



3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)



Mark 1: 14 – 20

After John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea – for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, “Come follow me and I will make you fishers of people.” And immediately they left their nets and followed him.

As Jesus went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

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Reflection:

Jesus did not approach people who were doing nothing at the time. Those whom he approached could easily have said, “We’re busy.” The same is true today. Jesus often interrupts us in the midst of our own plans. Do we have the courage to lay down our nets or to use them in his service? Do we have the courage to change our plans or to conform them according to his will?



Table Discussion (at mealtime):

It is amazing how many times this story repeats itself in our daily lives. A child asked to help with a chore, an adult asked to take on something new, a total change in plans when everything seemed to be all set to go. God may often want to redirect us in one way or another. Take turns sharing a simple story of how you were asked to leave something behind (it can be as simple as a video game or task) in order to respond to something more important. How is Jesus calling you to leave your fishing nets and follow him?



Parenting Corner:

Finding their way in life is often left to our children. We often assume that they know what they are doing when it comes to friends, dating or vocational pursuits. After all, there's a fine line between a helping hand and interference.

The same is true in matters of faith and God's Call in our children's life. Rather than engaging our children in conversation regarding their faith questions and God's Spirit at work in their hearts, we either push them too hard or step back altogether. General dinner table conversations or more personal conversations at bedtime or "when needed" (i.e. while taking one of your children for a drive or walk) not only offer them an opportunity to be heard but also build a closer relationship with you and with God.

As your children get older you may also suggest they keep a little prayer journal: a way to give voice to their thoughts, talk to God and work thru a variety of scenarios. Let them know you are willing to listen, but give them the choice to take you up on it or not.

One-on-one conversation with your child (in the car, at bedtime, while walking, etc.):

- Make sure to mention the good things you notice in them.
- Affirm their good qualities and strengths.
- Give them permission to talk about their struggles (i.e. "I notice you are having a hard time with...") Spend most of your time listening. Give them the opportunity to talk about it. Show interest by asking questions. Help them become better decision makers by helping them through the discernment process.
- Engage their imagination; give them permission to work out different scenarios (re: What they see themselves doing, issues at schools, friendships, their fears, hopes and dreams, etc.).
- Be honest in sharing your thoughts in regards to what you see them doing with their lives.
- Don't be afraid to talk about "faith questions" that they might have or ask about what God might be asking them to do. Remember, you don't have to have all the answers, sometimes it's best to let them sort things out. Keep asking: "What do you think?"
- Let them lead the conversation as much as possible, especially once it has started.
- Don't try to achieve too much. These are only suggestions and should be adapted according to need and circumstance. One-on-one conversations are meant to give them a chance to think things through and bond with you at the same time.
- Children (young and old) love it when adults take an interest in them. It is hoped that, over time, they will be asking you to go for a walk with them.



Individual Prayer Journal Exercise:

Take some time to place yourself in the place of the first four disciples. How is God calling you to follow him? What do you need to leave behind in order to follow him?



The Call of Elisha (Bedtime Story): (Based on 1 Kings 19: 19-21)

Elisha's family owned a big farm and, because he was the eldest son, he stood to inherit it from his parents. The farm was so big that instead of having just one ox and plough to work the fields, Elisha's family owned twenty-four oxen and hired servants to plough the fields.

One day, as Elisha was supervising the workers in the field by walking behind the last team of oxen, a man came by, throwing his mantle over Elisha's shoulder. When Elisha looked around to look at the man, he recognized him instantly. The man was none other than the messenger from God.

"Let me go and say goodbye to my parents," Elisha said, knowing that the messenger from God wanted him to leave everything behind. But the messenger would not wait because the task at hand was too important.

So, Elisha took the wood of the plough and the oxen that he owned, offered them as a sacrifice to God, then he turned his back on everything he owned, never to return again. From that moment onward, he followed God's messenger, being content to be his servant.



The Call of Jonah (Bedtime Story); (Based on Jonah 1 – 3:2)

Click [here](#) if you would like to watch a video of the story of Jonah.

One day God spoke to Jonah:
"Go East," God said, "and go to the city of Nineveh."
But Jonah said, "No, I just won't go."
And went West instead.

"Go East," God said, "and go to the city of Nineveh."
God's word continued to ring in his head.
But Jonah said, "No, I just won't go."
And boarded a ship instead.

"Go East," God said, "and go to the city of Nineveh."
God's voice did not leave him alone.
But Jonah said, "No, I just won't go."
And disappeared below deck instead.

Go East," God said, "and go to the city of Nineveh."
God's voice was now a mighty wind.
But Jonah said, "No, I just won't go."
And went to bed instead.

“Go East,” God said, “and go to the city of Nineveh.”
God’s voice tossed the ship like a cork.
But Jonah said, “No, I just won’t go.”
And fell asleep instead.

The sailors were frightened; the sailors were scared.
They knew that something was wrong.
Never before had they seen such a wind,
Never before such a storm.

The sailors were frightened; the sailors were scared.
One of them must have done wrong.
“Was it you?” “Was it me?” They just didn’t know.
While Jonah lay sleeping below.

The sailors were frightened; the sailors were scared.
They woke Jonah up from his sleep.
“Was it us?” “Was it you?” They just didn’t know.
‘til Jonah admitted the truth.

The sailors were frightened; the sailors were scared.
They wanted to know what to do.
“Overboard I must go; overboard you must throw.”
So, they tossed him into the sea.

The sailors were frightened; the sailors were scared.
A great fish swallowed him alive.
Three days, three nights, in the belly of a whale,
Spewed out, like spit, on a beach.

One day, God spoke to Jonah:
“Go East”, God said, “and go to the city of Nineveh.
Don’t be so stubborn this time.”
Jonah looked East, he looked West,
Then picked up his chest,
And did what God asked him to do.