



Faith Adventures Youth Resource

Embedded in Faith Adventures: Children Together, this youth resource is intergenerational in nature and designed to foster God-connection in church, home and beyond.

For guidance on the purpose of the resource and how to use it as a launch pad for your engagement with children and families, please use this link: <https://urc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Faith-Adventures-How-To-FAYR.pdf>

Luke 5: 1-11 – A surprising catch

Theme: God can help us do surprising things

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Introduction: What would be helpful to know before we begin?

Luke

The book of Luke was written around 60 AC by Luke, the doctor who became a disciple of Jesus. Luke wanted to show that Jesus was God's son, who came to the world for everyone, Jew, Gentile, rich, poor, an extraordinary saviour for the ordinary everyday people. This is why his books tell the stories of everyday people and their part in God's big story. This week's passage from Luke takes place at the shores of the Sea of Galilee, where people had gathered to hear Jesus' teachings. A group of fishermen experience a surprising encounter, which has a transformative impact on their lives.

The surprise in this passage doesn't solely emerge from the miraculous catch of fish. It's rooted in the fact that the fishermen chose to follow Jesus' instructions in the first place. Picture the scene: a tired and weary crew, shattered from working all night and ending up empty-handed, are met by a carpenter with no apparent knowledge or experience of fishing who wants to take control of their boat. It's surprising that they even let him into the boat, and even more astonishing that they chose to hand over control to someone who didn't share their expertise.

This willingness to trust in the unexpected challenges us to question our own tendencies to persist in our ways before turning to God. How often do we, like the fishermen, exhaust our efforts before considering whether God could offer a better solution? When we truly trust in the Lord, we can be surprised. God comes up with a solution, but this might not be what we expected.



Explore

Ideas and activities to explore this week's Bible passage together

A new way to explore the theme

You may wish to use the explore section from this week's Faith Adventures: Children Together to guide your exploration of the theme this week.

Alternatively:

Whoever reads this meditation should use a slow, soft and gentle voice.

Sit somewhere where you feel comfortable and close your eyes. Take a few deep breaths, count to five (In your head) as you breathe in, hold your breath for three and then exhale for five. Repeat this four or five times.

You are stood by the water, you take off your sandals so that you can feel the cool of the water on your toes, the sun is shining on your face, it is a beautifully warm day. You wiggle your toes and look out across the vast water in front of you waves gently lapping, you smile, feeling content.

You are aware of a voice, wonderful, authoritative yet reassuring. The sort of voice you could listen to all day.

It is Jesus, he is here and he is teaching everyone.

You lay out your rug on the sand and settle down to listen.

As Jesus finishes you start to stretch, you get up, roll up your rug and put your sandals on.

You hear the fishermen come back to shore, they don't sound too happy. It sounds as though they haven't been successful in catching any fish. They seem cross and frustrated.

Jesus steps into the boat and speaks to the fishermen. He tells them to try again, to put their nets on the other side of the boat.



What does he mean? Why does he think he's sinful? I wonder what Jesus will reply.

You start to feel as though nothing else around you matters, like you are part of something extraordinary.

Calmly, gently, Jesus says, 'Do not be afraid, for you will fish for people from now on.'

Do not be afraid? Do not be afraid? You do not understand what has just happened. But then as you let those words go round your head that fear subsides.

'Follow me,' says Jesus, and just like that they all leave their boats and that amazing catch of fish, and they follow him away from the beach.

You stand mouth open, looking from the boat to the men, then to the boat again - the boat which is full of frantic, flapping fish, fish of every colour, enough fish to feed the town for the whole week. You look back to the men eagerly and voluntarily following Jesus, their voices high with excitement and anticipation.

And then you realise.

You understand.

You know why they have followed him.

Open your eyes – what questions, thoughts, ideas, pictures came into your minds as you

