

Children's liturgy – Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

Preparation of the worship space

Colour: green

Props: fish shapes cut out of paper or card

Song suggestions: Here I am, Lord (865, Laudate)

Follow me, follow me (863, Laudate)

Welcome: Today we hear something special that happened when Jesus went fishing, and how the fishermen left everything to follow him. Let's think a bit about how we can follow Jesus in our lives today...

Opening prayer: God of love, give us the strength and courage to follow your Son Jesus in all that we say and do. May our words and actions spread your message of love for all people. Amen.

First reading (optional): Isaiah 6:1-8

Psalm: Psalm 137:1-5, 7-8 r 1

Gospel acclamation: *everyone stands and sings the acclamation together.*

Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

One day Jesus was standing on the shore of Lake Gennesaret while the people pushed their way up to him to listen to the word of God. He saw two boats pulled up on the beach; the fishermen had left them and were washing the nets. Jesus got into one of the boats—it belonged to Simon—and asked him to push off a little from the shore. Jesus sat in the boat and taught the crowd.

When he finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Push the boat out further to the deep water, and you and your partners let down your nets for a catch."

"Master," Simon answered, "we worked hard all night long and caught nothing. But if you say so, I will let down the nets." They let them down and caught such a large number of fish that the nets were about to break. So they motioned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. They came and filled both boats so full of fish that the boats were about to sink. When Simon Peter saw what had happened, he fell on his knees before Jesus and said, "Go away from me, Lord! I am a sinful man!"

He and the others with him were all amazed at the large number of fish they had caught. The same was true of Simon's partners, James and John, the sons of Zebedee. Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will be catching people."

They pulled the boats up on the beach, left everything, and followed Jesus.

(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation® and used with permission, see details below)*

Gospel reflection: What do you remember from the reading today?

Jesus borrows Simon's boat so that he can teach the crowds that are around him on the shore. When he has finished speaking he tells Simon Peter to put out his fishing nets into the water.

Do you remember what Simon says? He does not think they will catch anything. They haven't caught anything all night.

What happens when Simon Peter and his friends put out the nets? They catch so many fish, and they are so heavy, the boat nearly sinks! How do you think Simon, James and John feel when they see this?

Many people in this country and around the world still make their living from catching fish today. And some people like to fish as a hobby. Do you know anyone who goes fishing – either for work or in their spare time? Have you ever been fishing? What was it like?

Mahinur in Bangladesh used to fish in the river by her home to feed herself and her family. But the river water became salty because of flooding and the fish died. This meant it was very hard for Mahinur to get enough food. She was helped to grow vegetables and to raise goats and ducks instead. She has also dug a pond by her house and is raising fish. She eats some of the fish but also hopes to sell the extras to earn some money.

Chico lives in the Brazilian Amazon rainforest. He is a leader of the indigenous Tururukare community and lives beside the river. Chico takes his nine-year-old daughter fishing with him, when she is not at school or helping with housework. She really likes going fishing with her dad and uses a bow and arrow to catch the fish. Every week the whole village community comes together to share a meal, including the fish they have caught in the river.

Jesus tells the disciples that they will become fishers of people. What do you think that this means?

At the end of the reading the disciples leave everything behind to follow Jesus. From now on they will spend their time with him, sharing his message with other people. How do you think it must have felt for the disciples to leave all their belongings and all their family and friends behind, to follow Jesus? How do you think their family and friends felt?

Jesus calls us all to follow him. How do you think we can follow Jesus in our lives and share his message of love and good news for all people? (*By listening to his word, by treating others as we would wish to be treated, etc*)

How will you show others that you follow Jesus this week?

For more children's liturgy resources and illustrations see cafod.org.uk/childrensliturgy

CAFOD is the official aid agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales and part of Caritas International. Charity no 1160384 and a company limited by guarantee no 09387398

Intercessions *You may want to ask the children to offer their own prayers or you can use the suggestions below.*

We now offer our prayers to God:

We pray for world leaders: that they may seek the truth and so bring peace to the world. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for all fisherfolk throughout the world: that they may stay safe while out on the water and catch enough fish to meet their needs. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, families and friends: that we may follow Christ and show our faith in our words and in our actions. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer: Loving God, may we try our best to follow your Son and to serve you faithfully each day, in what we do and how we treat others, especially our brothers and sisters who are poor. Amen.

Activity suggestions

Invite the children to colour in the accompanying illustration and on the back to write or draw how they will show others that they are followers of Jesus during the coming week.

Give the children a fish cut out of paper or card and encourage them to colour it in or decorate it. They could perhaps write or draw how they will show they are followers of Jesus. Or they could draw a picture of Mahinur, Chico or his daughter, who all go fishing, to remind them to pray for them during the next week.

Encourage the children to share all that they have heard and thought about today with the people at home, to pray for all fisherfolk during the coming week and to think about how they will show that they are followers of Jesus.

*Gospel passage taken from:

Good News Translation® (Today's English Version, Second Edition)
© 1992 American Bible Society. All rights reserved.

Anglicisation © The British and Foreign Bible Society 1976, 1994, 2004. The copyright for the derivative work of Anglicisation pertains only to the text within the Good News Translation (GNT) that British and Foreign Bible Society adapted for British literary usage, consistent with Section 103(b) of the United States Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. § 103(b).

Bible text from the Good News Translation (GNT) is not to be reproduced in copies or otherwise by any means except as permitted in writing by American Bible Society, 101 North Independence Mall East, FL 8, Philadelphia, PA 19106 (www.americanbible.org).



For more children's liturgy resources and illustrations see cafod.org.uk/childrensliturgy

CAFOD is the official aid agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales and part of Caritas International. Charity no 1160384 and a company limited by guarantee no 09387398