



5th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Luke 5: 1-11

And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. They signalled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink.

But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

Some things to think about...

Simon showed trust in Jesus, following Jesus' instructions and letting down the nets even after having caught nothing all night.

What do you think Jesus meant when he said: "from now on you will be catching men"?

The men left everything they had to follow Jesus - do you think this would have been an easy thing to do? Would you do the same?

Activity

Draw a picture of a boat on some cardboard and cut it out. Tape some string to the sides of the boat so it looks like a fishing line hanging over the side.

Draw the shape of a fish on some separate pieces of cardboard and cut them out. On each fish write one thing you can do to bring people to Jesus. Attach your fish to the ends of the pieces of string on the boat. Display the boats around the classroom.

Materials needed for the activity:

Pieces of coloured cardboard

String

Coloured markers and pencils

Sticky tape

Teacher's Notes

Jesus invites himself aboard Simon Peter's boat where he could sit down and be seen and heard from the shore. Having taught the crowd Jesus asks Simon Peter to take the boat out for a catch. Peter is probably tired and most likely looking for a place to rest! Instead he is asked to carry out what he sees as a fruitless task. However, he complies with the request and the miracle occurs.

Peter, immediately regretting that he doubted, says, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." Jesus shows compassion and invites Peter to join in his work. James and John are then inspired to follow Peter. The action of the Apostles is surely an act of faith as they leave everything to follow Jesus! - (St Vincent de Paul Society Spiritual Reflection Guides: January to March 2007)