



## Activity

### Materials:

Blank paper

Coloring utensils

Jesus invited the fishermen to follow, listen, and learn from him using a metaphor (or picture) he knew they would understand: "If you follow me, we will catch people instead of fish." Imagine how this story would be different if Simon, James, and John were painters or farmers. What do you think Jesus would have said instead? Jesus meets us where we are—in fishing boats, art classes, or soccer fields—and invites us to use our skills and passions to share God's love with the world.

Walk through this guided imaginative prayer together:

- Close your eyes and imagine you're doing something you love. What is it?
- Now imagine Jesus walks up to you with a big smile on his face and joins you.
- He looks at you and says, "You are so happy doing what you love. Do you want to use that to share my love with the world?"
- How do you feel at this moment?
- Now open your eyes.

Reflect together as a group. Pass out paper and coloring utensils, and invite participants to draw a picture in response to this imagination exercise. How can you share God's love with the world around you by doing what you love to do?

### Alternate Activity

#### Materials:

Recycled materials

String

Scissors

Tape

Simon, James, and John were fish experts—they knew everything about fish! They knew the best places, times of day, and techniques to catch fish. Maybe that's why they were confused when Jesus told them to cast their nets at a time and place they thought there wouldn't be fish. That's also why they were so amazed when they caught more fish than their boats could carry!

As a group, brainstorm a list of everything you know about fish: *Where do they live? What do they eat? How many different species can you name?*

Set out an assortment of recycled materials (newspaper, cardboard tubes, etc.) or encourage participants to look through their recycling bins.

- What do you notice about these items?
- What are they made of?
- What are they used for?

Cardboard, glass, and plastic are useful, but they don't disappear when we throw them away. While some of it is recycled to be used again, most of our waste ends up in a landfill or oceans, rivers, and lakes. Look up pictures of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch and explore the problem of water pollution.

- How does waste end up in our oceans, rivers, and lakes?
- How does our pollution affect these ecosystems?

### Did you know...

- It takes most types of plastic over 400 years to completely decompose. Until then, it simply breaks into smaller and smaller pieces known as microplastics.
- Only about 9% of plastic waste is recycled.
- About 80% of plastic waste in the ocean comes from land.

After exploring water pollution, instruct participants to create fish sculptures using only scissors, tape, and recycled materials. **Optional:** When finished, tie a string around the fish to easily hang.



## Micropractice

The kingdom of God has more than enough. When you share a snack or toy or seat with a friend, remember how Jesus called us to live in abundance. Whisper to yourself, "more than enough to share."



Download a graphic to share with your community and on social media. You can download it here: [illstrtdm.in/minirevCAE5](http://illstrtdm.in/minirevCAE5)



## Prayer

O God of abundant love, like fish in the disciples' nets, you have caught our curiosity and wonder. Help us be brave, like the disciples leaving the boat, as we learn to trust and follow you. Amen.

**Sunday, 2/6:** Luke 5:1-11 Fishing Time, "good" fish.

**3 Ways Resources:** Upcycle fish mobile shrink art - <https://youtu.be/x-8jDJ1lwHY>,

**Packet Materials:** Mini-Rev Activity page/Activity instructions, Storybook, emery board, colored pencils

Activity Instructions: Jesus met several of his disciples by the sea, when they were doing what they loved to do, and were good at doing, fishing! When he asked them to follow him, they were unsure. They didn't know if they would be "good enough", but Jesus told them that everyone is welcome in God's kin-dom, on earth and heaven. And that's the good news he needed help in sharing. What are you good at doing? What are you not good at doing yet that you would like try? Share and wonder about these questions while you make Shrinky-dink fish by upcycling #6 plastic that we don't want in our oceans.

### **DIY Shrinky Dinks Steps**

#### Step 1

Wash and dry your #6 plastic. Clamshell take-out containers work great. Preheat your oven or toaster oven to 350 degrees.

#### Step 2

Cut out a flat piece. Remember your shrinky dink will shrink to about 1/3 of the size of the original plastic.

Because you will need very sharp scissors to cut this plastic, we recommend the parents do the cutting for younger kids!

#### Step 3

Draw out or trace your fish design on your plastic and color it in. You can use permanent markers or colored pencils. NOT washable markers or crayons. If you use colored pencils, use sand paper or your emery board to make the coloring surface a little rough.

#### Step 4

Cut it down to the outline of the shape. (young children might need help with this). Place your finished plastic on a piece of aluminum foil. You can fold up the edges of the foil to prevent your plastic from slipping around or off!

Place in oven and allow to bake for about 3 minutes. We highly recommend you watch it while it does its magic – the kids especially will love watching them curl up and shrink.

Note: while you can use a baking pan, because they are thicker it may take longer to bake!

#### Step 5

Once the shrinky dink has become flat again you can remove it from the oven. They will be hot so please use an oven mitt or tongs to remove them.

Let cool!