

CHILDRENS PROGRAMME

Trust and obey John 21: 1-13

Opening Prayer

Dear God,
We are thankful you are the God we can know.
You are with us here and everywhere we go.
We pray in Jesus' name.
Amen.



Starter:

- Which football team do you follow?
- What does that mean to you?
- Who else do you follow? (other sports teams, youtubers, celebs etc?)
- What does it look like for you to follow them?
- Why do you follow them?
- How much do they mean to you?

For some people the teams or individuals they 'follow' mean a great deal, whereas for others they just show a passing interest in.

Today, we will be learning more about how a group of men were drawn to follow Jesus and what this meant to their lives.

Bible Story

Jesus and the Miraculous Catch of Fish

Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. This is what happened: Simon Peter, Thomas, Nathanael, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together.

"I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Early the next morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was him.

He called out to them, "Friends, haven't caught anything?"

"No," they answered.

He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to pull the net in because it was so heavy with all the fish they had caught!

Then one of the disciples said, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Simon Peter heard this, he jumped into the water. The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from the beach. When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.

Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught." ¹So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153 of them, but even with so many the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish.

Have you every heard this story before? This is an important story for Christians because it was here that Jesus began to invite His disciples to follow Him. But He didn't just walk up to the men and say; come with me! He began by demonstrating His power to them. He was someone worth following!

The disciples may have been about to give up what they were doing. They had spent all of the previous evening trying to catch fish and then had to get up early the next morning to so the same, and they STILL hadn't caught anything.

Have you ever tried really hard to do something but it was not working? It would be really easy to give up wouldn't it!

Instead, here, Jesus takes this moment of them having enough to do something amazing!

He tells them to cast the net on the other side. This seems a bit silly! Why would it make a difference? But they obey him and do what he says. By trusting God in this hard time and obeying what he says they are rewarded... 153 fish!

We can learn lots of things from this story:

- *Sometimes everything is not easy and we may want to give up but we have to trust Jesus will make it good in his time.*

- *We must trust and obey what Jesus tells us to do because then amazing things happen.*
- *Can you think of anything else this story teaches us about Jesus or how we should live?*

Response:

Watch or sing this song. How are the words linked to what we have learnt today?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FY8wlbXL7Dg>

How can you trust and obey Jesus today?

Craft:

Resources:

Paper

Colouring pencils/ pens

Paper clips

Straw or stick

String or wool

Magnet

Tape or blue tack



Method

- 1) To make the fish cut out fish shapes and colour them. Then put a paperclip on the nose of each one
- 2) To make the fishing rod attach the string to the straw/ stick with tape or a knot. Then on the other end attach the magnet with tape or blue tac.
- 3) To play catch the fish by tapping the magnet to the paperclip.

How many fish can you catch in 30 seconds?

Extra Game:

Using a soft ball see how many times you can throw it up into the air and catch it in 30 seconds. Can you beat your high score. Another game you could play is how many can you do before you drop it. To make it harder clap between each catch, how many claps can you do?

Closing prayer:

Lord,

Thank you for saving the day when we are about to give up.

Please help me to obey, with a good attitude, right away, all the way, every day!

Amen

