



## **Children's liturgy – Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Welcome:** Today we hear about how Jesus called his disciples to follow him. They left what they were doing and went with him straight away. Let's think a bit about how we can follow Jesus in our lives.

**Opening prayer:** Christ Jesus, you call us all to follow you. Help us to answer that call and live our lives as you have asked us to. Amen.

### **Gospel: Mark 1:14-20**

After John had been put in prison, Jesus went to Galilee and preached the Good News from God. "The right time has come," he said, "and the Kingdom of God is near! Turn away from your sins and believe the Good News!"

As Jesus walked along the shore of Lake Galilee, he saw two fishermen, Simon and his brother Andrew, catching fish with a net. Jesus said to them, "Come with me, and I will teach you to catch people." At once they left their nets and went with him.

He went a little farther on and saw two other brothers, James and John, the sons of Zebedee. They were in their boat getting their nets ready. As soon as Jesus saw them, he called them; they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and went with Jesus.

**Gospel reflection:** What do you remember from today's reading?

Simon and his brother Andrew are fishing by a lake when Jesus asks them to follow him. At once, they leave their fishing nets behind and go with Jesus.

James and John do the same when they are asked. They leave their father behind as well as their boat and their fishing nets. They follow Jesus and become his disciples.

Do you think it was an easy decision for them to make to follow Jesus in this way?

How do you think the people that they left behind, like their families and friends, felt when they left so quickly? How would you feel if you had to leave your family, friends and all your things behind?

Jesus asks us all to follow him. But unlike Simon, Andrew, James and John in this reading, we cannot see Jesus and go with him as he travels round the country. So, what do you think Jesus wants us to do? How can we follow Jesus?

We can follow Jesus by living our lives as he would want us to. By being kind to others, sharing all that we have, and caring for all people, especially those who are poor or sick, so that the world becomes a fairer place for everyone to live in.

We can also follow Jesus by standing up for what we believe in and speaking out when we see something that is not right.

And of course, praying helps us to follow Jesus. It is when we pray that we come to know Jesus better and this helps us to understand how to follow him.

How will you follow Jesus this week?

### **Activity**

Colour in the accompanying illustration of the disciples leaving their nets to follow Jesus. On the back, draw or write how you will follow Jesus in your life.

Remember to share all that you have heard and thought about at the liturgy today with your grown-ups. Try to follow Jesus in all that you do during the week, by sharing or being kind or caring for others, especially people who are poor.

*Third Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
*Gospel: Mark 1:14-20*

