

## Bible background

Matthew 4:18-22

## Aim of lesson

To show how Jesus chose disciples to be with him, and to teach that Jesus wants us to be his disciples.

## Preparation required

You will colouring materials, sticky tape, scissors and a piece of net from an orange bag or old net curtain.

## Suggested outline of lesson

1. Remind the children that Jesus had been baptised and now was going to start his work of teaching the people about God. He wanted some helpers.
2. Give out the activity sheets and make the puppets (you may prefer to have the puppets already made if your children are very young). Colouring the puppets will give them a different character. Let each child choose a character for their puppet: Jesus, Peter, Andrew, James and John (perhaps Zebedee as well). You may prefer to tell the story before making the puppets. Describe the Sea of Galilee, where there were a lot of fishermen, and how some of them had seen John the Baptist baptising people in the river.
3. Ask the children to act out their parts with their puppet, or just hold their puppet, as you tell the story. The action is best played out on a small table.
4. Teach the song 'I Will Make You Fishers Of Men'.
5. Ask each member of the class to tell you about their puppet. Encourage them to tell you the story from their point of view, e.g. 'This is Peter and one day he was fishing with his brother Andrew when ...'.
6. If you have time you may like to tell the children about how Nathanael was brought to Jesus by Philip, and was surprised to find that Jesus knew all about him.

## Alternative activities

1. Make some fishing boats and fish from Plasticine.
2. Make a collage picture of fishing boats. Use orange bags for nets and put lots of shiny paper fish inside.
3. Cut out a string of 12 paper dolls for each child. Help them to draw or glue on faces, hair, clothes etc. If you prefer, you could cut out 12 figures and share them between the children. The figures can then be mounted on a piece of paper or card.
4. Draw round the fingers (not thumbs) of each child's hand 3 times. This will give you 12 disciples to be decorated as above. Help the children to write the numbers 1-12 underneath.

## Relevance to the children's lives

Bring out that Jesus wants us to be his disciples too. He wants us to learn from him and work with him. When we tell others about Jesus, we are helping him to fish for men.

## Prayer

Ask who wants to tell Jesus that we want to be his helpers too.

## Verse

'Come, follow me.' Matthew 4:19.

## Song

### I will make you fishers of men

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in 4/4 time, using a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody consists of 16 measures, with a final double bar line at the end. Chord symbols are placed above the staff at the beginning of measures 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16. The notes are as follows: Measure 1: F4, G4, A4, Bb4; Measure 2: A4, G4, F4, E4; Measure 3: D4, C4, Bb3, A3; Measure 4: G3, F3, E3, D3; Measure 5: C3, Bb2, A2, G2; Measure 6: F2, E2, D2, C2; Measure 7: Bb1, A1, G1, F1; Measure 8: E1, D1, C1, Bb0; Measure 9: A1, G1, F1, E1; Measure 10: D1, C1, Bb0, A0; Measure 11: G1, F1, E1, D1; Measure 12: C1, Bb0, A0, G0; Measure 13: F1, E1, D1, C1; Measure 14: Bb0, A0, G0, F0; Measure 15: E0, D0, C0, Bb-1; Measure 16: A-2, G-2, F-2, E-2.

I will make you fishers of men,  
fishers of men, fishers of men.  
I will make you fishers of men  
If you follow me.  
If you follow me, if you follow me  
I will make you fishers of men if you follow me.

*Music and Words: cop con.*