

Second Sunday of the Year

Lamb of God

INTRODUCTION

Some of the men who would become Christ's apostles had been disciples of John the Baptist. It was while they were with John, on the banks of the river Jordan, that they first saw Jesus, the Lamb of God.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

LIGHT THE CANDLES

Light the candles, and read this prayer aloud:

Lord, at our baptism
we became children of the light.
Help that light to shine out in our lives,
so that others will be touched
by the love and faith
which you have given to us.

SORRY

In today's Gospel, we hear Jesus called the Lamb of God. We ask Jesus to forgive our mistakes and failings as we pray together:

Lamb of God, you take away
the sins of the world, *have mercy on us.*
Lamb of God, you take away
the sins of the world, *have mercy on us.*
Lamb of God, you take away
the sins of the world, *grant us peace.*

GLORIA

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 5.

GOSPEL (JOHN 1:35-39)

John the Baptist was standing with two of his followers when he saw Jesus walking by. "There is the Lamb of God," he said, looking at Jesus. On hearing this, the two men left John and followed Jesus.

Seeing that they were following him, Jesus turned and asked, "What do you want with me?" "We would like to know where you live," they answered. "Come with me and see," Jesus said. So they followed him to his house and stayed with him for the rest of the day.

DISCUSSION

John the Baptist described Jesus as the "Lamb of God." Why did John compare Jesus to a lamb? (To encourage discussion, try to provide a picture of a lamb for the children to look at.)

Lambs are meek and gentle, just as Jesus was. Often they were offered by people as a sacrifice to God to show their love for him. Jesus was sent by his heavenly father to proclaim the Good News and to save us. Like a lamb, he was prepared to be sacrificed, to suffer and to die out of love for us, so that we could share everlasting life in heaven.

When John pointed Jesus out, what did the two men do? John had often told his followers about the one who was to come after him: the Messiah promised by God. John urged his followers to go with Jesus and to become his disciples, so they followed him.

What did Jesus do when he saw the two men following him? He invited them to join him and took them to his home. They were completely amazed by this meeting, and marveled at everything Jesus said.

One of these men became an apostle of Jesus. Do you know his name? His name was Andrew, and he was the brother of Simon Peter. After this first meeting with Jesus he ran to tell his brother Simon Peter all about Jesus because he believed that Jesus really was the savior of the world.

ACTIVITY

Give each child a cutout sheep and a square of colored paper with the caption "Jesus is the Lamb of God" written on it. Ask them to glue the sheep onto the piece of paper and then stick on some cotton balls as its fleece. Attach a piece of thread to each paper and make a mobile.

CREED

CLOSING PRAYER

Andrew saw the Lamb of God
and followed him.

Help us to follow you every day, Lord,
so that others will know
that we are Christians
and will follow you, too.

