Game: Acting out different ways to catch something. E.g catching a ball.

Discuss: What did all those actions have in common? 'Catching' there are lots of different meanings for catching something.

Story: Video of Peter being called, as well as Andrew, James and John the sons of Zebedee. Bible Project. Matt 4:18-22

Lesson:

When Jesus called each of his disciples, he watched them doing their jobs. Simon (Peter) Andrew, James and John were fishermen. He saw that they were good at doing their job, catching fish. But he also saw that they had the potential to be good at doing a different job, following him. He looked at them and thought...'Oh I know what you would be good at learning from me and teaching others about me later.' In Simon Peter Jesus saw that he would be a good leader of the first ever Church, that would grow and develop after Jesus’ death, resurrection and ascension.

Think and share in the group: Think about the work you do. Do you feel that you are good at it? Do you have goals to get better at it or more hours in work? Or do you wish you could have a different job?

Write: What do you do for ‘work’?

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Write: One work related goal.

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Lesson:
Jesus saw that Simon, Andrew, James and John could catch fish. Then he said that he would make them ‘fishers of men’. This means that the disciples would learn to bring people into the family of God.

_Catching fish requires 3 things:_
1. Patience, to wait for the fish.
2. A good sense of timing: Knowing when and where to drop the net.
3. Being physically strong enough to pull the fish on board.

Catching people, as in, bringing them into the family of God by telling them about Jesus can also require these things:

1. Patience: Waiting for people to ask about your faith in Jesus. Waiting for opportunities to mention that you go to church or like worship music. Waiting for people to see Jesus in you. Not shouting at people or arguing. Praying and trusting that they will want to know about Jesus or come to church when it seems like they don’t want to for now.

2. A good sense of timing: Knowing when to invite someone to church. Maybe for a special occasion like a church event or a concert, maybe at Christmas time.

3. Being a fisher of people does **not** require physical strength. Being a disciple and follower of Jesus does not require any physical ability….to
walk or run, to lift heavy things, to jump or trampoline or anything. Even people who cannot move one digit on their finger can be a disciple of Jesus and can show Jesus to the whole world. They do this with their heart, with their spirit, with their ability to persevere through hard times. If you have a disability do you sometimes worry that it holds you back in church or makes you less able to serve God? Don’t believe that. It’s not true. God, the Son, Jesus looks at you today. He can see what your job is. He can see what you are good at doing. He can see what other job you might be able to learn to do and be good at. He can see your abilities and your potential. Ask God for his help today and every day to follow him and to grow in your faith.

Lesson:

Peter’s trusted Jesus. We will read two stories about Peter’s trust in Jesus. Matthew 14:22-34 and Matthew 16:13-17

Get the two groups to learn about these and teach the story to the others using pictures.

Pray: Lord thank you for calling me to be a disciple. Help me to follow you each day. Guide me in my work. Give me patience with people. Help me know how to show others your love.

HOMEWORK

1. Tell someone who supports you at home what your goal is for your work this year.
2. Say the above prayer several times this week.
3. Find a shoebox - we are going to take part in the Christmas Shoebox appeal this year. Leaflets with more information are going to be given out next time we meet.
Matthew 14:22-34 New International Reader's Version (NIRV)

Jesus Walks on the Water

22 Right away Jesus made the disciples get into the boat. He had them go on ahead of him to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. Then he sent the crowd away. 23 After he had sent them away, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone. 24 The boat was already a long way from land. It was being pounded by the waves because the wind was blowing against it.

25 Shortly before dawn, Jesus went out to the disciples. He walked on the lake. 26 They saw him walking on the lake and were terrified. “It’s a ghost!” they said. And they cried out in fear.

27 Right away Jesus called out to them, “Be brave! It is I. Don’t be afraid.”

28 “Lord, is it you?” Peter asked. “If it is, tell me to come to you on the water.”

29 “Come,” Jesus said.

So Peter got out of the boat. He walked on the water toward Jesus. 30 But when Peter saw the wind, he was afraid. He began to sink. He cried out, “Lord! Save me!”

31 Right away Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. “Your faith is so small!” he said. “Why did you doubt me?”

32 When they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. 33 Then those in the boat worshiped Jesus. They said, “You really are the Son of God!”

34 They crossed over the lake and landed at Gennesaret.
Matthew 16:13-20 New International Reader's Version (NIRV)

Peter Says That Jesus Is the Messiah

13 Jesus went to the area of Caesarea Philippi. There he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?”

14 They replied, “Some say John the Baptist. Others say Elijah. Still others say Jeremiah, or one of the prophets.”

15 “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

16 Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah. You are the Son of the living God.”

17 Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon, son of Jonah! No mere human showed this to you. My Father in heaven showed it to you. 18 Here is what I tell you. You are Peter. On this rock I will build my church. The gates of hell will not be strong enough to destroy it. 19 I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. What you lock on earth will be locked in heaven. What you unlock on earth will be unlocked in heaven.”

20 Then Jesus ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.