

Liturgy of the Word with Children
Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C
7 February, 2016
Luke 5:1-11

Catechist Background

Although Peter had been fishing all night and caught nothing, he trusts Jesus (not a professional fisherman, interestingly) enough to try for one last time and is astounded by the results. As at the Wedding at Cana from a few weeks ago, the abundance in this miracle story shows us of God's abundant love for us. Although Peter protests his sinfulness, Jesus still calls him, emphasising to us that God can use anybody, even 'sinners.'

Setting the Scene

For the activity below, you will need to have prepared a large drawing of a simple boat. Alternatively, you could use a net (the nets that fruit come in could work well).

We Say Sorry

Leader: You call us to follow you, Lord have mercy

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: You call us to trust in you, Christ have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: You open your arms to all of us, Lord have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Gloria

We Pray (1)

Father, watch over us, your family, and keep us safe in your care. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

Reflecting on the Reading with Children

- Ask if any of the children have been fishing before. Did they catch anything? Did they catch enough to sink a boat? How would they have felt if they caught that many fish?
- What did Jesus mean when he said that Peter and James and John would be catching people?
- How does God 'call' us today? On the telephone? By giving us fish? Often today we come to understand more about God and God's love through our families, friends, and people at church.

Response

Peter's boat is seen as a symbol of the Church today—not just our parish, but the Church throughout the world. It is a boat that EVERYBODY can belong to. Even Peter, who knows he is a 'sinful man' is called and given a very important role by Jesus. Invite the children to draw pictures of themselves

and place themselves in the boat (or net) you have prepared earlier as a symbol of them belonging to the Church and belonging to Jesus.

We Believe

Relating to the creed what you have shared with the children, ask this series of questions and invite the children to reply, 'I do.'

- Do you believe in God, the Father, who made the universe?
- Do you believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God, who calls us to follow him?
- Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who is with us on our journey?

We Pray (2)

Again, try to relate the bidding prayers to the reading by saying, 'We know that God provided for people long ago and still provides for us today, and so we pray...'

Leader: We pray for the pope and the bishops. May they work hard at catching people, like Peter. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for all people in the world, especially those who have not heard of Jesus and His love for us. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for all fishermen and women, and for anyone who earns a living by producing food for us to eat. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for all people who don't have enough of something they need, whether that be food or clothes or love, especially anyone we know. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord, we know that you have called us to do important work of spreading your love. Help us to be true to you. We make all our prayers through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

