



St Lawrence
with St Paul
Longridge



Family Activities: Sunday 26th July 2020

What a Team

Introduction: Children's Church at St Lawrence with St Paul is not meeting in person at present due to the advice given by the Church of England to suspend services. However, the team is putting together a sheet each week for families to do 'Children's Church at Home' and we are also meeting on Zoom on Sunday mornings at 10.45am to go through some of the activities together!

We are very grateful to the Blackburn Board of Education and their 'Weekly@' resources which we are drawing on to help us to put together each week's activities.

Please do e-mail Carolyn Barton at carolynbarton@hotmail.co.uk to be added to the Children's Church private Facebook group and/or to be sent the link to the Sundays @10.45am Zoom Children's Church Meeting.

Theme: To show that Jesus chose disciples from many different walks of life. However, they all left everything to follow Him.

Setting the Scene:

See what this is? It's a gift. You know if you get something covered in pretty paper or the big bow, you're getting something pretty special.

We give each other gifts on birthdays and holidays, because we care for that person. They may be a family member or a friend. We love gifts. They're usually something we want. Your family member picks out that gift with you in mind, because they want you to like it.

Well when you were born, you were given gifts specifically picked out for you. These gifts were given to you by God. We also like to call them talents. The talents God has given you can be whatever you're good at. Sometimes it involves a sport, maybe you have a musical talent, or maybe you're good at science and math, or maybe you are more artistic and can draw really well. Whatever the case, God made you good at something for a reason. He wants you to serve Him with your talents

It doesn't matter what other people think of you, as long as you're doing what God wants you to do. So, don't be ashamed of your gift, or try to use a different gift that's not yours. Use the talent God gave you and you can bless others with your talent just as if you're giving them a wrapped gift.



Song: Sing and dance along to 'Big Family of God':

<https://youtu.be/smkYUzrgD7A>



Bible Passage:

A cartoon of the bible passage(s) can be found here:

<https://youtu.be/EhlwTU9RbxY> Jesus calls Peter (2m54s)

and

<https://youtu.be/MpUaSilelzc> Jesus calls his Disciples (1m20s)



...or you may prefer to read it:

Matthew 4:18-22

International Children's Bible

¹⁸ Jesus was walking by Lake Galilee. He saw two brothers, Simon (called Peter) and Simon's brother Andrew. The brothers were fishermen, and they were fishing in the lake with a net. ¹⁹ Jesus said, "Come follow me. I will make you fishermen for men." ²⁰ At once Simon and Andrew left their nets and followed him.

²¹ Jesus continued walking by Lake Galilee. He saw two other brothers, James and John, the sons of Zebedee. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets to catch fish. Jesus told them to come with him. ²² At once they left the boat and their father, and they followed Jesus.

Luke 5:1-11

Jesus' First Followers

⁵ One day Jesus was standing beside Lake Galilee. Many people were pressing all around him. They wanted to hear the word of God. ² Jesus saw two boats at the shore of the lake. The fishermen had left them and were washing their nets. ³ Jesus got into one of the boats, the one which belonged to Simon.^[a] Jesus asked Simon to push off a little from the land. Then Jesus sat down in the boat and continued to teach the people on the shore.



⁴ When Jesus had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Take the boat into deep water. If you will put your nets in the water, you will catch some fish."

⁵ Simon answered, "Master, we worked hard all night trying to catch fish, but we caught nothing. But you say to put the nets in the water; so, I will." ⁶ The fishermen did as Jesus told them. And they caught so many fish that the nets began to break. ⁷ They called to their friends in the other boat to come and help them. The friends came, and both boats were filled so full that they were almost sinking.

⁸⁻⁹ The fishermen were all amazed at the many fish they caught. When Simon Peter saw what had happened, he bowed down before Jesus and said, "Go away from me, Lord. I am a sinful man!" ¹⁰ James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were amazed too. (James and John were Simon's partners.)

Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid. From now on you will be fishermen for men." ¹¹ When the men brought their boats to the shore, they left everything and followed Jesus.

Luke 5:27-32

Levi Follows Jesus

²⁷ After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector named Levi (Matthew) sitting in the tax office. Jesus said to him, "Follow me!" ²⁸ Levi got up, left everything, and followed Jesus.

²⁹ Then Levi gave a big dinner for Jesus. The dinner was at Levi's house. At the table there were many tax collectors and other people, too. ³⁰ But the Pharisees and the men who taught the law for the Pharisees began to complain to the followers of Jesus. They said, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and 'sinners'?"

³¹ Jesus answered them, "Healthy people don't need a doctor. It is the sick who need a doctor. ³² I have not come to invite good people. I have come to invite sinners to change their hearts and lives!"

John 1:43-50

⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." ⁴⁴ Philip was from the town of Bethsaida, where Andrew and Peter lived. ⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and told him, "Remember that Moses wrote in the law



about a man who was coming, and the prophets also wrote about him. We have found him. He is Jesus, the son of Joseph. He is from Nazareth."

⁴⁶ But Nathanael said to Philip, "Nazareth! Can anything good come from Nazareth?" Philip answered, "Come and see." ⁴⁷ Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him. He said, "Here is truly a person of Israel. There is nothing false in him." ⁴⁸ Nathanael asked, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you when you were under the fig tree. That was before Philip told you about me." ⁴⁹ Then Nathanael said to Jesus, "Teacher, you are the Son of God. You are the King of Israel." ⁵⁰ Jesus said to Nathanael, "You believe in me because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. But you will see greater things than that!"



Questions to ask:

- 1) Which part of the story did you like best and why?
- 2) How do you think Peter felt when Jesus asked him to take the boat out again into the deeper water and let down the nets?
- 3) How did Peter react when the nets were overflowing with fish?
- 4) How would you feel if Jesus asked you to leave everything behind and follow him?
- 5) What talents have you been given?

Explaining the Passage (adapt for younger children):

Jesus chose disciples from many walks of life and from many different backgrounds. He is more concerned that we should follow Him rather than whether we are clever, rich, pretty, etc. God wants us to use our gifts and talents for Him. The disciples considered that following Jesus was the most important thing in their lives. They left everything behind so they could be on His team! How important is following Jesus to us? Andrew and Philip both went to find other people to tell them about Jesus. Do we ever tell our friends about Jesus and encourage them to follow Him too?



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Prayer: Dear Father, help us to use the talents that you have given us to be what you intended for us to be. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Game: You will need something soft to throw around such as a small ball or bean bag. All stand in a circle facing inwards (or if there is just two of you, stand opposite each other) and give the ball to one person. Explain that you are going to throw the ball to each other and whoever catches the ball should call out the name of someone that they know. They then shout out a positive quality of that person that begins with the same letter as the first letter of their name. For example, if they call out 'Oliver' they might say he is 'optimistic' or if they choose 'Claire' they could say 'caring'. They must do this before they are allowed to throw the ball to someone else in the circle. See how quickly you can pass the ball between you whilst remembering the good qualities of the people you know.

Activity: Prepare circles of paper and have pens/pencils ready along with some material for collage such as wool and fabric. Ask your children to use the things provided to turn a paper circle into a picture of their own face. You might like to make one too, or invite the children to make faces for others in your family! Once finished, display the faces somewhere in the house for everyone to see. Comment on how each face is different but all are equally fantastic!



Provide your children with an outline of a fish on card and show them how to cut scale shapes out of lots of different colours and textures of paper. Ask the children to decorate their fish by sticking the scales onto it. Attach a stick on to the fish so the children can make it swim like the example in this video!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UpjPZsg9u-U>

Challenge: Ask the children to think of a talent that God has given them. It may be sport, reading, baking, talking to people, making friends, being kind. Challenge them to make a special effort to use their talent at least once during the coming week. Is there a way that they can use their talent to do something good for God? Invite the children to find something at home that they have made or that is very special to them. It might be a model or card which they created, or a cuddly toy, a book, a photograph, etc. Ask them to place the special item by their bed during the coming week so that they will see it when they get up each day. Challenge them to look at it each morning and to remember that God made them, and He thinks that they are very special.