**EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AT HOME**

**FISH**

**EXPLORING NEXT SUNDAY’S THEME**

***Introducing the Gospel***

*The great catch (Luke 5:1-11)*

In Luke’s Gospel, after Jesus left the synagogue in Nazareth, he cured the possessed man in the synagogue at Capernaum and then healed Simon’s mother-in-law before attracting his team of close followers. This Gospel reading is Luke’s account of how Simon (also called Peter), James and John came to leave their trade as fishermen to be followers of Jesus. Just as they were to catch many people for the Kingdom, so Jesus enabled them to land a large catch of fish.

The image to stimulate reflection on Luke’s account of the call of the first disciples is *fish.*

***Core extract from the Gospel (Luke 5: 4-6; for reflection throughout the week)***

When Jesus had finished speaking, he said to Simon,

‘Put out into the deep water

and let down your nets for a catch.’

Simon answered,

‘Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing.

Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.’

When they had done this,

they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break.

***Gospel prayer (for use throughout the week)***

Lord Jesus Christ,

you rewarded your disciples

for putting their trust in you.

Help us so to trust your promises,

that we too may receive the reward

you have prepared for us;

for your name’s sake.

Amen.

**READING NEXT SUNDAY’S GOSPEL**

**Luke 5: 1-11**

**Jesus calls the first disciples**

Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, ‘Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.’ Simon answered, ‘Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.’ When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So they signalled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, ‘Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!’ For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, ‘Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.’ When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

**ENGAGING WITH THE THEME**

***Dwelling with the text (Luke 5: 1-11)***

Begin to explore Luke’s account of the call of the first disciples by employing the SIFT approach of Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking. You may find that one of these approaches comes easier to you than the others. But it is worth trying all four.

* What details in the passage catch your attention (Sensing)?
* What big ideas in the passage spark in your mind (Intuition)?
* What most touches your heart in the passage (Feeling)?
* What most stretches your mind and makes you think in the passage (Thinking)?

***Thinking and talking***

Identify topics within the passage that can get you thinking and talking. Here are some ideas to get you started.

* What had people seen Jesus do and heard Jesus say before the disciples were called?
* How many fishermen are named in Luke’s account?
* What was the relationship between Simon and the other two?
* In what activity were the fishermen engaged?
* What does this narrative say for us today?

***Using your Bible***

Explore the difference between Luke’s account of the call and the accounts in Mark and Matthew.

* Mark 1: 16-20
* Matthew 4: 18-22

Explore how John presents the great catch of fish.

* John 21: 1-14

Explore images of fish in the Bible.

* Ezekiel 47: 9-10
* Mark 6: 38-42
* John 6: 8-11

***Exploring online***

Widen your exploration of Luke’s account of the call of the first disciples by looking up some of the following themes and others of your own choosing.

* The great catch of fish
* Stained glass fish
* YouTube trout

***Drawing on experience***

The image to stimulate reflection on Luke’s account of the call of the first disciples is *fish*. Draw on your own experience of fish. For example:

* Have you visited (or seen on film) an aquarium?
* Have you seen fishermen at work?
* What has been your most memorable experience of fish?

What have you learned about fish?

***Creating and making***

This section offers pointers to some creative activities that may be inspired by the great catch of fish.

* Create a ‘stained glass’ window of fish.
* Cut out shapes of fish and display them in a net.
* Make a poster illustrating different types of fish.
* Create a reflection, poem, or prayer on the theme of fish.



**EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AT HOME**

Each week we are inviting people in their homes to look forward to those Sunday services that follow the Revised Common Lectionary Gospel readings. We employ the SIFT approach (Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking) to encourage reflection on the Sunday Gospel.

We are suggesting a variety of ways in which people of all ages, and households working together, may engage with the Gospel reading and celebrate that engagement with shared activities.

Our invitation then is for you to share your reflections, prayers and photos of your creative work with the Cathedral by emailing them to smc.lesliefrancis@gmail.com.

These materials have been developed by the Canon Theologian of Liverpool Cathedral working in collaboration with the staff team here at the Cathedral, and with sponsorship and support from the St Mary’s Centre in Wales.



The scripture quotations contained in these materials are taken from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, Anglicised Edition, copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America, and is used with permission. All rights reserved.

Copyright © Leslie J. Francis, 2022

Canon Theologian Liverpool Cathedral

with sponsorship and support from

St Mary’s Centre, Wales