

## EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

# FISHING NETS

### EXPLORING NEXT SUNDAY'S THEME

#### *Introducing the Gospel*

##### *Call of the first disciples (Mark 1: 14-20)*

Saint Mark's Gospel begins abruptly with Jesus calling the first four disciples, Simon and his brother Andrew, and James and his brother John. All four were fishermen. Jesus called Simon and Andrew as they were casting a net into the sea; he called James and John as they were mending their nets. Called away from their trade as fishermen, Jesus equipped them to fish for people.

Our image to stimulate reflection on this passage is *fishing nets*.

#### *Core extract from the Gospel (Mark 1: 16-20; for reflection throughout the week)*

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee,  
he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake –  
for they were fishermen.  
And Jesus said to them,  
'Follow me and I will make you fish for people.'  
And immediately they left their nets and followed him.  
As he went a little farther,  
he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John,  
who were in their boat mending the nets.  
Immediately he called them;  
and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men,  
and followed him.

#### *Gospel prayer (for use throughout the week)*

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you called Simon and Andrew,  
away from casting their nets to follow you;  
you called James and John,  
away from mending their nets to follow you.  
Help us to leave behind  
all that stands in the way of our calling,  
that we may follow you  
in obedience and love;  
for you are our God.  
Amen.

**READING NEXT SUNDAY'S GOSPEL**

**Mark 1: 14-20**

**The Beginning of the Galilean Ministry**

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

**Jesus Calls the First Disciples**

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake – for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fish for people.' And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

## ENGAGING WITH THE THEME

### *Dwelling with the text (Mark 1: 14-20)*

Begin exploring Mark's account of how Jesus called his first four disciples by employing the SIFT approach of Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking. You may find that one of these approaches comes easier to you than the others. But it is worth trying all four.

- What details in the passage catch your attention (Sensing)?
- What big ideas in the passage spark in your mind (Intuition)?
- What most touches your heart in the passage (Feeling)?
- What most stretches your mind and makes you think in the passage (Thinking)?

### *Thinking and talking*

Identify topics within the passage that can get you thinking and talking. Here are some ideas to get you started.

- How do you understand these opening words, 'The time is fulfilled and the Kingdom of God has come'?
- What do you make of Mark's decision to start his Gospel so abruptly with the call of disciples?
- Is it significant that Simon and Andrew were casting a net, while James and John were mending nets?
- How do you feel about Zebedee being left behind?
- What does this narrative say for us today?

### *Using your Bible*

Compare how Matthew also begins his account of Jesus' ministry with the call of disciples and how Luke delays this call.

- Matthew 4: 18-22
- Luke 5: 1-11

Explore other passages about fishing in the Gospels.

- Matthew 13: 47-48
- Mark 6: 41
- John 21: 3-14

## THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT (YEAR B) Sunday 10 November 2024

### *Exploring online*

Widen your exploration of Jesus' call to the first disciples to fish for people by looking up some of the following themes and others of your own choosing.

- Jesus casting nets, mending nets in art
- I will make you fish for people
- Making fishing nets

### *Drawing on experience*

The image to stimulate reflection on Jesus' call to the first disciples to fish for people is *fishing nets*. Draw on your own experience of fishing nets. For example:

- Have you experienced fishing with nets?
- Have you seen commercial fishing with nets?
- Have you experience of evangelistic outreach (fishing for people)?

What have you learned about fishing nets and about fishing?

### *Creating and making*

This section offers pointers to some creative activities that may be inspired by Mark's account of how Jesus called his first disciples or by the image of fishing nets.

- Make a collage of the disciples mending and casting nets.
- Make a large net to display.
- Cut out fish shapes to be caught in the net.
- Create a reflection, poem, or prayer on Mark's account of how Jesus called his first disciples or on the image of fishing nets.



**Liverpool  
Cathedral**

## **EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL**

Each week we are inviting people in their homes to look forward to those Sunday services that follow the Revised Common Lectionary Gospel readings. We employ the SIFT approach (Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking) to encourage reflection on the Sunday Gospel. We are suggesting a variety of ways in which people of all ages, and households working together, may engage with the Gospel reading and celebrate that engagement with shared activities.

Our invitation then is for you to share your reflections, prayers and photos of your creative work with the Cathedral by emailing them to [smc.lesliefrancis@gmail.com](mailto:smc.lesliefrancis@gmail.com).

These materials have been developed by the Canon Theologian of Liverpool Cathedral working in collaboration with the staff team here at the Cathedral, and with sponsorship and support from the St Mary's Centre in Wales.



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