

Who Are You?
January 17, 2021
2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

ARCHDIOCESE OF SEATTLE

At Home with Faith

We discover our deepest identity through our relationship with Jesus.

Let's help our children spend some time with him and discover their deepest identity.



Read

Take time to read and reflect on the Scriptures for this day.

Don't have access to a Bible?

Visit www.usccb.org/bible/readings or download an app such as *Laudate* or *iBreviary* to access the Mass readings.

In Sunday's Gospel reading, Simon follows his brother Andrew to meet Jesus. After Simon chooses to follow Jesus, Jesus looks at him and says, "You are Simon the son of John; you will be called Peter." In this moment, Jesus defines Peter's identity.

Part of Peter's identity is formed by his history: brother of Andrew, son of John, Jewish, a man living in first Century Israel. These things shape who Simon is as he stands before Jesus.

When Jesus gives Simon a new name, he reveals an even deeper part of his identity. Jesus tells Peter, "You are Peter and upon this 'rock' I will build my church." (Matthew 16:18)

Jesus knows our deepest identity, and he reveals that identity to us as we grow closer to him.

1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19

Speak, for your servant is listening.

Psalms 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10

Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20

Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit.

John 1:35-42

Jesus looked at Simon and said "You will be called Peter."

For more resources, visit us online at:

<https://marriagefamilylife.seattlarchdiocese.org/athomewithfaith>

At Home with Faith

Talk

Here are some reflection questions to help you have **Great Conversations** with the whole family.

Do these four things to help your child claim their identity:

- **Tell them about things you received from your parents when you were their age.** When I was young, I learned that my grandparents edited a newspaper, and that both of my parents also enjoyed writing. This helped me discover that I liked to write, too.
- **Let them know they are wonderfully made.** It's very easy for children to feel self-conscious about how they look. Let them know that they are beautiful as they are. I remember being encouraged when my father told me "Thanks for helping me port that canoe. You're pretty strong!"
- **Ask them what they think are important things about themselves.** Encourage them to remember good things about themselves. Point some out if they need help.
- **Tell them Jesus has a plan for them.** Maybe share a story like St. Francis of Assisi and encourage them to ask Jesus in prayer what he would like them to do. Be ready if they ask you about what you think Jesus calls you to do.



Some parts of our identity are chosen by us: what we wear, what we read or listen to, what we choose to do as a profession.

Other parts are given to us: how we look, where we are born, our family background, our talents. As parents, we help our children discover their identity. We can learn about how to do this from Jesus' example in this weekend's Gospel.

In his conversation with Simon, Jesus reminds him that he is the son of John. As parents, we can help our children feel secure in their identity as part of the family. Through our love and affection, we help them realize that they are wonderfully made.

We can also help our children understand that another part of their identity comes from Jesus. Like Peter, Jesus invites us to help him increase the beauty, truth and goodness of creation. The best way for our children to discover this part of their identity (their vocation) is to talk with Jesus.

What do you want me to do?

A young Francis Bernadone spent many hours in an abandoned chapel in Assisi looking at a crucifix like the one pictured to the left and asking, "What do you want me to do?" When God answered "Repair my Church which is falling in ruins," Francis found his vocation and it changed his life.

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