

Children's liturgy – Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

Preparing the worship space

Colour: green

Props: card cut-outs of fish, magnetic fishing set with words attached.

Welcome: Today we hear about how Jesus called his disciples to follow him. They left what they were doing and went with him straight away. Let's think a bit about how we can follow Jesus in our lives.

Song suggestions: Follow me, follow me (175, Celebration Hymnal for Everyone)

Opening prayer: Christ Jesus, you call us all to follow you. Help us to answer that call and live our lives as you have asked us to. Amen.

First reading (optional): Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Psalm: Psalm 24:4-9, r 4

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

Gospel: Mark 1:14-20

After John had been put in prison, Jesus went to Galilee and preached the Good News from God. "The right time has come," he said, "and the Kingdom of God is near! Turn away from your sins and believe the Good News!"

As Jesus walked along the shore of Lake Galilee, he saw two fishermen, Simon and his brother Andrew, catching fish with a net. Jesus said to them, "Come with me, and I will teach you to catch people." At once they left their nets and went with him.

He went a little farther on and saw two other brothers, James and John, the sons of Zebedee. They were in their boat getting their nets ready. As soon as Jesus saw them, he called them; they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and went with Jesus.

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

Gospel reflection: What do you remember from that reading?

Simon and his brother Andrew are fishing by a lake when Jesus asks them to follow him. At once, they leave their fishing nets behind and go with Jesus.

James and John do the same when they are asked. They leave their father behind as well as their boat and their fishing nets. They follow Jesus and become his disciples.

Do you think it was an easy decision for them to make to follow Jesus in this way?

How do you think the people that they left behind, like their families and friends, felt when they left so quickly? How would you feel if you had to leave your family, friends and all your things behind?

Jesus asks us all to follow him. But unlike Simon, Andrew, James and John in this reading, we cannot see Jesus and go with him as he travels round the country. So, what do you think Jesus wants us to do? How can we follow Jesus?

We can follow Jesus by living our lives as he would want us to. By being kind to others, sharing all that we have, and caring for all people, especially those who are poor or sick, so that the world becomes a fairer place for everyone to live in.

We can also follow Jesus by standing up for what we believe in and speaking out when we see something that is not right.

And of course, praying helps us to follow Jesus. It is when we pray that we come to know Jesus better and this helps us to understand how to follow him.

How will you follow Jesus this week?

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

We try to follow Jesus in all that we do and so we pray together:

We pray for the Church throughout the world: that it may continue to follow Jesus' example by welcoming and helping those who are poor, sick and alone. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may follow Jesus by sharing what we have with those who do not have enough. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that, even if we find it difficult, or others laugh at us, we may stand up for what we believe in and follow Jesus' call. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer: Lord Jesus, lead us to join together with other people across the world in helping others, especially those who are poor, so that all people may know that we are your followers. Amen.

Activity suggestions

Invite the children to colour in the accompanying illustration of the disciples leaving their nets to follow Jesus. On the back ask the children to draw or write how they will follow Jesus in their lives.

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

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Give all the children a fish shape cut out of card. Encourage them to draw or write on it how they will follow Jesus.

Make magnetic fishing rods, with a dowel, string and small magnet (or borrow those from a child's magnetic fishing set). Attach words to the fish, like "hope", "love", "sharing", "forgiveness", "kindness". Ask the children to catch a fish, then discuss with them what that word means and why it is important if we follow Jesus.

Invite the children to share all that they have heard and thought about today with the people at home. Encourage them to try to follow Jesus in all that they do during the week, by sharing or being kind or caring for others, especially people who are poor.

*Gospel passage taken from:

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