



18th October 2020

The Disciples Were Jesus' Special Friends

Reference: Matthew 4:18-22; 9:9; 10:1-4,

Main Point: The Disciples were special friends of Jesus. Friends of Jesus follow him.

An activity to do together:

1. Playdough - Make some fish and a boat, out of playdough. Attach a small net (made from an orange or onion bag) to the boat. A twig could be used as a mast, with a paper sail attached.

When completed, you could sit the model on a blue sheet of paper, (for the water).

As you create together, say; "making these fish and the boat reminds me of a true story in the bible about some fishermen who became Jesus special friends called disciples. Jesus chose 12 men to be his disciples. Not all of them were fishermen but they all helped Jesus to teach people about God.

2. Make a fish necklace together. Draw and cut out fish shapes from foil. Thread them onto string to make a necklace. As they create, tell them that there is a true story in the bible about some fishermen who became Jesus special friends called disciples. Something amazing happened when one of the fishermen took Jesus out in his boat. Jesus chose 12 men to be his disciples. Not all of them were fishermen but they all helped Jesus to teach people about God.

Bible: Retell the account of Jesus calling his first disciples, found in Matthew **4:18-22; 9:9 10:1-4**

You could use the playdough models you made together earlier, to act out the story.

Or, you could read the story of Jesus calling his first disciples, to your child from a children's bible.

Discussion:

What did the fishermen do when Jesus called them? (*They left their boats, their nets and even their families, at once, and followed Jesus. The fishermen followed Jesus because they knew that he was someone very special.*)

What did Jesus want the fishermen to do? (*to be his special friends. To come and follow him and help him teach people the good news about God.*)

Can you think of someone else Jesus asked to come and follow Him? (*Matthew, the Tax collector*)

What did Jesus want the Tax Collector to do? (*To follow Him and help Him teach people the good news about God*)

How many special friends did Jesus choose to help him while he was here on earth?

(*Jesus chose 12 special friends called disciples to help him while he was here on earth. The disciples knew that Jesus was someone very special and they came and followed Him. Jesus loved them and taught them and they helped him to tell everyone the good news about God!*)

Who is Jesus? (*Jesus is someone very special. Jesus is God's mighty son. Jesus is special because he is the only person who can fix our sin problem. It's only because of Jesus that we can be God's friends.*)



Do you think Jesus wants everyone to be friends with him and to follow him? (Yes, Jesus wants us to be friends with him too.)

As Jesus friends, what do we need to do? (*We need to love, trust and follow Him. We can learn about Jesus from the bible. We can do what he says and tell other people the good news about God, just as Jesus' first special friends, the disciples did.*)

Pray together:

Dear God,

Thank you for Jesus who died on the cross for me so that I can be his friend. Thank you for Jesus' special friends, the disciples, who helped him tell people about God. Please help me to love, follow and obey Jesus, always.

Amen

Memory verse: 'I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the father except through me.'- John 14:6

Ideas for sermon time:

1. Watch this week's video for under 5's.

2. Set out, any or all of the following:

- A "Go Fish" game,
- Basic jigsaw puzzles with a "fishy" theme,
- Picture books containing stories about the disciples or any of Jesus' other special friends eg, Mary and Martha,.

Maybe an older brother, sister or other family member, could play the game, help with the Jigsaw puzzles or read some of the stories, to their younger brother or sister during sermon time.

3. Draw as large a fish as possible on a piece of paper. Provide your child with textas, coloured pencils, crayons and collage materials such as cotton wool, coloured pieces of paper, stickers etc. to decorate the fish. You could write the memory verse across the fish and display somewhere in the house when finished.

4. Provide children with paper and drawing tools to draw pictures of a:

fishing net (*and, if he or she is able, the two brothers Peter and Andrew casting out their net*)

fishing boat (*and, if he or she is able, with James, John and Zebedee, sitting in it with their nets*)

Tax collectors' table (*and, if he or she is able, with Matthew sitting at it*)

5. **Colour** a [picture](#) from the story.