

Read



Isaiah 6:1-2a, 3-8

Psalm 138:1-2, 2-3,
4-5, 7-8

1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or
15:3-8, 11

Luke 5:1-11

LIVING THE WORD

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 10, 2019



REFLECTION

Some find fishing a relaxing hobby. Actually catching a fish is a bonus. For others fishing is a life line to staving off hunger. The relaxed fisherman and the anxious fisherman use similar tools yet have a different urgency to their baiting and waiting. One enjoys the view, the quiet, and the thrill of catching a whopper of a fish. The other casts as far as possible praying for enough fish to feed the family with an air of urgency. The fishermen in Luke's account of the Gospel might side more with the second description here. Fishing is their livelihood and the fish are not biting. Jesus convinces them to try again and the abundance was so great the boat was at risk of sinking. The transformation in the disciples causes them to leave everything to follow Jesus. For many in our world, a miracle of abundance is needed in order to feed hungry children. This reality and Jesus' invitation to be "catching men" (Luke 5:10) calls us all to step out and help bring an abundance of God's love to those in need. May we all respond with as much enthusiasm as the early apostles.



ACTION

Go fishing! The process of fishing can be quite meditative, particularly if you do not catch anything. Instead of worrying about the possible catch, settle into a meditation on Jesus' love for you. Sit in awe at the beautiful creation surrounding you. Imagine Jesus sitting next to you on the dock or shore and check in with him. How are you becoming a catcher of men? What is holding you back? Share this with Jesus. Whether you catch a fish or not, be grateful for the opportunity to sit in wonder at God's creation and Jesus' abundant love for you.



This website can help you find information about obtaining a fishing license in your state:
www.takemefishing.org/.



QUESTIONS

- ❖ What do today's readings teach you about the Christian life?
- ❖ In what ways are you a catcher of men?
- ❖ What miracle are you hoping for to further your resolve to live out your faith?



February 10, 2019

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

LECTIONARY #75C

Isaiah 6:1-2a, 3-8

Psalm 138:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 7-8

1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or

1 Corinthians 15:3-8, 11

Luke 5:1-11

Prepare for the Word

The following elements may be used by the catechist, teacher, or youth minister to prepare to facilitate today's session with teens. You may integrate this information into the reflection and discussion on today's readings.

Leader's Context

Building on last week's message of standing with Jesus, the reading from Luke, chapter 5, calls each of us into an ever-deepening involvement in the work of the New Evangelization. Jesus asked Simon, James, and John to trust him and to follow his instructions. The result was a massive haul of fish. Just like Simon, who questioned his worthiness to be a follower of Christ, we are each called—despite our humanity—to trust God's calling for our lives and to lead others to him. (For more information about the New Evangelization, visit www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/new-evangelization/.)

Q FOCUS: Put out into the deep and trust in Jesus.

Liturgical Calendar Connection

Pope Francis has repeatedly taught that the Church is not a museum for saints, but rather a "field hospital" for sinners (as quoted in a 2013 interview with Pope Francis in several Jesuit publications, such as *America: The Jesuit Review*). This week's celebration of the optional Memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes and World Day of the Sick (both on February 11) is an excellent time to remind teens that a relationship with Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church are remedies for the spiritual ills that plague us. We pray intentionally for the sick of our parishes and

communities. In their secular activities, teens will celebrate St. Valentine's Day on February 14 (St. Valentine is no longer on the Church's liturgical calendar), which is also a day to remember Sts. Cyril and Methodius.

Church Teaching Connection

"Lay people also fulfill their prophetic mission by evangelization, 'that is, the proclamation of Christ by word and the testimony of life.' For lay people, 'this evangelization . . . acquires a specific property and peculiar efficacy because it is accomplished in the ordinary circumstances of the world'" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 905; quoting *Lumen gentium*, 1 and 2).

Hear the Word

Use this resource, a Lectionary, or a Bible to proclaim the reading. The book should be held reverently or placed on a lectern. If possible, light a candle that is placed near where the Gospel will be proclaimed. Gesture for teens to stand.

Gospel Acclamation

Use the same musical setting that is used in your parish or at school Masses. Teens may help with music and proclaim the Gospel.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 5:1-11

Reader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

All make the Sign of the Cross on their forehead, lips, and heart.

While the crowd was pressing in on Jesus and listening to the word of God, he was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret. He saw two boats there alongside the lake; the fishermen had disembarked and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, he asked him to put out a short distance from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.

After he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch." Simon said in reply, "Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets." When they had done this, they caught a great number of fish and their nets were tearing. They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come to help them. They came and filled both boats so that the boats were in danger of sinking. When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at the knees of Jesus and said, "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man." For astonishment at the catch of fish they had made seized him and all those with him, and likewise James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners of Simon. Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." When they brought their boats to the shore, they left everything and followed him.

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Everyone may be seated.

Reflect on the Word

When beginning the reflection and discussion about today's readings, first refer to the handout for today. Ask teens what they learned about themselves and about Christian discipleship from performing the action for the week and journaling. Ask teens about the readings of the day: What struck them? What do they think the readings mean? How do the readings affect their own lives? Then begin the following reflection:

After last week's Gospel passage from Luke 4, which was almost quite literally a cliff-hanger, we find Jesus as he stood adjacent to the Lake of Gennesaret. Sometimes also called the Sea of Galilee, this freshwater body in Israel is in reality much smaller than our Great Lakes. At the edge of the lake, fishermen had gathered after a night's work to rinse their nets. Jesus got into a boat belonging to Simon. Jesus asked Simon to row him out a short distance from the shore. From there, Jesus could speak across the water to a crowd of followers who had been gathering around him. These people had witnessed or heard Jesus cure a demon-possessed man in a local synagogue and had likely heard of the many other healings taking

place in their region. Simon himself had seen Jesus cure his own mother-in-law. Everyone wanted to know more about this man who had come to proclaim the Kingdom of God.

► **How would you have felt about Jesus if you were standing next to the lake that day? What would you have hoped he would do or say?**

When he was finished speaking, Jesus instructed Simon to "put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch." Probably tired from working all night, Simon argued with Jesus. He and his team had already been in that area all night and hadn't had a bite. Perhaps because of what he had seen happen with his mother-in-law, Simon agreed to follow Jesus' instructions. He must have been shocked when so many fish filled their nets that the nets began to tear. They had to call in another boat to help. Both boats were soon filled to the brim with an astounding catch of fish. Simon essentially disregarded his personal experience to "put out into deep water," to take a risk, and to follow Jesus' instructions, even though he knew that Jesus was not a fisherman.

► **When was a time when you took a risk because of your faith in God's plan? How did the situation turn out for you?**

With the massive haul of fish, Simon Peter immediately felt remorse for not having fully trusted Jesus. He fell down to his knees and expressed his great remorse, suggesting that Jesus should leave him. Simon felt totally unworthy to be a follower of Christ. Simon Peter's helpers, the brothers James and John, were also totally shocked by the amount of fish they had caught. But instead of disavowing the fishermen for their doubt, Jesus invited them into an even deeper mission, using language they could definitely understand. "From now on," he told Peter, "you will be catching men." After they reached the shore, the men made the decision to leave everything behind to follow Jesus. Simon Peter felt unworthy to be a part of Jesus' group of followers because he had doubted Jesus.

► **Have you ever experienced a time when you knowingly or even unintentionally failed to act as a true follower of Jesus? How did you feel when you realized what you had done?**

Peter was able to immediately and personally express his remorse to Jesus. You and I can do the same by availing ourselves of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

► **When was your last good confession? How do you prepare yourself for the sacrament? How do you feel after you have received absolution?**

Simon Peter, James, and John left their homes, work, and families to follow Jesus.

► **How is God calling you to “put out into deep water” and to leave behind the comfortable to become his disciple?**

Wrapping It Up

Consider these points to conclude the discussion and reflection. Integrate the thoughts and ideas that surfaced during the discussion as well as the “Church Teaching Connection” on page 136.

How does God call you daily to help teach others about his love?

How has God's grace surprised you?

How is Jesus inviting you to go deeper in your commitment to your faith?

Act on the Word

Drop Your Nets

For this activity, you will need large rolls of paper or poster boards and colored markers. (You will need magazines if teens decide to make a collage.) Divide your teens into small groups of five to ten people per group. Provide each group with two long sheets of paper or poster boards and markers.

In advance of your session, type up three scripts of this Gospel. Highlight on one script the words of Jesus; on another the words of Simon Peter; and on the third script the remaining text for a narrator. Recruit three teens to recite the Gospel passage in theater style. Before dividing into small groups, have the readers proclaim the Gospel. Divide the groups and give them their supplies. Each group should take some time to discuss the following thematic questions:

► **Nets can be used to catch fish, but they can also be used as traps that keep something from being accomplished. What are the nets that are keeping you from more fully committing your life to Jesus?**

► **God has called each of us to join in being “fishers of men.” What do you imagine you might feel like if you could honestly and openly share your faith in God with a friend or family member? How would it look and feel to catch hearts for God?**

Team captains should write at the top of their two oversized papers “Nets” and “Catches.” Each small group should take some time to discuss the questions above, and should then create a collage (the teens will need magazines to cut out pictures) or a poster detailing their individual reactions to these prompts. Care should be paid to protect anonymity in the event of private revelations of fear or failure by encouraging the teens to minister to one another with respect and courtesy.

Reassemble your small groups and ask for one representative to present each group's basic reactions to the larger group. Complete the activity with another reader's theater proclamation of the Gospel. Invite the teens into a period of spontaneous prayer to encourage each of them to consider how Jesus calls them to be “fishers” of their friends and family.

Closing Prayer

*Merciful God,
in you we live and move and have our being.
May we always respond with trust to Jesus
when he meets us at the seashore of our lives.
Fill us with wisdom and guide our efforts to do
your will.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

For Next Sunday

To help teens prepare for next Sunday's Mass, print, email, or share on a blog or social media the handout found on the next page. The JPG and PDF files are available at www.ltp.org/lwgr. Encourage teens to attend Mass with family or friends.