

Peter is called to fish for men

Week 1

Theme: God has a special job for each one of us

On arrival: Have some fish shapes cut out ready. Get the children to colour them in and put their names on them as they will need them again later.

Games:

Fish: Sit the children in a circle; give each the name of a type of fish. Repeat the names every third child. Say the name of one of the fish and all the children with that name run round the circle. When you say 'current change', they run in the opposite direction. When you call out 'fisherman' they have to get back to their space as soon as they can, continuing in the same direction.

Fishes in the net: Three children stand holding hands/the two end ones have their arms outstretched forming the net. Without 'breaking the net', they have to chase the others who are fish trying not to be caught. The net tries to trap the 'fish' by encircling them in the net. Any 'fish' caught join the end of the net. The winner is the last one to be caught.

Fisherman relay: Divide the children into two teams. Ask the children, in their team to stand at arm's length from each other along the length of the room. At one end of the line you need a pile of paper fish and at the other a bucket. The aim is to see which team gets their fish in the bucket first. *Each child can only hold one fish at a time.*

Introduction: Ask the children if they have ever been encouraged by a teacher or a parent to do something they didn't think they could do. Did they do it? How did it feel to know someone believed in them?

Story: Luke 5 verses 1-11 Jesus calls His first disciples

Memory Verse: "Give yourself to the Lord; trust in Him, and He will help you." Psalm 37 v 5.
Write the verse out on two different pieces of coloured card, cut it up and place in a net/bag mixed with other pieces of card. Put the children into two teams and ask them to come up in relay fashion to fish around in the net/bag for their team's piece. They put the pieces together when found.

Application: Even though Peter didn't believe they would catch any fish, he still took his boat out when Jesus asked him to. This was because Peter trusted Jesus and, because he trusted Jesus, he caught lots of fish (Jesus helped him). Ask the children what they think Jesus meant when he said Peter would fish for people. Peter probably didn't think he could do that either but because he trusted in Jesus he helped many people to believe in Jesus (becoming the first church). Just like Peter, God has a special job for each of us, even if we don't know what that is yet. If we trust in Jesus, He will help us and we too can do great things for God, just like Peter.

Prayer: Sit the children in a circle holding their fish from earlier. Pass round your net/bag. As each child prays, they drop their fish into the net/bag and pass to the next child and so on.

Song: I'm gonna jump up and down (Be happy!) - Track 5 'Lovely Jubbly' – Doug Horley

Resources: Fish for on 'arrival' activity, memory verse and fun sheet.

“Give yourself to the
Lord; trust in Him,
and He will
help you.”

Psalm 37 v 5.

