Sunday Reading

A Reading from the Gospel of John 1:35–42: The First Disciples

John was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, “Behold, the Lamb of God.” The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” — which translated means Teacher — “where are you staying?” He said to them, “Come, and you will see.” So they went and saw where Jesus was staying, and they stayed with him that day. It was about four in the afternoon. Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was one of the two who heard John and followed Jesus.

Focus Questions

1. What title did John the Baptist give to Jesus when he saw Jesus walking by?
2. What did the two disciples of John do when they heard what John had said?
3. What did Jesus ask the disciples? How did they answer Him?
4. What invitation did Jesus make to the disciples?
5. What did the disciples end up doing that day?
What Are You Looking For?

**Directions:** Read the brief reflection on the Gospel reading. Then respond to the reflection questions below.

When John the Baptist called Jesus the Lamb of God, he was calling to mind the first Passover in the book of Exodus. During the Passover, God commanded the Israelites to sacrifice a year-old, unblemished male lamb in order to be saved from the final plague of death. Only then would they be set free from centuries of slavery in Egypt. In this Gospel story, John was proclaiming that Jesus was the sacrificial lamb for a New Passover, one that would save God's people from sin and spiritual death. Jesus accomplished this with His Passion, Death, and Resurrection.

Here, at the beginning of His work of salvation, Jesus asked His first disciples a seemingly simple question: “What are you looking for?” Jesus asks us this same question today. Jesus implies with this question that He is the answer. Just as in the first Passover the Israelites were looking for salvation, Jesus knows that, whether we know it or not, we too are looking for the same thing: salvation. And He offers us exactly what we are looking for.

**Reflection Questions:**

1. Describe a time when you traveled somewhere. Where were you going? Why? What was it like preparing for your journey? What it was like when you were traveling? How did it feel once you had arrived at your destination?
2. When we begin any journey, in a sense, we are looking for something: an endpoint, or a destination. In this Gospel story, we see the first people begin their journey as disciples of Jesus. What do you think they were looking for?

___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

3. We, too, are disciples of Jesus. All of us are at different stages in our journey of faith. What are we looking for when we follow Jesus?

___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

4. In what way does Jesus’ life answer the question, “What are you looking for?” Is His answer different than what the disciples might have thought it would be?

___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

5. What are you looking for in your relationship with Jesus? How can you better respond to Jesus’ answer to this question in your own life?

___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________