

"Go Fish!"



Theme: Jesus told us to go fish for people. 5th Sunday after Epiphany, Yr. C

Object: A deck of playing cards.

Scripture: Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men." Luke 5:10 (NIV)

When I was a child, I loved to play a card game called "Go Fish." Have any of you ever played that game? You start the game by giving each player five cards. The rest of the cards are placed in a draw pile called the "ocean" that is shared by all of the players.

The player whose turn it is asks another player for their cards of a particular kind. For example, the person whose turn it is might say, "Mary, do you have any threes?" If Mary has any threes, she must give them to the person who asked for them. If Mary doesn't have any threes, she says, "Go fish," and the person who asked draws a card from the "ocean." When you collect a set of four cards of the same kind, you show the set to the other players and place the four cards face down in front of yourself.

Go Fish continues until either someone has no cards left in their hand or the draw pile runs out. The winner is the player who then has the most sets of four.

Talking about playing the game of "Go Fish" makes me think about the day when Jesus chose his disciples.

Jesus was standing by the sea of Galilee and a large crowd of people began to gather around him. He saw some fishermen nearby who were cleaning and mending their nets so he climbed into one of the boats which belonged to a man whose name was Peter. Jesus told Peter to put the boat out a little way from the shore. Peter did as Jesus instructed him and Jesus sat in the boat teaching the people.

When he had finished teaching, Jesus said to Peter, "Put the boat further out into the deep water and let down your nets to catch some fish."

"We've been fishing all night long and haven't caught a thing, but if you say so, we will let down the nets one more time," Peter answered.

Do you know what happened? They started pulling the nets up and there were so many fish that the nets began to break. When they pulled the fish into the boat, there were so many fish that the boat began to sink. When Peter and his fellow fishermen saw this, they were were afraid.

Jesus said, "Don't be afraid," Jesus said. "From now on, I want you to go fish for people."

The Bible tells us that they pulled their boats up onto the shore, left everything, and followed Jesus to "go fish" for people.

Jesus wants you and me to "go fish" for people too. If we will be faithful in telling people about Jesus and his love, we can trust Jesus to bring in the catch!

Heavenly Father, Jesus, has told us to go fish for people. We will go and tell others about Jesus, and trusting him to bring them into the boat. Amen.

GO FISHING RELAY: Put a pail for each team with some cut out fish next to the pail. Divide the class into teams and run a relay of each member running to the pails and putting one fish in the pail and running back to the team for the next player to continue the game. Continue until everyone on the team has put a fish in the pail.

GO FISH: Have a real fishing pole available or a string with a magnet on the end of the string and attached to a dowel rod, etc. Hang the fishing line over the back of a chair while a child kneels on the chair and tries to catch a fish in the bucket that has a paper clip on it to attach to the magnet. Each fish will have a word from today's lesson for the children to read as they catch their fish. Let all children have a chance to FISH for the lesson words! Children can show these words during the story time today and tape on a poster board that is shaped like a fish on the classroom wall.

FISH ART: Draw the outline of a fish (with a wide table) and let children cut it out and punch holes around the edges of the fish. Give children some yarn to thread in and out of the fish holes and hang from a hanger or on the classroom wall or fish can be hung to a door knob. Let children color their fish if desired.

STRING OF FISH: Give children fish shaped cut outs from construction paper to color and decorate and then write words from today's lesson on each fish and tie together with a punched hole in the fish's mouths and let children carry that "string of fish" home with them to remember today's lesson. (Words can be TRUST JESUS, DON'T BE AFRAID, FISH FOR PEOPLE, etc).

MATCHING FISH: Let each child take two matching cards or squares of construction paper and draw matching fish (trying to make each fish card look identical). Then mix the cards up from all the children and spread around on the floor. Let the children take turns in finding matching cards and as each child finds a MATCH, encourage that child to tell one way to FISH for people (such as bring them to church, pray for someone, send them a card, give them a Bible, give them a Bible verse card, etc).

FISH STAMPING: Let children put some finger prints sideways on a piece of paper that has been colored blue and waves can be added to the blue water. Children can then add the fish tail and the fish lips and gills, etc to their finger printed fish. Write a title for FISH FOR PEOPLE, etc.

FISH FOR PEOPLE BANNER: Let children draw stick figures on a piece of paper and write FISH FOR PEOPLE, etc. Children can draw simple pictures of fish around the banner and punch holes in the top corners of the banner and hang with yarn or string!

STRING FISH: Draw the outline of a fish in the most simple way possible. Let children glue yarn around the outside edges of the fish and hang at the end of yarn or a string on a dowel rod or a branch from a tree for the children to take home. Children can write PEOPLE on their fish to help them remember that we are to trust Jesus as we FISH for People.

I Will Make You Fishers of Men

EHK

Elaine Kirkpatrick

$\text{♩} = 100$

C Dm

1. Je - sus went a-walk-ing, walk ing by the sea.
2. Je - sus now is call-ing, call-ing you and me.

5 C Dm G⁷ C C

He saw Si-mon Pe - ter, and he said, "Come fol low me." "I will make you fish-ers of men,
Je-sus now is call-ing, say-ing "Come and fol-low me."

9 Dm G⁷ C

fish-ers of men, fish-ers of men. I will make you

12 C Dm G⁷ 1.C Dm G⁷ 2.C

fish-ers of men, if you'll come and fol - low me." me."
1. 2.

