



Elementary: It's Only the Beginning

Winter Session (Week of Jan. 24)

"Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." MK 1:14-20

"For He taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes" MK 1:22-28

Jesus begins His public ministry – He selects the right friends to walk this journey with Him. God gives us the grace we need to choose the right friends.

GATHER: Going On A Fishing Trip

For our @Matt groups, this is a getting reacquainted activity. The @Home modification depends upon the number of children. For 3 or more children, sit in a circle with them and begin by having the first child name something they want to bring on the fishing trips. Child 2 repeats what child 1 says and adds their own. Child 3 repeats the first two items, and adds their own... and so on. Continue play until someone forgets an item or you have reached 25 items! For 1-3 children, start with the letter "A" and name something that starts with A that you will bring on the fishing trip. Remembering the "A" item, have children take turns adding items (or just list, if one child) using letters of the alphabet... example: Apple, Bait, Chair, Donut... Game concludes when all letters have been used.

CONNECT: Wants versus Needs

Our game was all about gathering everything we wanted to have with us on an imaginary fishing trip. If we were really going on a fishing trip, we would also have to think of everything we needed to have with us – not just the things we wanted. Today, we are going to learn how Jesus prepared for His travels to tell people about God the Father, and we will also see how God prepares us for our life by making sure we have all we need through Jesus, God's Son.



EXPLORE: Grade Level Activities

YEAR 1 (CH 9) This lesson focuses on Christmas and Good News. Keeping Christmas spirit in our hearts helps us live as Jesus' disciples even in the cold days of January and beyond! This lesson also reminds us that all families are holy families!

YEAR 2 (CH 6, Blessed Reconciliation Book) This lesson focuses on special moments in our life, the importance of prayer and the power of good habits. [BLESSED VIDEOS, LESSON 6](#)

Journal with Jesus: As we close out the First Reconciliation book have your child spend a few minutes writing down their response to the journal question on page 199. **"I am so blessed to have had my 1st Reconciliation because..."**

Grade 3 (CH 9) This lesson reminds us that our faith is open to all. Enhance the lesson by asking "What is something you can't live without?" Listen to a few guesses then tell them the answer is WATER. Water is one of the wonderful gifts God gives us. Water is also a sign of baptism, the first sacrament we receive when we become part of the Catholic Church. Think of all the different ways people and animals use water. God gave us Jesus as our living water. Just as we can't live without water, we can't live without Jesus—He's our living water!

Grade 4 (CH 9) The Holy Spirit Guides Us. Open the lesson by telling the children they have a pretend mission to go on. They are at our Church but have to get to the Panthers Stadium uptown. Sir Purr is waiting in a golf cart to drive you to the stadium, but he you need to give him directions! How would you get to the stadium? Just as we use road signs and direction apps to get to destinations in our cars, in life, we have the Holy Spirit to guide us. He helps keep the Sacraments alive and growing within us to get us to our real destination, Heaven! The Holy Spirit helps us to make the right choices.

Grade 5 (CH 9) God's Word Feeds Us. Communication is an important exchange of ideas, information, or opinions between two or more people. What are different ways that we can communicate (*words, images, actions, by letter, on the phone*). God created us to be truthful in all forms of communication. God communicates and reveals His divine love for us through His Word.

REFLECT: Read the Sunday Gospels **Jesus Calls Four Fishermen** (Jan. 24, MK 1:14-20) and **Jesus Teaches with Authority** (Jan. 31, MK 1:22-28) or view them at our [CATHOLIC KIDS CONNECTION!](#)

LIVE IT! Jesus showed us the importance of choosing the right friends and people to have around us. This week, as a family, think of the people who help and support your family. Choose one (or more) to show your appreciation for their friendship by leaving a note on their front door letting them know why you are thankful they are in your life.