

## Fifth Sunday after Epiphany – year C

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### Preparation

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Read [Luke 5: 1-11](#) over. Pay attention to the words or phrases that jump at you. Read over the lesson so that you are familiar with what is intended to happen. Gather the materials that you will need for each section of the lesson. For deeper thinking or for ways to extend the lesson take a look at the following websites:

<http://www.textweek.com/yearc/epiphc5.htm>

<http://www.word-sunday.com/Files/c/5-c/F-5-c.html>

[http://archive.episcopalchurch.org/lessonPlans/109452\\_115775\\_ENG\\_HTM.htm](http://archive.episcopalchurch.org/lessonPlans/109452_115775_ENG_HTM.htm) :

scroll down to find the lesson for the day

<http://children.cccm.com/NTSupportCurriculumPDF/219FishersOfMen.pdf>

<http://www.msscrafts.com/newtestament/fishermen.htm>

<http://www.sundayschoolsources.com/lessons/disciple.htm>

<http://www.sermons4kids.com/lets-go-fishing.html>

<http://www.sundayschoollessons.com/epi5les.htm>

<http://kidsclubs4jesus.com/SAJ1-60/Lesson%2014.pdf>

### Gathering

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#### Materials needed

- Small table or end of one table
- Candle
- Candle lighter
- Bible and bookmark
- Green cloth
- Newsprint and markers
- Pictures of fishing and nets

look at: <https://www.google.ca/images?source=hp&q=fishing+and+nets&btnG=Search+Images>  
choose a couple and print them out; if you have some of your own, that will work as well

Print up the prayer on the newsprint so that the readers can say the prayer with you.

With the children place the cloth on the table. Have them help you place the Bible on the cloth.

Light the candle. Pray the following prayer together:

**Gracious God, bless our time together.**

**Loving Jesus, bless our learning together.**

**Faithful Spirit, bless our work together. Amen.**

Blow out the candles. Ask the children if they have ever been fishing. If they have get them to tell you about a favourite time they went fishing. Show them the pictures that you have brought. Explain that fishing for a living is hard work – it takes a lot of time and a lot of knowledge.

You need to know about the weather, the patterns of the fish, and how to take care of your boat and nets. Explain that in today's story they will hear about some special folks who went fishing with Jesus and what happened to them.

## Story Time

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### Materials needed

- fish image at end of lesson
- construction paper
- scissors
- yarn
- tape
- fish shaped crackers

### Instructions

Copy the fish image. Trace the image on the construction paper and cut out as many as you can. Cut different lengths of yarn and tape a piece of yarn to each fish shape. Spread them out in the middle of the story area. Put the fish shaped crackers somewhere where the children don't have access to them.

Jesus was walking by the sea of Galilee. Many people saw that he was there. They started pressing up against him. Jesus began looking for a way to continue to talk with them without getting crushed by them.

Jesus saw two boats on the shore of the lake. The fishermen had brought them in after fishing all night on the lake. They were washing their nets and getting them ready for fishing the next night. Jesus asked Simon Peter to put out his boat a small way.

Jesus taught the people about God's promises from the boat. He shared the good news of God's love and care with the people. When Jesus had finished his teaching, he turned to Simon Peter and said, "Let's go out into the deep water. Let your nets down and get some fish."

Simon Peter said, "Master we worked hard all night and we didn't catch any fish. But if you say so I will let down the nets again."

An amazing thing happened. They let down the nets and they caught so many fish.

*Have the children begin to bring in the fish on the yarn, pretending as they do so that they are very heavy and a lot of fish.*

Simon Peter and Jesus had to signal to their work partners and friends in the other boat to come and help them.

The other boat came and they filled both boats with the fish. Both boats began to almost sink there was so much fish in them. *Have the children bring in all of the rest of the fish if there any left.*

Simon Peter was amazed. He fell down on his knees in front of Jesus. He cried to Jesus, "Go away from me. I am an ordinary man who doesn't deserve to be with you."

Everyone with them was amazed. Simon Peter's partners John and James, the sons of Zebedee could hardly believe what had just happened.

Jesus smiled at his new friend. He said to Simon Peter, "Don't be afraid my friend. From now on you will be catching people."

After they got their boats to shore and dealt with all the fish, they left everything and went with Jesus and became his followers. They wanted to learn more about the promises of God.

*Share with the children the fish shaped crackers and enjoy a snack together.*

*Take a few moments to think about being called by Jesus to share God's promises with the world.*

## Response

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### Project Idea 1: Fish and People Sponge Painting

*This creative, slightly messy, response will be a way for the children to make the story of fishing with Jesus more concrete in their lives.*

#### Materials needed

- fish and person shape from end of lesson
- thin rectangular sponges
- tempera paint, containers, water
- markers
- scissors
- drawing paper or finger-paint paper (if you can get it)
- newspaper

#### Instructions

Copy the fish and person shapes from end of the lesson. Cut them out and then trace them onto the sponges – you will probably want to make at least one pair for every two children in the group. Cut out the shapes from the sponges. Cover the working area with newspapers. Place the paint in containers and some water in another container. Give each child a piece of drawing paper or finger-paint paper. Invite them to think about today's story of teaching, fishing, and deciding to follow Jesus. Invite the children to use the sponges to make a picture that tells the story they heard today. They may want to use the markers to draw in the parts of the story that they cannot make with the sponges. Encourage the children to share their paintings with their families and tell them the story of Jesus and fishing for people.

### Project Idea 2: Paper Plate Fish

*This response will work well with younger children especially and gives them an art piece to talk about the story with their families.*

#### Materials needed

- paper plates
- scissors
- glue
- tissue paper
- fine line markers or pencil crayons
- glitter

#### Instructions

For younger children cut a pie shape (less than a quarter of the plate) from one part of the circle – this will become the tail of the fish and the empty space becomes the mouth. You can let older children do this for themselves. Have the children glue the tail piece on to the opposite side of the plate of the empty space. Have them print or print for them the following onto the side of the 'fish' that they won't be decorating "**Fishing for Jesus**". Invite them to use the markers or pencil crayons, tissue paper, glitter and glue to decorate their fish with. While they are working ask the children to think about what Jesus meant by fishing for people. Who are the people that we can fish for? Encourage them to share their fish with their families to share today's story with.

### Project Idea 3: Fish and People Mobile

*Mobiles can bring back memories of stories when they are hung up somewhere where the children can see them regularly. This will encourage the children to relate to the story.*

#### Materials needed

- person shape at end of lesson
- construction paper
- fish shapes with yarn from the story
- glitter
- glue sticks
- hangers or wooden dowel about 30-cm (12-in) in length
- extra yarn
- scissors
- tap

#### Instructions

Copy the person shape. Cut out and trace onto construction paper. Make enough so that each child has 3 to 5 of them. Cut yarn into different lengths and tape to the back of the person shape. Make sure you have enough fish shapes so that each child has 3 to 5 fish shapes. Give each child at least 3 or 5 fish shapes. Invite them to decorate their fish and people by spreading glue on the shapes and shaking glitter over the glue. Have the children shake the glitter off on a plate or over a garbage can. When they are done decorating their shapes help them to tie the yarn onto the hanger or dowel. If using the dowel you will need to cut extra yarn into about 60 cm (24 in) in length and tie the yarn onto either end of the dowel so that the children can have a way to hang up their mobiles. Invite the children to use their mobiles to share today's story with their families by hanging them up somewhere at home.

### Closing

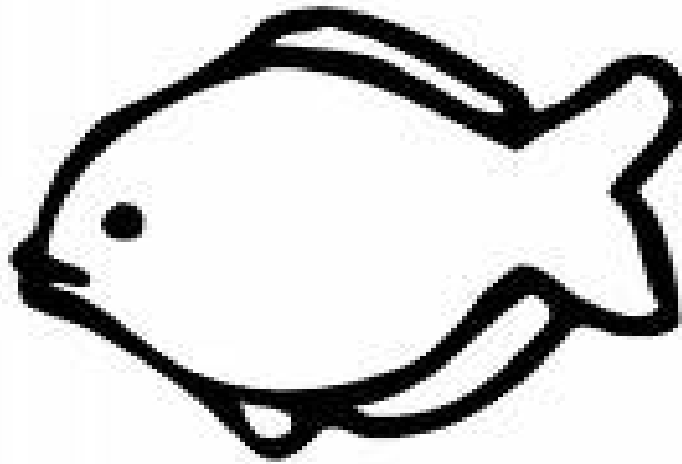
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Gather with the children around the worship table again. Relight the candle. Say the prayer line by line and encourage the children to repeat it after you:

**For the coming of Jesus into the world, thank you God.**  
**For the gift of the Holy Spirit, thank you God.**  
**For the faith to serve, thank you God. Amen.**

## Fish Image

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## Person Image

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