

Hang Out With Him First

Scripture Background

This information isn't meant to be read aloud, but as background for the leader. If helpful, share some of it in conversation with the group.

Both the first reading from Samuel and the Gospel reading from John focus on our need to listen for God and listen to God through Jesus. Eli helps Samuel learn to recognize when God is calling him. The disciples become curious with Jesus, which makes them want to spend more time getting to know him. When they like what they see and hear, they want to tell others about him so they can hear him for themselves.

Opening Prayer

Pray the following aloud together, beginning with the Sign of the Cross:

+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

We thank you, Jesus, for your willingness to become one of us.

Help us to better understand how you lived as a human being, so that we may learn to live more like you did.

We ask this in your name. Amen.

Gospel Reading: John 1:35-42

Ask someone to read this passage aloud, then pause for a minute of silence.

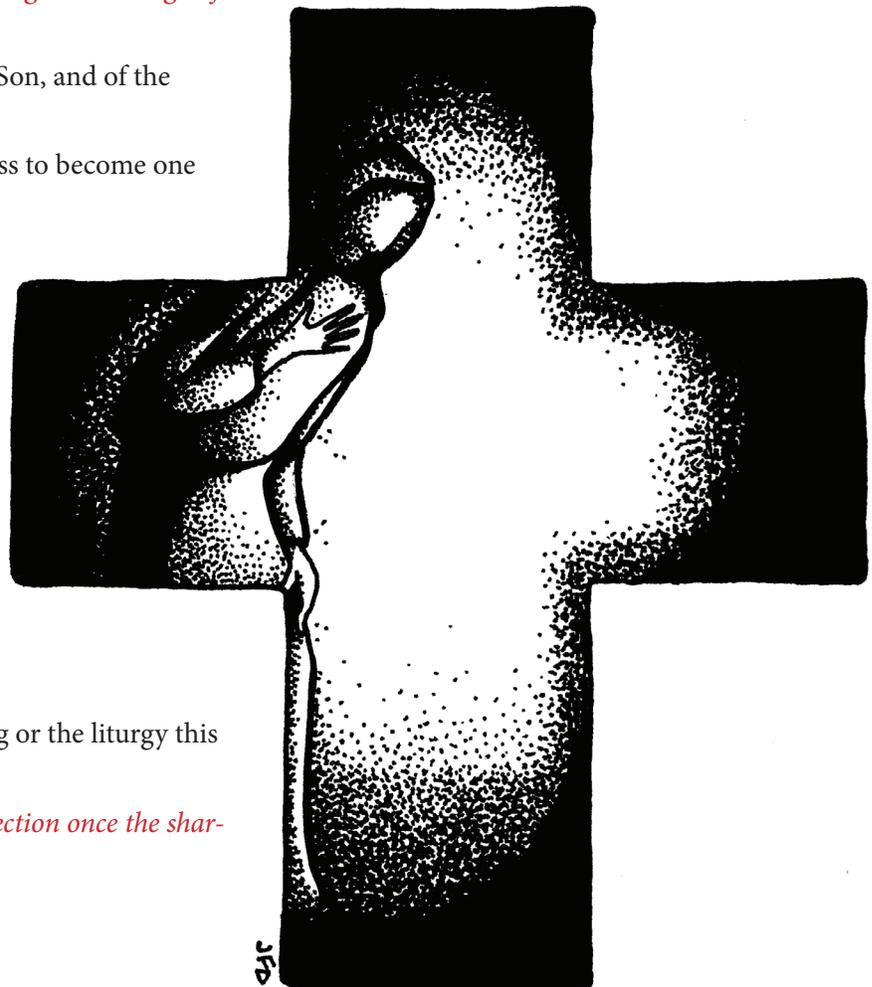
Ask: What struck you about this reading or the liturgy this week?

Allow for sharing. Move on to the next section once the sharing has died down.

January 17, 2021 • Year B

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

- ▶ Samuel 3:3b-10, 19 - Revelation to Samuel
- ▶ 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20 - Against sexual immorality
- ▶ John 1:35-42 - The first disciples



Reflections on the Reading

Invite each person in the circle to read one paragraph aloud:

The stories of discipleship in John's Gospel follow a pattern. People come to Jesus, are brought to him, or are introduced to him by someone they know. They hang out with him for awhile. They talk with him, listen to his teachings, and watch how he lives his life. Once they have spent some time with him, they go and bring others to him so that they can meet him. The cycle continues.

We see this pattern in today's Gospel when Andrew and another unnamed person spend time with Jesus after John the Baptist introduced them. Andrew then finds his brother, Simon, and brings him to Jesus. The next day, Philip spends time with Jesus, and then finds Nathanael and invites him to come meet Jesus. A couple of chapters later the woman at the well talks with Jesus and goes away to tell her townspeople they should come to meet him as well.

Maybe there is a lesson in here for us. Maybe the way we are all called to spread the Good News isn't by preaching with a megaphone on a street corner, going door-to-door to talk about religion, or threatening that if people don't become believers they won't be saved. Maybe instead we can follow the two simple steps taken by the disciples: spend time with Jesus ourselves, and then invite other people to come and experience him for themselves.

Questions for Discussion

Read each question aloud, one at a time, followed by time for sharing.

- ① Have you ever thought of yourself as having a responsibility to share your faith others? If so, what does that mean to you? What form has that taken?
- ② What is your reaction to this idea of this two step process: spending time with Jesus and then inviting others to get to know him?
- ③ How do you/might you spend more time with Jesus this year? How do you/might you invite others to come to Jesus?

Closing Prayer

Pray the following aloud together:

Lord, thank you for this time to reflect on your Living Word.

May what we have heard inspire us to live as more faithful disciples in the coming week. Amen.