

Jesus' Special Friends



Bright
Sparks

I G N I T E

DNA

Introduction

- ▶ Some of these resources are adapted from the energize.net.uk website and are used with permission.
- ▶ In this session, we are going to be thinking about when Jesus calls the first disciples - His special friends.
- ▶ The session has a number of activities designed to be carried out together as a family and is suitable for all ages of children and young people.
- ▶ Any materials you need should be found in your house and should not require you to go anywhere.
- ▶ Enjoy, and God bless you as you use these resources at home.
- ▶ So let's begin as we always do....Hands up for news time!

NEWS TIME!



SHARE YOUR NEWS
OF THE WEEK



WHAT DO YOU WANT
TO THANK GOD FOR?



HOW HAS SOMEONE
HELPED YOU?

Game - Dream Team

- ▶ Each member of your family needs to pick three people they would choose to have in their “dream team” - people who you would have to help you, be your friend, win a competition or sporting event (you decide the scenario).
- ▶ Take it in turns to stand up and give a quick speech about why the people you have chosen should be in the dream team, and why people should vote for your choices.
- ▶ You then vote on who you want to be in your family “dream team”. You can decide the best voting strategy for your family (e.g. only five people in the dream team, or each person gets one of their candidates chosen)



Bible Story - Jesus' Special Friends

- ▶ Today we are starting a new series with stories taken from the book of Luke in the Bible. Today's story is from Luke 5:1-11. If you have a Bible, maybe you can find the story yourself.
- ▶ The Bible story is on the next page for you to read, but today you need to find some water to act out the story. This could be the bathtub, kitchen sink or maybe a paddling pool - whatever floats your boat!
- ▶ Get some props and have a go at acting out the story using your bathtub (or sink) as the lake.
- ▶ Suggested props are:
 - ▶ An ice cream tub or container for the boat
 - ▶ Lego people or small toys for the disciples and Jesus (or you could make some people from pipe cleaners)
 - ▶ Tin foil fishes (or you could use something heavier like marbles to make the fish go to the bottom of the lake)
 - ▶ A sieve or colander for the fishing net

Bible Story - Jesus' Special Friends

- ▶ One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. ² He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets.
- ▶ ³ He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.
- ▶ ⁴ When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."
- ▶ ⁵ Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets."
- ▶ ⁶ When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. ⁷ So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.
- ▶ ⁸ When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" ⁹ For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, ¹⁰ and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners.
- ▶ Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people."
¹¹ So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

Discussion - A surprising catch?

Pick and choose any of the questions below you want to discuss in your family.

- ▶ Who was in today's story?
- ▶ If you were one of the fisherman how would you have reacted when Jesus said to put the nets down? (Remember Jesus was trained as a carpenter growing up, not as a fisherman)
- ▶ Was it surprising that they caught lots of fish?
- ▶ How did the fishermen react?
- ▶ What did Jesus ask them to do at the end of the story? Did they obey? How would you have reacted if you were one of the fishermen?
- ▶ What do you think happened to all the fish they caught?
- ▶ What did Jesus mean when he said they would "fish for people"?
- ▶ Do you think the fishermen were a surprising choice to be disciples?



Prayer - Will you be a friend of Jesus?



- ▶ Everyone should make an origami boat from a piece of paper. You can find instructions or video tutorials online if you aren't sure how to make one.
- ▶ Jesus asked the fishermen to follow Him and be His special friends (disciples). Jesus asks us to be His special friends too. Spend some time thinking about if you want to be Jesus' special friend and write anything you want on your boat.
- ▶ A few suggestions of things you could write:
 - ▶ "Yes Jesus I want to be your friend"
 - ▶ "I'm not sure about being your friend and my doubts/questions are..."
 - ▶ "Please help me to follow your example when I....."
 - ▶ "Thank you Jesus that you want me to be your special friend"
- ▶ Launch your boats onto your "lake" and if you want to spend some time saying some prayers out loud.



Creative time

Have a go at one or more of the activities below:



- ▶ Draw a big fish on a piece of paper and colour it in or decorate it.
- ▶ Make a newspaper/magazine article about today's story - you could include eyewitness accounts, pictures, a timeline.
- ▶ Find out the names of the rest of Jesus' disciples (look in Matthew 10:2-4) and make a concertina paper person chain of the 12 disciples. Think about the kinds of people Jesus chose.
- ▶ Think about all the ways you can learn about Jesus, tell people about Jesus, and be His special friend. Write/draw your ideas on pieces of paper and peg them onto a washing line.

Memory Verse

- ▶ Today's memory verse is:

Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people." Luke 5:10

- ▶ Cut out fishes from paper and write one word on each fish.
- ▶ Attach a paperclip to each fish.
- ▶ Get a wooden spoon and attach some string to it with a fridge magnet on the end - to make a fishing rod.
- ▶ Spread the fish out on the floor and have a go at fishing and then put together the memory verse in the right order.
- ▶ As an alternative to paperclips and magnets, you could use bluetac or sticky tape.



Reflection

- ▶ What was surprising in today's story?
- ▶ What was your favourite part of today's session?
- ▶ Will you follow Jesus and be His special friend?

- ▶ Prayer to end:

Thank you, God for our time together learning about when Jesus called His first disciples - His special friends. Thank you that you want to be our special friend too and help us to follow You this week. Thank you for loving us and caring for us. AMEN!

Something extra:

- ▶ Talk to a grown up in your family or church about when they decided to follow Jesus. Maybe ask them why they chose to be Jesus' friend, when it's been easy to be Jesus' friend, and when it's been hard to be Jesus' friend.