

# FOLLOW ME.

## Minute meditation: Fishers of people.

*Jesus was standing on the shore of Lake Gennesaret, teaching the people as they crowded round him to hear God's message. Near the shore, he saw two boats left there by some fishermen who had gone to wash their nets. Jesus got into the boat that belonged to Simon and asked him to row out a little way from the shore. Then Jesus sat down in the boat and began to teach the crowd.*

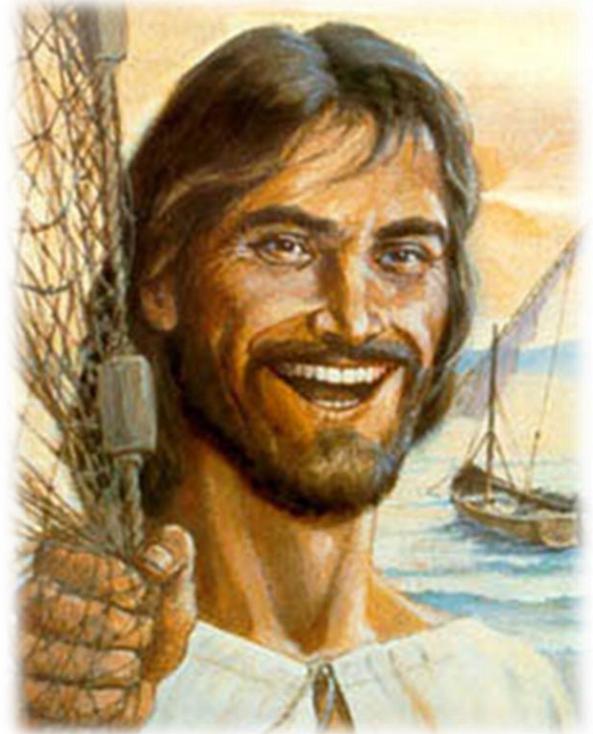
*When Jesus had finished speaking, he told Simon, "Row the boat out into deep water and let your nets down to catch some fish."*

*"Master," Simon answered, "we have worked hard all night long and caught nothing. But if you want me to, I will let the nets down."*

*They did it and caught so many fish that their nets began ripping apart! They called to their friends in the other boat to come and help them, and together, they filled two boats so full that they began to sink.*

*When Simon Peter saw this happen, he knelt down in front of Jesus and said, "Leave me, Lord! I am a sinner." He and everyone with him were completely surprised at all the fish they had caught.*

*Jesus told Simon, "Do not be afraid! From now on you will be fishers of people." They brought their boats ashore, left everything and followed Jesus.*



### Practical suggestion:

How can we be "fishers of people"? One way is to pray for them. Set up a fishing line in class this week by hanging a piece of string across the room. Cut out some fish shapes, write a prayer on each one for someone you care about and peg it to the line.

### Video:

What does being a "fisher of people" look like in the modern day? Watch this video for some ideas:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rk8ERxqCZqQ>

**Day 1:** In this week's Gospel, Jesus is just starting out in his public ministry. Because of his teaching and his miracle with the fish, he enlists his first followers- Simon Peter and his friends. In his first meeting with Jesus, Simon Peter was overwhelmed and surprised at the power and generosity of Jesus. The vast number of fish that the disciples caught are a symbol of God's abundant love for each one of us.

Discuss/ reflect:

- Have you ever been overwhelmed at the love and generosity shown to you by someone?
- Have you ever been surprised by God?

***Father, we know that you love us with an endless love. Help us to respond to your presence in our lives in the same way the disciples responded to Jesus: by following you without hesitation. Amen.***

**Day 2:** In this week's Gospel, Jesus calls his first disciples and gives them a mission:

***'Jesus told Simon, "Do not be afraid! From now on you will be fishers of people."***

"Fishers of people" is an interesting phrase. The job of a fisherman was to catch fish, but Jesus can't mean for his disciples to capture or enslave people. Instead, if we think of the sea as a metaphor for the troubled world, the job of the fisherman would be to rescue the fish and take them safely to shore. To do this, the disciples would need some new skills: they would need to learn care and patience. And by doing so, they would not be merely blind followers of Jesus, but teachers like him: they would share in his work of bringing the message to others.

Discuss/ reflect:

- Jesus challenged his disciples to grow, to learn & achieve their potential. In what ways does he challenge you to grow and learn?

***Lord Jesus, just as you called to your disciples, you call to us. Help us to hear your call and follow you. Lord Jesus, just as you loved your disciples, you love us. Help us to accept that love, and show it to others. Lord Jesus, just as you surprised your disciples, you surprise us with your generosity. Help us to see your presence in our world and the generous gifts you give us. Amen.***

**Day 3:** In this week's Gospel, Simon Peter and his friends responded powerfully to meeting Jesus:

***'They brought their boats ashore, left everything and followed Jesus.'***

Just as he called to his disciples then, Jesus calls to all of us now, and asks us to follow him. Our response might not be as dramatic as Peter's, but our faith in Jesus requires some sort of response, a change in our attitude to life, our actions and our words.

Discuss/ reflect:

- How can you be a disciple of Jesus?
- What changes in attitude/ lifestyle are required to be a follower of Jesus? Are they easy or difficult changes to make?

***Merciful God, you call us to follow, even if the path is difficult to see, or is heading in a direction we would never have chosen for ourselves. Forgive us for being so quick to question and so hesitant to follow. Help us to see with the eyes of faith, rather than from our own human point of view. Teach us to follow without fear, knowing that you are always with us, leading the way. Amen.***

**Day 4:** In this week's reading, Jesus called his disciples, and we have thought about how he calls to us too. But what does he call us to do? What does it mean to be a Christian today? Read this reflection together slowly and think about what the words mean for you.

We have a call!

To be loved  
and to love.

To be shown mercy  
and to show mercy.

To be forgiven  
and to forgive.

To receive hope  
and to offer hope .

To know joy  
and share joy.

To feel peace  
and bring peace.

To be made whole  
and offer wholeness.

We have a call

Listen...

Listen...

Do you hear?

