respond with loving service. Continue to summon us and encourage us with the example of your Son and the presence of your Spirit. Amen.



Parent Resources

For weekly videos, assessments, and more, scan this code or go to pflaumweeklies.com/family
Visit www.usccb.org/bible/readings to read this Sunday's Scripture.