

# Third Sunday after Epiphany



The Children's Illustrated Bible page 210

As Jesus walked along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. Jesus said, “Follow me and I will make you fishers of people.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him. When Jesus walked a little farther, he saw James, son of Zebedee, and his brother John, who were in their boat mending nets. Immediately he called them; and they followed him. —Mark 1:16–20 adapted

## Jonah and Jesus

Share the story of Jesus calling the fishermen to “Come, follow me” from *The Children's Illustrated Bible* and Mark 1:16–20. Discuss: What would have happened if the fishermen did not want to follow Jesus? What if they tried to hide from Jesus?

This is what Jonah did. Jonah was a prophet who lived 700 years before Jesus. God called him to go to another town and teach the people about God. But Jonah did not want to go. Read Jonah 1:1–2. Discuss: Once Jonah decided to “get up and go” to the Ninevites, they changed their ways. God does not destroy those who don't follow. God gave the Ninevites and Jonah another change to “get up and go.”

## Get Up and Go Game

God called many people to get up and go. Jesus said “Follow me.” Play a game where God or Jesus said, “Get up and go!” Copy the scriptures listed here onto index cards. Give each kid a scripture card to look up in the Bible. Discover who Jesus or God was talking to, then “get up and go” to write it on a chalkboard when they find the answer. Don't write the answers (listed in parentheses) on the cards—they are for teachers only!

**Matthew 4:18–19**  
(Simon Peter and Andrew)

**John 1:43**  
(Philip)

**Matthew 19: 20–21**  
(rich young ruler)

**Luke 9:23**  
(anyone)

**Luke 5:27**  
(tax collector named Levi)

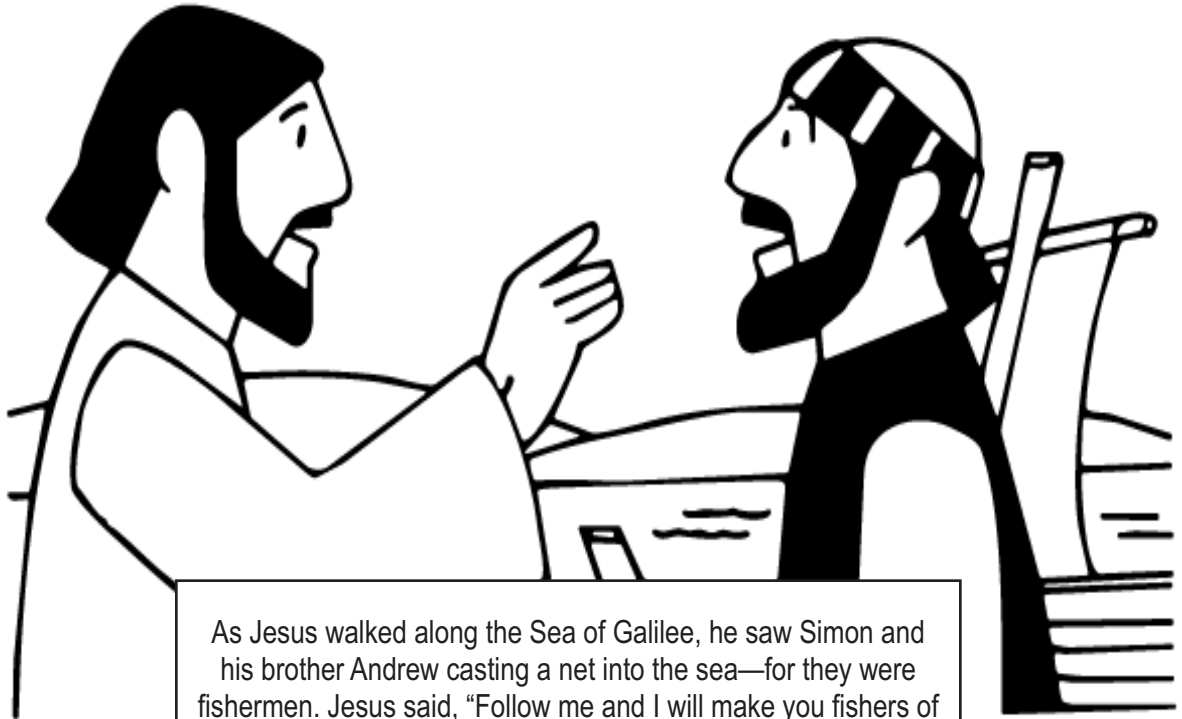
**Mark 2:10–11**  
(lame man)

## Fish Wind Socks or Kites

Remind kids to be fishers of people by making colorful fish kites as they do in Japan on *Kodomo no hi*, a children's day celebration held May 5.

1. Give each kid two sheets of long paper, nylon, or other fabric.
2. Kids draw a large fish—filling the paper—adding eyes, scales, fins, and tail. One end should be the mouth, which will attach to a plastic ring. Kids should color both sides of the fish.
3. Glue, staple, or tape both sides of the fish together around all the edges, with the mouth open.
4. Give each kid a plastic ring. Attach the fish mouth to the ring with tape or glue.
5. Attach fishing line or other string to two sides of the plastic ring in a big loop that kids can hold.

Encourage kids to run, holding their fish in the air. The fish will seem to be “swimming.” Carp kites are made in Japan as a reminder for Japanese children to be courageous against obstacles, just as the carp is in swimming upstream.



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**Write some ways you can be a “fisher of people” on the fish shapes below.**

