

Week 1 All Age Luke in Lent material : Luke 5.1-11

The material needs to be used flexibly depending on the group you have. I've tried to include some of the discussion type feel to the material. Encourage everyone to contribute, particularly with the questions, which can get dominated by chatty adults or children!

Some activities will need adults assisting younger children/helping them to develop ideas.

The session aims to be 30 mins. 35 mins of timings are used to allow for people coming early. Our timings are set on a 4.30 start.

I'd love to hear about how things went for you. I'm trying to develop some All Age style small group Bible Study materials & so any feedback and ideas is/are welcome.

Equipment:

Big paper

Small stones

Small cross (candle and matches can be used instead, but be careful with the final activity)

Refreshments (we are using juice boxes for simplicity and fewer spills!)

Drawing materials.

CD (optional)

String or wool, tied into a large loop. (about shoulder width wide)

Cut-outs of fish

People pictures

4.25 – 4.35

10 mins

Gathering activity (refreshments could be served while you do this. A CD could be played quietly in the background.)

On the floor (be aware of those with disabilities or stiff joints) or on a table, have a large piece of paper or several small ones taped together. In the centre of the paper place a large pile of stones.

If the edge of the paper is when you went to bed last night, and the pile of stones is now, what has happened for you since then (dreams they had, things they did, people they met, etc)? Draw or write some of those things down. As you do this, think about what has been good and what has been bad, what has made you happy and what made you sad?

Put the cross somewhere everyone can see it and get to it. Get everyone to pick a stone from the pile.

Reflection: (allow pauses)

Hold the stone and think about all the things you have done since yesterday bedtime.

All the good things and the bad things.... The things we enjoyed and the things we have hated....

The things we did well and the things we did badly.... The kind things we did and the things we

shouldn't have done.... The people who have spoken to us and and the people who have ignored

us... The people who have cared for us and the people who have been mean to us.... Did you notice God in your day? Make space for God now in the silence.

(pause)

God has been with us through all these things, even if we didn't notice.

Get everyone to place their stones around the cross.

You could use some simple words like “Jesus, I am here. Help me to know you are here too.”

4.35 – 4.50

15 min

Group discussion & reading. (refreshments if not done already)

What do you spend your time on all day? Do you play, go to school, have a job, do homework, look after someone else? What things do you do? Get some suggestions from the group.

What would it be like if you were having a bad day and someone came up and told you how to do things better? How would you feel? What would you think? What would you do?

Before the Bible reading, ask everyone to think about who is in this story and what they are doing. For those who like to use their hands and eyes as well as their ears, you could pass out fish cut-outs and pens to decorate them with while you chat.

Read Luke 5.1-11 together. It should be OK to read straight from a straight forward Bible translation. (Bishop Tom’s translation in Lent for Everyone is pretty straight forward, but verse 6 “Put out into the deeper part” may make more reading sense for younger readers as “Go out into deep water.” (NIRV) or “Go out into the deeper part of the lake,” (Please note I’m not commenting on the translation, which I’m sure is excellent!) and also you might want to explain what “sinner” (v8) and “abandoned” (v11) mean for some.)

Some questions to think about together:

- ☺ Who are the people in the story? What are they doing?
- ☺ What do you think Jesus has been teaching people about?
- ☺ Why do you think Simon let Jesus into his boat? Would you have done that?
- ☺ Simon had had a bad night’s fishing. Jesus tells him how to catch fish. How do you think Simon felt? Why did he do it anyway? What happened?
- ☺ How did Simon feel about himself and Jesus after he caught all the fish?
- ☺ Did Jesus go away? Did Jesus send Simon away? What did Jesus say to Simon? What did he want Simon and his friends to do?

4.50-5p.m.

10 mins

Game, Response and prayer

Game can be optional depending on your group. (Why not give it a go anyway?!) If you have a big group, you might want to split into 2.

Spread the cut-out fish on the floor.

Take it in turns in throwing the loop of string or wool over the fish like you are catching fish in a net. See who catches the most fish in the loop. You could talk through the thought while people play the game.

Thought: Jesus wanted Simon and his friends to follow him and to catch people, not fish. Jesus probably meant he wanted them to help people to get to know God better and be part of his Kingdom by following Jesus too. Simon and his friends left their things and followed Jesus. Jesus wants us to follow Him too.

Use the cut-outs of people. Let people have as many people as they want. They can decorate them or draw faces on them or just write a name on them. Get the group to think of people they would like to follow Jesus too.

Place the paper people around the cross. (If you are using the candle, please think if you can do this safely!)

Encourage anyone to say a short prayer or say a name as they do this.

You could use this short prayer (or get someone else to read it):

Jesus, we want these people to meet you and love you and follow you. Please show us if there is any way we can help them. Amen.

Closing words.

You might like to use these words to close:

Jesus, we are here.

Please help us remember you are with us everywhere too.

Jesus, I am here. Help
me to know you are here
too.

Jesus, we are here.
Please help us
remember you are with
us everywhere too.





