

Out of our depth?

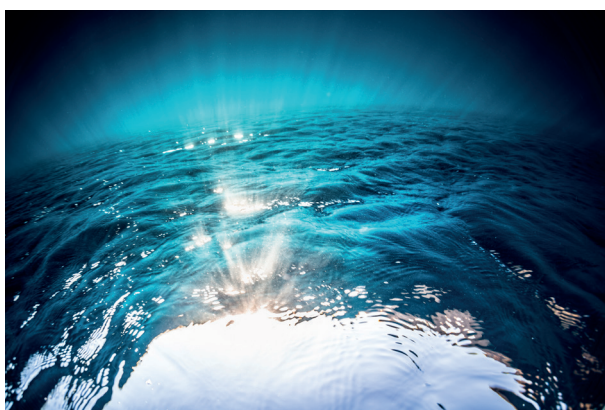
Luke 5.1-11

Jesus notices the fishermen, by the side of the lake, cleaning their nets after a failed catch. When Jesus asks them to throw their nets into deeper water, they are feeling defeated and out of their depth. However, they decide to trust his advice, so they throw their nets, pull in a miraculous catch and at the same time find themselves caught up in Jesus' story.

Now read **Luke 5.1-11** see p.2 for text.

A note on the passage

A familiar, everyday scene in the Gospels: Jesus by the water, fishermen with their boats and crowds gathered. The fishermen are just doing what they always do, catching fish. It is only when Jesus gets involved in this everyday activity that it suddenly becomes extraordinary, and the fishermen become part of God's bigger story. As with the fishermen, Jesus calls us, in our normal everyday lives, to be part of God's story.



Ask yourself: What makes you feel overwhelmed? What gives you confidence to overcome that feeling?



God invites all of us to be part of his story. Could you invite someone to find out more about God by inviting them to a Sunday service, Messy Church or other church event? Think about who you would invite and what it would be best to invite them to. Set aside time to ring, message or talk to them.

WALK

Go for a walk, if possible, by some water. Take a copy of this week's passage with you and read it out loud, as you look at the water. How does the story make you feel? Which parts of the story feel important to you? Go and collect a selection of natural items and make a picture, a symbol or an image in response to the passage.



Cut out a paper figure and write your name on the back. Write and draw all the things that are special about you. This could include hobbies, favourite food, things you are good at. If there are a group of you, do this for each other. Look at the figures and the words written on them, all these things make up 'you'. Remember that Jesus calls each of us whoever we are and with all that we are, to be part of God's story.

REFLECT

One morning this week, get up in time to watch the sunrise (around 7-7.30am at this time of year). Sit by a window or wrap up warm and go outdoors, and notice how the sky changes as the day begins. As you watch the sunrise, reflect on how you like the fishermen are also part of God's story.

Pray

Each evening this week, create a time to sit quietly. Look back over the day and notice where you have felt God's presence. Notice the times when you were responding to God's calling in your everyday life. Did you notice God calling you to anything new or different?

Choose a version of the passage to read. The first is the ROOTS version for children, the second is the NRSV text which may be suitable for older children, young people and adults.

Now one day when Jesus was standing squashed in a crowd beside the lake, he saw two boats at the shore. The boats were empty because the fishermen had got out of them to wash their nets. Jesus stepped into one of them. It was Simon's boat. He asked Simon to take the boat a little way out from the shore. Jesus sat down and taught the crowds from there.

When he had finished speaking to the crowds, he spoke to Simon, 'Go out further to the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.' Simon answered, 'Master, we fished all night and caught nothing. However, I'll take you at your word and let down the nets.' So, they went out deeper and let down the nets and suddenly they were full to bursting! They waved to their partners to bring out the other boat to help them. They filled both boats with fish. The boats were so full that they were nearly sinking! When Simon Peter saw this, he fell down at Jesus' knees and said, 'Please go away from me, because I am a sinful man,



Lord!' Simon Peter was gripped with amazement, they all were: those with Simon in his boat and also James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were in the other boat. Then Jesus said to Simon, 'Don't be afraid. From now on, you'll be catching people.' They rowed to the shore. Then they left everything there and followed him.

Luke 5.1-11

Did you know?

- The lake is called the Sea of Galilee and appears in other Bible stories.
- Fishermen back then – just like now – often had to work right through the night.

- When Jesus said 'catching people' he was asking the disciples to go out and bring others to follow him.

Luke 5.1-11 (NRSV)

Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were

beginning to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.