

Jesus calls the disciples

**Bible verses:**

Matthew 4:1-11,18-22

Jesus chooses some followers

**Aim:**

To understand how Jesus calls each one of us to share his love with others

**Today's fruit:**

Love



In today's story we continue following the journey of Jesus from his birth in the stable to his ministry as a grown man.

After Jesus was baptised by John, he spent time in the wilderness. The devil came to tempt him, but Jesus stood firm. Jesus then began his work loving God's people and calling them to follow him. We will also learn how Jesus called the first disciples and how he is calling us today.

Just as God shows his love to us, we can show his love to others.

Each child will need:

- Pens/pencils and paper
- *Explore It ideas* handout

You will need:

- A beach ball
- A flip chart and pens
- Today's fruit sign: *Love*
- To consider showing the children's play to the wider church community - see Action it



Start it

Say:

In our session today we will be looking at all the different ways Jesus showed his love to others. One of the ways Jesus loved others was by spending time with them. So we are going to play a

game to help you to get to know each other even more than you already do.

Stand the children in a circle and choose a child to start: give them a beach ball to hold. They throw the ball to someone and say their name. The person who catches it repeats their name and says one thing about themselves, eg 'I'm Lydia and I love drawing.' Next, they say the name of someone else and throw it to another person in the group.

As they are playing the game, jot down the responses from the children.

When each child has had a turn, including the child who started with the beach ball, play a guessing game and ask the children to point to the child who is the answer to the question. For example ask, 'Who loves drawing?' In response the children would point to Lydia.

Sing it

Say:

Throughout this month our memory verse has reminded us of the importance of faith. Let's share it together.

Memory verse

'Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.'

(Hebrews 11:1 NIV)

Say:

Our song for today is based on the words of Hebrews 11:1.

Song

'Hebrews 11:1' (motions) by Saddleback Kids (1:24)

Tell it

Ask:

- Which Bible character did we learn about last week?
- What important job did God ask John the Baptist to do?

Say:

John the Baptist told everyone he met that Jesus, the rescuer, was on his way. We're going to watch a clip that recaps the story from last week and continues it into the life and work of Jesus.



Video

The Story chapter 23 The beginning of Jesus' Ministry by Nicky Waters (3:01)

Ask:

- What happened to Jesus when he went into the wilderness?
- Who showed up and what did he try and make Jesus do?

Say:

Jesus refused to give in to temptation and do what Satan asked him to do. Instead, he committed his life to following God, but he didn't do it on his own.

Read:

'Jesus was walking by Lake Galilee. He saw two brothers, Simon (called Peter) and Simon's brother Andrew. The brothers were fishermen, and they were fishing in the lake with a net. Jesus said, "Come and follow me. I will make you fishermen for men." At once Simon and Andrew left their nets and followed him.

'Jesus continued walking by Lake Galilee. He saw two other brothers, James and John, the sons of Zebedee. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets to catch fish. Jesus told them to come with him. At once they left the boat and their father, and they followed Jesus.'

(Matthew 4:18-22 *ICB*)

Ask:

- What do you think Jesus meant when he said, 'I will make you fishermen for men'?
- Do you think he expected the disciples to use giant fishing nets to catch men?

Say:

Jesus wanted the disciples to tell as many people as they could about God, so that they would believe and follow him as well. Jesus had an amazing message for the people that they were deeply loved by God.

Display the *Love* sign.

Say:

One of the fruits of the Spirit is love. Just as God shows his love to us, we can show love to others.

Ask:

- Think about the clip we watched about the life of Jesus. What were the different ways that Jesus showed his love to the people he met?
- How can we show love to those we meet?

Action it

Read through again with the children the story of Jesus calling the disciples, Matthew 4:18-22, and jot down the main events.

Ask the children to make up a short play that tells the story of Jesus calling the first disciples. They also need to incorporate the message that Jesus calls every one of us to follow him as well.

It is up to the children how they want to tell the story, but they need to make sure the main message comes across. You may want to develop their small play to show the wider church community.

Pray it

Say:

In today's session we discovered how Jesus loved others and calls us to do the same. We're going to spend time asking God for his help so that we can love in the same way.

Watch the following clip with the children and ask them to remember the different ways that we can show love to others. When the clip has finished, then jot down all the ideas the children can remember.

Video

Love in action (Bible Story) by LifeKids (2:14)

Give the children a piece of paper and ask them to choose three ways from the list that they can try and love others. They can then write a short prayer asking God to help them love others and share it with the rest of the group.

Explore it

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



Explore It is produced by the Children and Youth Department in collaboration with Kay Moorby (soulwithaview)

Jesus calls the disciples

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



Bible verses:

Matthew 4:1-11,18-22



Aim:

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Today's fruit:

Love



Discover

Flick through the book of Luke in the New Testament. See if you can find three examples of the way Jesus loved others.



Pray

Part of following Jesus is praying to him regularly. Watch the Minno animation below all about the sleepy polar bear with someone at home. Discuss together the questions at the end of the clip.

Introduce your kids to morning prayer (5-minute family devotional) by Minno – Bible Stories for Kids



Song for the week

'Hebrews 11:1' (motions) by Saddleback Kids



Memory verse

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Start it

Today we are going to hear about Jesus just before he started to travel around teaching people and healing them. Jesus gathered together a group of friends, also known as disciples, who helped him to share God's love with everyone.



Tell it

Share a child-friendly version of Matthew 4:18-22 or share the following clip.

Jesus calls Peter by Saddleback Kids (2:52)

Sit in a circle and ask the group to share together:

- What did Jesus ask Simon and Andrew to do?
- What did Jesus say they were going to fish for?
- What do you think Jesus meant when he said that Simon and Andrew would be fishers of men?

- What new name did Jesus give to Simon?
- Would you like to follow Jesus and tell everyone just how much he loves them? If so, why would you like to do that?



Sing It

'Shine! (from the inside out)' by Nick Jackson uploaded by Tangy Crayfish (2:20)

'Holy Spirit' for children by Ayi and her friends. Sing only the chorus (0:44-1:15)



Action it

Games and activities to reinforce the Bible passage:

- Pretend you are a fish swimming about in the sea. What other creatures can you see?
- Gather all your friends together and get on to an imaginary boat. Act out what it feels like to be on the water.
- Imagine that you are fishing on a big boat. Your net is full of lots of fish. Act out pulling the huge, full net back into the boat. You might have to ask a friend to help.
- Cut out the shape of a fish and decorate it with lots of hearts. This will remind you to be like Peter and tell everyone that God loves them.