

# BRINGING HOME THE GOSPEL

January 17, 2021 • 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time • John 1:35–42

## Becoming Disciples of Jesus

*After Jesus is baptized, two of John's disciples begin to follow him. They follow Jesus to where he is staying and spend the day listening to him. Andrew, one of the men, tells his brother, Peter, about the day he has spent with Jesus the rabbi, the teacher.*

John the Baptist points out Jesus to two of his disciples. On John's word they begin to follow Jesus, asking him where he is staying. Jesus invites them to come and see, and they spend the day with him listening and learning. Eventually Andrew and his brother Simon Peter become not only Jesus' disciples but also his first apostles.

Many of us share the same story of how we became disciples of Jesus. We began by being sent by someone else. Usually a parent or grandparent tells us about Jesus, takes us to church, and enrolls us in religious education classes or a Catholic school. We believe in Jesus because the people we respect and trust believe in Jesus.

To become disciples of Jesus, however, we have to do what those first apostles did. We have to take some steps on our own. We have to follow Jesus and spend some time with him. Jesus invites each of us, as he invited those first apostles, to follow him. It's up to us to respond to his invitation.

We need to talk to Jesus one-on-one in prayer (vocal prayer). We need to read and think about Scripture (meditation). And we need to listen to

God's response in silence (contemplative prayer). These three ways of praying—vocal prayer, meditation and contemplation—have been a part of our Catholic tradition for centuries. Become familiar with each prayer type and teach your children how to pray in these different ways. Then when they are ready, they will be able to take those first steps toward Jesus on their own.

### FAMILY RESPONSE

Practice vocal prayer together. Ask each person to say a prayer in his or her own words or a prayer they have memorized.

### PERSONAL RESPONSE

What is your prayer life like right now? How can you improve on it? What do you want to remember from last week? What are you looking forward to next week? What are your concerns?