

Sunday 6th February 2022

4th Sunday before Lent



Today's Gospel reading is from Luke's Gospel, chapter 5, verses 1–11:

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 signalled to 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.

😞 In this passage, we first hear how Jesus taught people from a boat belonging to Simon Peter, who was a fisherman. When Jesus had finished talking to the crowd, he told Simon to put out into deep water to catch fish. Simon and his brother Andrew, and business partners James and John, had been fishing all night and had caught nothing. They relied on having a good catch to make a living, so this would have been very worrying for them. Despite this, he knew enough about Jesus to trust him, and he did as Jesus said. What a result! The catch was so big that Simon's partners had to come with another boat to help haul it in! There were so many fish that we're told both boats nearly sank. Simon Peter recognised that putting his trust in Jesus had led to the most amazing result – Jesus doesn't do things by halves!

Simon might have felt unworthy to be in Jesus's company, but Jesus went on to ask him – and the other fishermen – to follow him and to become his first disciples. We're told that they left everything – including their fishing business – to go with Jesus and “catch people”. They would be commissioned by Jesus to spread the good news about his kingdom and help him to teach people about God's love.

We, too, are asked to be followers of Jesus and, as his disciples, to tell others about him. This isn't an easy thing to do, but, like Simon Peter, we can trust Jesus and, when we do, we will find, as Simon did, that his love and generosity will be overflowing and he will give us not only what we need, but a whole lot more!

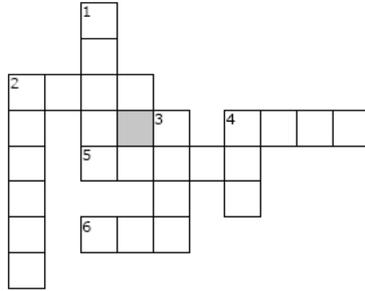
A Prayer for this week:

Loving God, sometimes life can be difficult,
and we are not able to do things in our own strength.
We ask you to give us all that we need, knowing that, in your
generosity, you will give us far more,
loving us and protecting us through everything.
Amen.

Fishing for People

Jesus replied to Simon, "Don't be afraid! From now on you'll be fishing for people!" Luke 5:10b (NLT)

This puzzle is based on Luke 5:1-11 (NLT)



ACROSS

2. An animal which lives in water and is covered with scales
4. To go down below the surface of the water
5. The land along the edge of an ocean, sea, lake, or river
6. An openwork fabric of cords used to catch fish

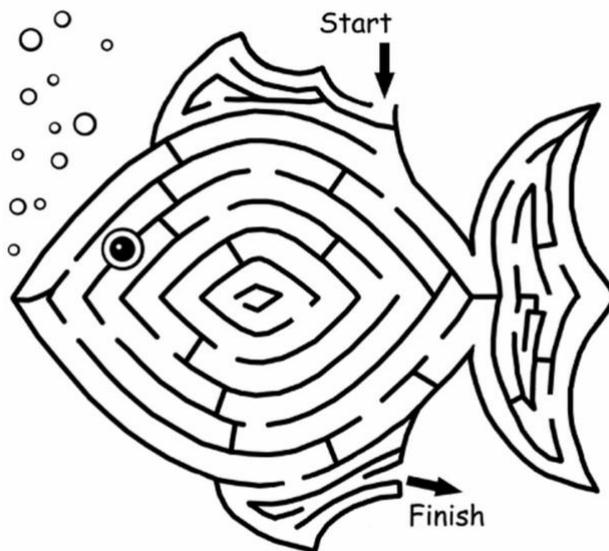
DOWN

1. The Son of God
2. To get behind someone and go where they go
3. A small vehicle for traveling on water
4. A large area of water, smaller than an ocean

Jesus	net	fish	sink
shore	boat	sea	follow

Name _____

I like to follow Jesus!



**From now on, you will fish for people.
Luke 5:10b**

