

January LIFT 2016-17

Level 6-8 Home Assignment

Theme: Come After Me

- Objectives:**
1. Be able to identify that we are in Ordinary Time and its color is green.
 2. Review the idea that the Sign of the Cross, Our Father and the Hail Mary.
 3. To be able to retell the story of the calling of the first disciples.
 4. To explain what it means to be “fishers of men” and understand that we are all called to be “fishers of men.”
 5. Review that the Pope as the successor to St. Peter and visible head of the church.
 6. Understand the role of the Pope and bishops to guard and pass on the teachings of Christ.

Activities

Liturgical Calendar Connection

Questions to consider: What color did we see in church today and on the banners behind the altar and on Fr. Andrew’s vestment? (green) What liturgical season are we in now? (Ordinary Time) What does “ordinary mean”? (Ordinary usually means “regular” or “plain” but the word the way that we are using it here means “order” as in the order of counted weeks. Ordinary Time is opportunity to hear the teachings of Jesus and think about how we can apply them to our lives.) What is the next liturgical season coming? (Lent) What colors are associated with this time of year? (purple)

Gospel Reading and Reflection Questions

Read the following gospel:

A reading of the holy Gospel according to Matthew

When Jesus heard that John had been arrested,
he withdrew to Galilee.
He left Nazareth and went to live in Capernaum by the sea,
in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali,
that what had been said through Isaiah the prophet
might be fulfilled:
Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali,
the way to the sea, beyond the Jordan,
Galilee of the Gentiles,
the people who sit in darkness have seen a great light,
on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death
light has arisen.
From that time on, Jesus began to preach and say,

"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew, casting a net into the sea; they were fishermen.

He said to them,

"Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men."

At once they left their nets and followed him.

He walked along from there and saw two other brothers, James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John.

They were in a boat, with their father Zebedee, mending their nets.

He called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed him.

He went around all of Galilee,

teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and curing every disease and illness among the people.

Reflection Questions

- The gospel begins with Jesus finding out about the arrest of John the Baptist. How do you think Jesus felt or thought about when he heard the news?
- What is similar about the message of John the Baptist's ministry and the beginning of Jesus?
- Think about Simon (Peter), Andrew, John, and James just dropping their nets, leaving their families and following Jesus: Was it hard for them to do? What would they miss about their lives? What do you think their parents and extended families thought about them following Jesus? Why do you think they dropped their nets and followed him?
- How does trust play into how the disciples responded to the call? Do you trust Jesus enough to drop everything and follow Him? What would it look like if you did?
- The Bible readings today have geography lessons in them. Galilee is the part of Israel where Jesus grew up and began his ministry. The region had different names depending on who lived there. Think of in your own neighborhood how a house on the corner is known as the Adam's house when the Adam's live there and when the Bennet's move in, it's called the Bennet's house. In very ancient times, people called the land of Galilee by the names of the tribes that lived there. Galilee was the land of the tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali.

In Jesus, God becomes human and lives in one time and place. Galilee is a rural region where people farm and fish for a living. The lake provides Jesus easy transportation. Jesus used the lilies of the fields to describe God's care for us. Jesus teaches in the synagogues of Galilee and lives in a small house in the village of Capernaum. Galilee has one other important feature: highways. The most important trade routes to other nations criss-crossed Galilee. Jesus began and ended his ministry in Galilee, crossroads to the world.

Knowing this bit of geography/history, think about these questions:
What are some reasons Jesus begins his work in Galilee?

Why does it make sense that he makes Capernaum his home base?

Fishers of Men

What does Jesus mean that the disciples will be “fishers of men?” What skills do you need to have if you are a fisher of men? If we’re to be the fishermen and women, have to figure out: Who, What, Where, When, How

1. Who are the fish?
2. What is the first thing a fisherman must do to fish?
3. Where is a good spot to fish for people? Where can you find people who need Jesus?
4. After the fisherman selects a spot, what does he have to have? When you find people who need Jesus, what equipment do you need to be able to share with them?

What is the bait that attracts fish to the net or pole? What is the bait that attracts people to Jesus? Does a fisherman jump in the water and start grabbing at fish? Not usually. They wait until the fish are attracted to the bait. Sometimes fish are caught right away. Sometimes no fish are caught. Fishing requires patience and time. Fishing for people requires patience and faith and trust in Jesus.

What Is ONE real thing you can do to "hook" someone into the Jesus life?

Bring Light to the Dark

Write on a piece of paper “Where” and “Who” and consider these two questions: “Where does the light of Jesus need to shine?” and “Who needs to see the light that has come in the midst of despair?” Have the kids think about and name the places and people in the world who need to hear the message of Jesus. Then answer the question: “How can we be the “hands and feet” of Christ for others and bring light into darkness today?” What can we do?

Chris Stefanick video:

Sharing the faith is natural...be holy then be yourself. (3:32)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XtY7IT8tU0A>

- Do you talk about your faith with your friends? Why or why not?
- What do you think about what Chris says...that if we are holy and are fully ourselves, talking about the gospel flows from that?

Closing prayer “Our Father” and the “Hail Mary”
