

Bible background

Luke 5:1-11

Aim of lesson

To show that Jesus can command even the fish and they obey.

Preparation required

You will need a blanket or large piece of material to be the net, colouring materials, scissors and glue, backing for frieze, glitter.

Suggested outline of lesson

1. Get the children to 'be' fish, swimming in a lake. Using the circle of chairs that form the space for your class, let the children, walk around making swimming actions.
2. Tell them how one day Peter and Andrew, who were fishermen, put their net into the sea to catch some fish. One or two of the children could stand on the chairs and hold the blanket 'in the water'. But they did not catch a thing. No fish came near them, so they pulled the net in. Then Jesus came and after he had taught the people he said to Peter 'Put down your net again to catch fish.' Then lots of fish came into the net so that it nearly broke. (Ask the children to 'be' fish again and get caught in the net.) They had to ask their friends to help them pull in the gigantic catch of fish.
3. Talk about Jesus' words and how Peter and his friends left their fishing to be with Jesus and help him teach the people.
4. Make a wall picture using everyone's fish from the activity sheets. You may like to add a caption such as 'Jesus can command the fish'. The fish could have glitter on them.
5. Teach the song 'I Will Make You Fishers Of Men' in Lesson 88. Make sure the children understand the words, realising that they refer to telling other people about Jesus.

Alternative activities

1. Make boats and fish from play dough.
2. Make collage pictures. Cut out some boat and fish shapes. Get the children to decorate the fish with crayons, shiny paper or sticky shapes. Make a net from fruit/vegetable bags.
3. Make a mobile by cutting the boat shape from thick card and suspending the fishes on thin thread underneath. Punch a hole in the top of the boat and loop some thread through to hang up.

Relevance to the children's lives

Ask the children to tell you all the things they can think of over which Jesus has power.

Prayer

Ask for short prayers beginning, 'Lord Jesus, you are wonderful because...'

Verse

'Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men.' Luke 5:10.