

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.

THINK and **LOOK** ahead

What did Andrew and Simon Peter
do for a living?



THEY WERE



• FOOTPRINTS IN FAITH •

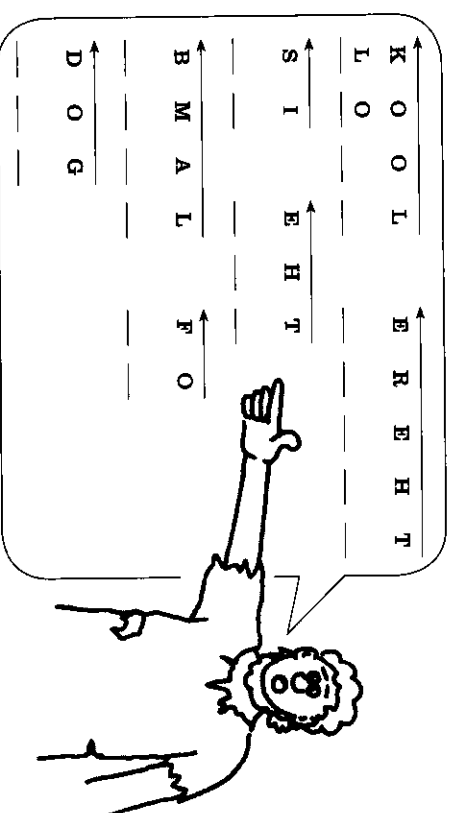
SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR, YEAR B

Lamb of God

JOHN 1:35-42

What did John the Baptist say when he saw Jesus?

His words have been written backward!
Write the letters in the correct order to read what he said



JOHN 1:36

Two of John's disciples
followed Jesus. The one called
Andrew had a brother.
What was his name?











Andrew took his
brother to meet Jesus.
What did Jesus say to him?

Use the clues to find out!

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---

6	7	8	9	10
---	---	---	---	----

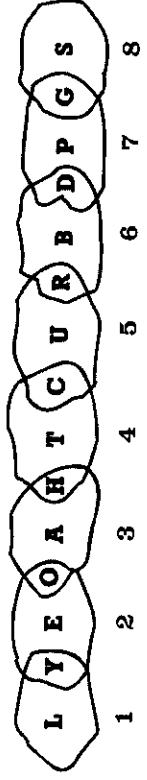
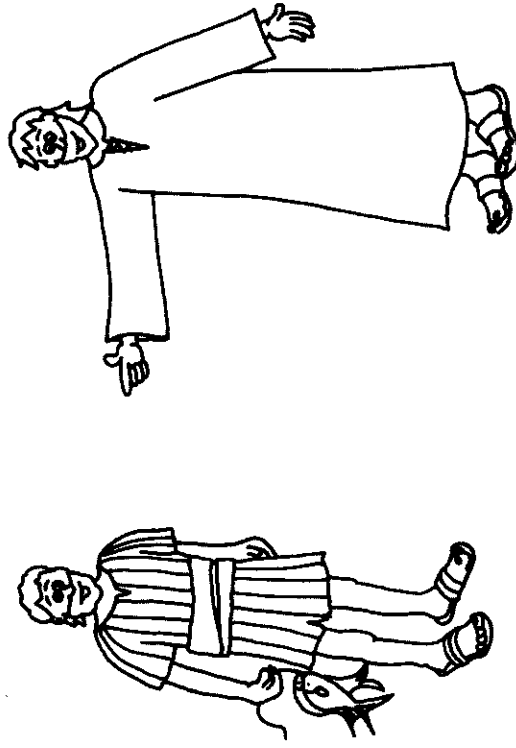
CLUES

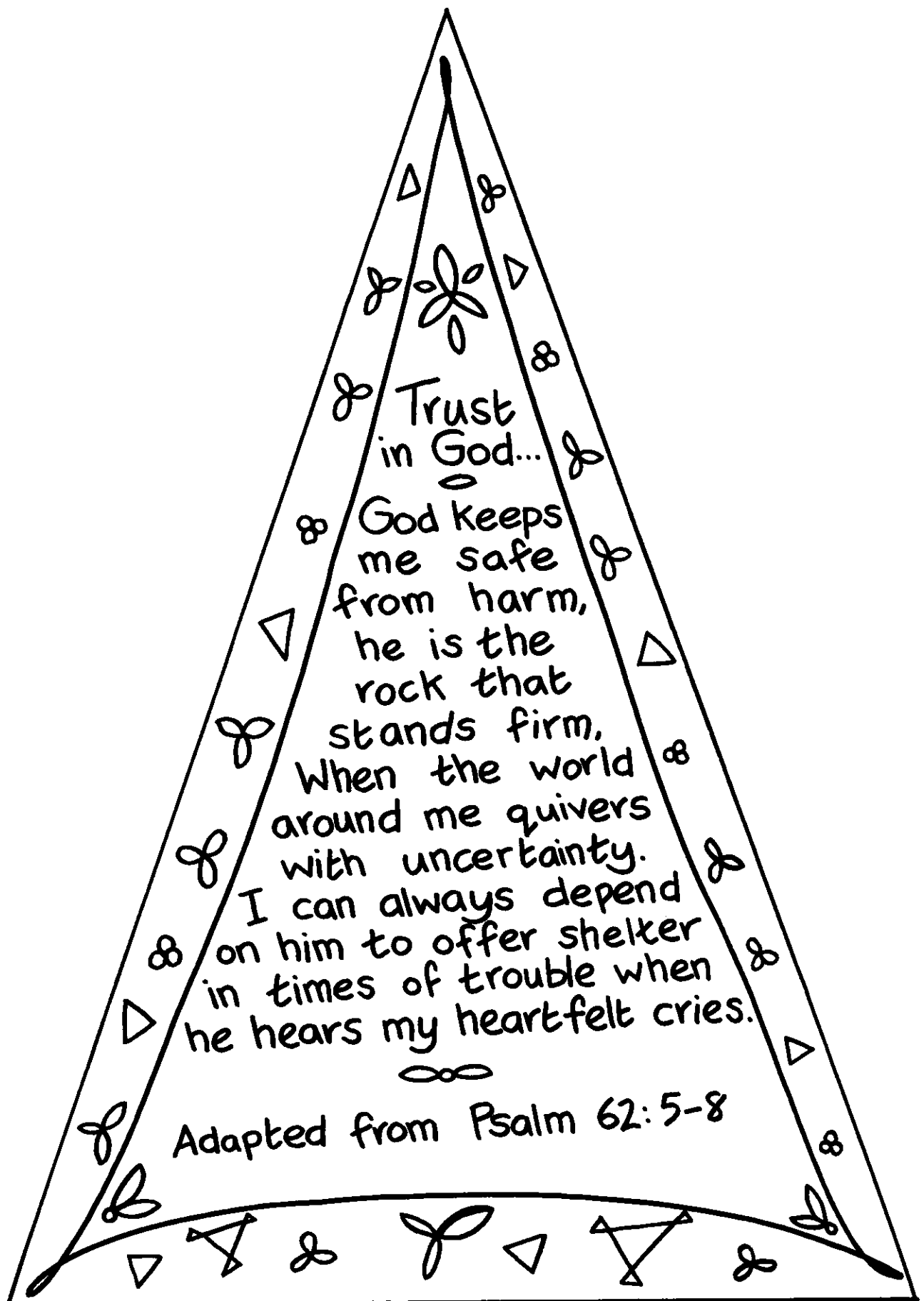
- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Third letter of  | 6. First letter of  |
| 2. First letter of  | 7. Fifth letter of  |
| 3. Second letter of  | 8. First letter of  |
| 4. Third letter of  | 9. Fifth letter of  |
| 5. Third letter of  | 10. Second letter of  |

Use the code to find his words

1,2 3,3 5 3 5,6 2 4 2,3 6 2

4,5 3 1 1 2 6,7 4,5 2 7 3,4 3 8





Second Sunday of the Year

Focus

A Bible open at today's Gospel, with a large rock sitting next to it.

Introduction

The people were waiting with growing excitement for the Messiah that God had promised to send. John the Baptist had told them that their Saviour was already among them, but what would he look like and how would they know him? In today's Gospel we hear how John reveals his identity to two of his followers.

Gloria

Gospel Acclamation

Light the Gospel candle and sing Acclamation 4.

Gospel

A reading from the Gospel of St John (1:35-42)

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?'

'Rabbi, 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. One of these disciples, Andrew, was the brother of Simon Peter. Immediately Andrew hurried to find his brother to tell him that he had met the Messiah promised by God. Simon went with Andrew, and when Jesus saw him he said, 'Simon, son of John, you will be known as Cephas, a word which means rock.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection

Why did John refer to Jesus as the 'Lamb of God'?

Lambs were sacrificed by the Jewish people as an offering to please God. As the Messiah or Saviour promised by God, Jesus would offer his life on the cross as the perfect and innocent sacrificial 'lamb', willingly taking the sins of the world on himself and transforming death into life through this ultimate act of love.

Why did the two men follow Jesus?

They had heard John the Baptist preaching as he prepared the people for the Messiah or Saviour promised by God. When John pointed Jesus out to them, they showed no hesitation in following him.

Did they approach Jesus directly?

They hung back and followed at a distance, probably feeling uncertain about what to say or ask.

What did Jesus do when he saw them?

He invited them to follow him home, and spent the rest of the day allowing them to get to know him better.

What happened after this short meeting with Jesus?

One of the men was so impressed by Jesus that he went to search out his brother and convince him to come and meet Jesus as well.

Can you remember the names of these two disciples?

Andrew had followed Jesus home on that first day, and Simon Peter was the name of the brother he brought to meet Jesus.

Why did Jesus tell Simon Peter that he would be known as 'Cephas', which means rock?

Jesus knew that Peter would be the one to profess or recognise that Jesus was indeed 'the Messiah, the Son of the living God' (Matthew 16:21). He was the disciple chosen by God to lead the followers of Christ and become the 'foundation' or 'rock' on which the early Church would be built.

Activity

Give each child a puzzle to complete.

Intercessions

As brothers and sisters in one loving family, together let us pray to our heavenly Father:

We bring to God's love
his people and his Church throughout the world.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We bring to God's love
all who suffer because they choose to follow him.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We bring to God's love
the hungry, the homeless and the unloved.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We bring to God's love
all who have died and those who mourn for them.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Knowing that our heavenly Father is listening,
in the silence of our hearts
let us share our own unspoken prayers with him.

Silence

Loving Father,
give us the courage to follow you,
so that by our words and actions
we may be witnesses to your love.
Grant this through Christ our Saviour.

Amen.