

Explore It

FOR LEADERS



THE IDENTITY OF FOUR FISHERMEN

 **Luke 5:1-11 Jesus' first followers**

 **AIM: To find out about the first disciples**

More and more people were discovering who Jesus was and wanted to hear him teach. As the crowds gathered, Jesus edged closer to the shore and spotted some empty boats in the water. After a long night of fishing, the fishermen had caught nothing. In today's story we hear how a miracle of Jesus transformed a bunch of ordinary fishermen into fishers of men.

Each child will need:

→ A piece of paper 21 cm by 21 cm, pens/pencils

You will need:

→ Paper and pen to jot down names

Start It

 **Say:** Our story today is all about a group of fishermen who weren't having much luck catching fish. Before we find out more, let's see what you know about the wonderful world of fish. Have a go at this fun *Beano* quiz together.

Quiz

How much do you know about fish? www.beano.com/posts/fish-quiz

Sing It

 **Say:** Today's song introduces us to our Bible story for this session. The first four books of the New Testament, known as the Gospels, often tells the same stories in different ways. This song is based on Matthew's version of today's story.

'Matthew 4:18-20 – Fishers of men' by Seeds Family Worship (4 mins 14 secs)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=TWD_kRWcVjY

Tell It

 **Say:** Our Bible story is found in the book of Luke in the New Testament. We're going to read and discuss it to discover more.

Read:

'One day Jesus was standing beside Lake Galilee. Many people were pressing all around him. They wanted to hear the word of God.'

— (Luke 5:1 *ICB*)

Ask:

→ In the last session we met Jesus at a wedding. What happened?

→ As we listen to the beginning of today's story, how do we know that people started to discover more about Jesus?

Read:

'Jesus saw two boats at the shore of the lake. The fishermen had left them and were washing their nets. Jesus got into one of the boats, the one which belonged to Simon. Jesus asked Simon to push off a little from the land. Then Jesus sat down in the boat and continued to teach the people on the shore.

'When Jesus had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Take the boat into deep water. If you will put your nets in the water, you will catch some fish."

'Simon answered, "Master, we worked hard all night trying to catch fish, but we caught nothing. But you say to put the nets in the water; so I will."

— (Luke 5:2-5 ICB)

💬 Say: These men had been fishermen for a long time and they knew what they were doing.

Ask:

- What might they have been thinking when Jesus sent them back out into the water to fish?
- Why do you think they decided to give it another try?

Read:

'The fishermen did as Jesus told them. And they caught so many fish that the nets began to break. They called to their friends in the other boat to come and help them. The friends came, and both boats were filled so full that they were almost sinking.

'The fishermen were all amazed at the many fish they caught. When Simon Peter saw what had happened, he bowed down before Jesus and said, "Go away from me, Lord. I am a sinful man!"'

— (Luke 5:6-9 ICB)

Ask:

- Why do you think the fishermen were so amazed by what Jesus had done?
- How do you think you would have reacted?
- Sometimes we can be tempted to give up when things aren't going our way. What does this story remind us to do?
- When Simon Peter realised who Jesus was, he told him to go away. Why do you think he did that?

Read:

'James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were amazed too. (James and John were Simon's partners.) Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid. From now on you will be fishermen for men." When the men brought their boats to the shore, they left everything and followed Jesus.'

— (Luke 5:10-11 ICB)

Ask: What do you think Jesus meant when he said that Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John would become 'fishermen for men'?

💬 Say: The disciples were amazed by what Jesus had done and were persuaded to follow him. Think of all the amazing things Jesus has done in your life and the life of your church.

Ask:

- How does it persuade you to follow Jesus at school this week?
- What do you think following Jesus looks like in your everyday life?

Memory verse

Jesus called the disciples to follow him, but they continued to work together as a team, sharing the good news of Jesus. Our memory verse for this month reminds us that we are all part of the same team (or body), telling the world about Jesus and following him in our everyday lives.

'All of you together are the body of Christ. Each one of you is a part of that body.'

— (1 Corinthians 12:27 ICB)

Action It

Say: Today you are going to make your own fishing boat to remind you of the story of Jesus calling his first disciples. They all decided to believe in Jesus and follow him. From that point on, they were part of a team, working together to tell others about Jesus.

Each child will need a piece of paper measuring 21cm by 21cm. Explain to the children that they are going to follow the instructions on the clip to make a 2D paper sailboat. Watch the clip together so that each child can make their boat.

Video

How to make 2D paper sailboats by Mr Creator (3 mins 32 secs)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=CQHihR-dk8g

Once the children have completed their boat they can decorate it and write on it 'From now on you'll be fishing for men and women.' (Luke 5:11 MSG)

Pray It

Say: There may be people in your life who do not know Jesus yet, but you would like them to. As well as talking to them about Jesus, it is important that we pray for them as well.

Ask: Can you think of someone in your life whom you would like to know Jesus and follow him? If you feel comfortable, then share it with the rest of the group. As the children share the names, jot them down.

When all the children have shared, pray with the group mentioning all the names of those who don't know Jesus yet. Ask the children to place all their boats on the floor or table in front of them. Although they are all individual boats on the sea, they can all promise to pray together for those in their lives who do not know Jesus yet. Encourage the children to keep praying for their loved ones and sharing the amazing news about Jesus as much as they can.

Explore It

Remember to send home the *Explore It Ideas* for children and families.

Explore It

IDEAS

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.

MARCH
SESSION 03

THE IDENTITY OF FOUR FISHERMEN

 **Luke 5:1-11 Jesus' first followers**

 **AIM: To find out about the first disciples**

FOR ME



Discover

The stories of Jesus are told throughout the four Gospels. In our *Explore It* session we looked at two different versions of the same story.

Our song for the week was based on Matthew 4:18-22 and then we read the story in Luke 5:1-11.

Have a look at both versions in your Bible. How are they similar or different?

TOGETHER



Play

Today's session was all about fishing.

Watch the clip with the people at home and have a go at playing the card game 'Go fish'. You will need a deck of cards to play.

How to play Go Fish by Gather Together Games
www.youtube.com/watch?v=-2z9xZYWqmo



Song for the week

'Matthew 4:18-20 – Fishers of men' by Seeds Family Worship

www.youtube.com/watch?v=TWD_kRWcVjY



Memory verse

**'All of you together are the body of Christ.
Each one of you is a part of that body.'**

— (1 Corinthians 12:27 ICB)

KIDS ALIVE! ONLINE

<https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive>

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