

Liturgy of the Word with Children
Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C
9 February, 2025
Luke 5:1-11

Catechist Background

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

Setting the Scene

For the activity below, you will need to prepare a large drawing of a simple boat or make one out of a large cardboard box. Alternatively, you could use a net (you could use the nets that fruit is sometimes sold in).

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. (If not, ask if they have tried crab fishing)
 - If so, did they catch anything? Was fishing easy?
 - How much fish do think you would need to catch to sink a boat?
 - How would you feel if you caught a fish?
 - How would you feel if you caught so many fish that your boat was sinking?
- 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? At church?
- 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 knew he is a 'sinful man' was called and given a very important role by Jesus.

- Ask the children to draw pictures of themselves.
- Invite them to put their pictures in the boat (or net) which you have prepared earlier as a symbol of them belonging to the Church and to Jesus.

We Believe

Relating the Creed to what you have shared with the children, ask these 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, relate the Prayer of the Faithful to the Gospel 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. Lord in your mercy,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Lord, we know that you have called us to share your love with others. Help us to be true to you. We make all our prayers through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

