

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

Luke 5:1-11

'They left everything and followed him.'

At that time: The crowd was pressing in on Jesus to hear the word of God. He was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, and he saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land.

And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. 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.

Reflection

In Luke 5:1-11, Jesus calls His first disciples in a way that totally changes their lives. After a long night of catching nothing, Jesus tells the fishermen to try again. Even though they are tired, they listen—and end up with so many fish that their nets almost break! This miracle shows them who Jesus really is, and Peter feels unworthy to even be near Him. But Jesus reassures Peter, saying, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men."

Inspired, they leave everything to follow Jesus, showing that sometimes we are called to step away from following the crowd, and trust Him with the adventure He has for us.

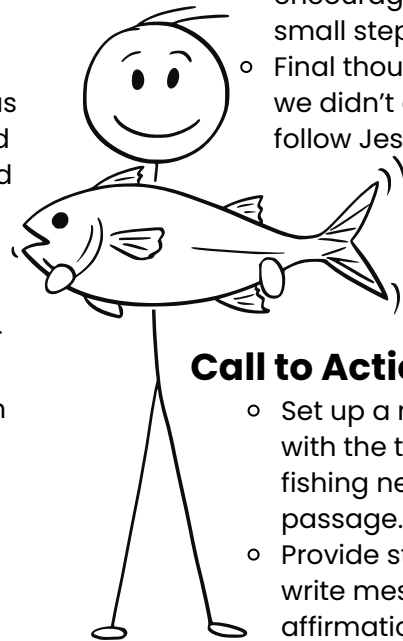


Materials needed

- Blue cloth spread out on the floor or table
- Pens
- A sheet of paper with a net on for each participant

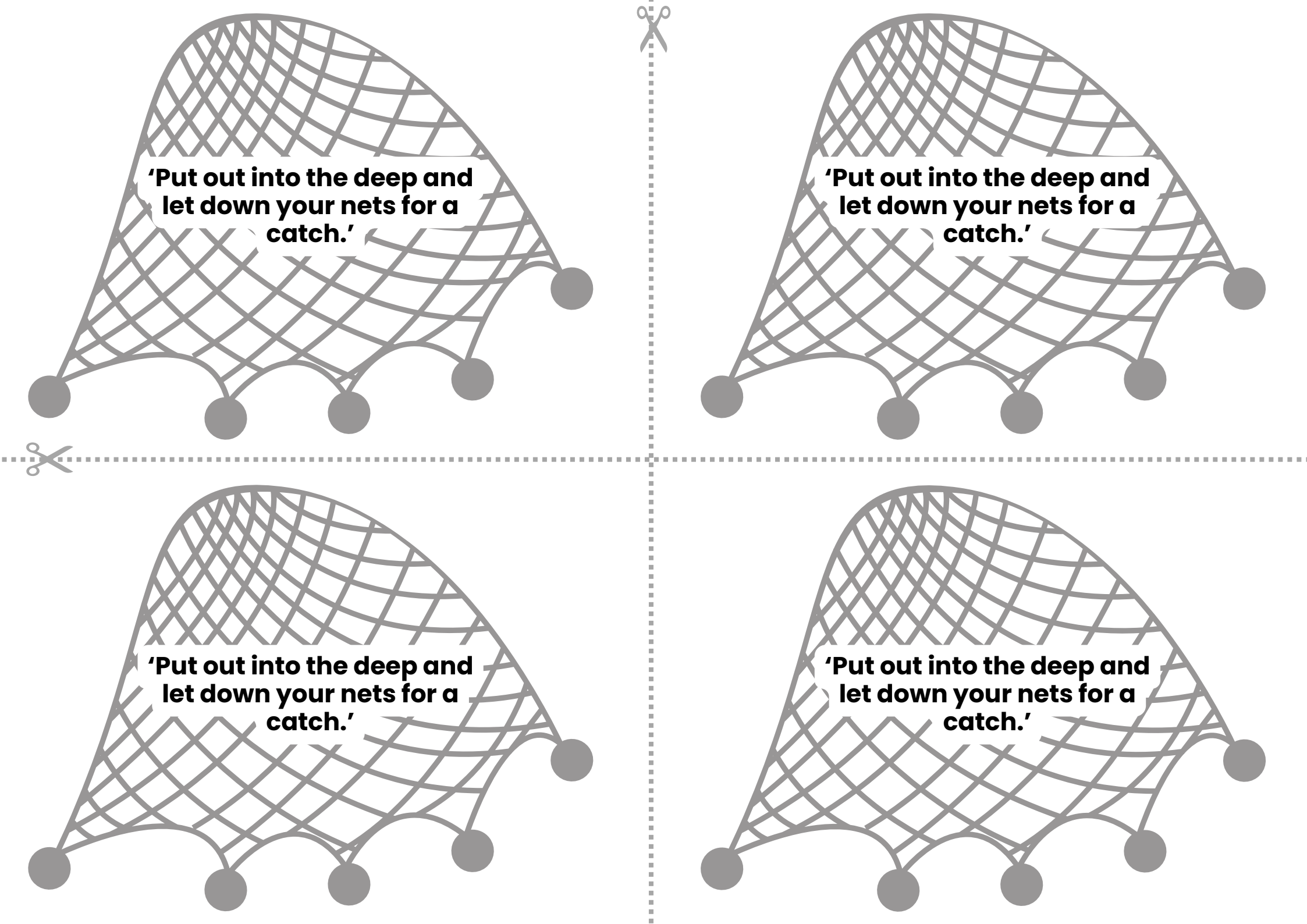
Activity

- Start by reading or summarising Luke 5:1-11.
- Ask each participant to think about something they feel hesitant to trust God with—maybe it's a goal, a friendship, or a worry. Ask them to write this down on the back of their net.
- Each participant then "casts" their paper net onto the blue cloth. This symbolises trusting Jesus with the things we often try to handle alone.
- Once everyone has "cast" their nets. Share reflections on how, like the fishermen, we can trust God even when we feel unsure. If comfortable, participants can share what they have written down.
- Discuss what it means to "leave everything" and follow Jesus, encouraging each person to consider how they might take a small step towards trusting Him more.
- Final thought - sometimes stepping out in faith brings blessings we didn't expect. Like the disciples, we are called to trust and follow Jesus, even when it feels challenging.



Call to Action

- Set up a notice board in a common area of the school or parish, with the theme or title, "Net of Encouragement." Decorate it with a fishing net or illustrations of fish, linking back to the Bible passage.
- Provide sticky notes, or paper fish cut outs for participants to write messages of encouragement, compliments, or positive affirmations. Messages can be anonymous and simple, such as "You're amazing just as you are!" or "Keep going—you've got this!"



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