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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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*Written for Sunday, January 21, 2018*

*Third Sunday after Epiphany*

*Lectionary Year B*

**Scripture:** [Mark 1:14-20](#) [ **Summary:** *From Fishermen to Disciples* ]

**Supplies Needed:** No supplies needed

**ASK** (a.k.a. [The On-Ramp](#))

- Good morning!
- Have you ever gone fishing or watched someone who is fishing?
- Yeah? Good! Maybe you can help me out. Can you tell me what tools you usually use when you go fishing? (basics: fishing line, reel, pole, lure, hooks and bobber, a net, maybe a boat)
- What do you think, do you think you could show me what it looks like to cast a lure?
- Can you show me what it looks like if you hook a fish and start to reel it in?
- That's very good!
- But here's a funny question: What is easier, do you think: To fish when above the water or under the water?
- Can you imagine doing all of that casting and reeling-in while being underwater? [*Wait to see what they say*]
- Those are good ideas, you shared. Personally, I think it'd be a lot harder to cast the lure if you were underwater and a lot easier if you were above the water and able to cast the lure through the air.

**TELL** (a.k.a. [The Freeway](#))

- I ask about fishing because in today's scripture story, we hear that Jesus is talking to some fishermen.
- In their conversation, Jesus tells them that if they follow him, that he will teach them how to fish for people.

- What he means by this is that he will teach them how to share the Good News with other people.
- But, before the soon-to-be disciples can share the good news with others, they have to first learn how to *live* the good news.
- Just like it is best to cast a lure through the air (above the water), it is also best to share the good news with others when you are *living* the good news.

## **SHARE the Good News** (a.k.a. *The Destination*)

- The good news Jesus teaches and shares with others is how to pay attention to God in the here and now.
- And as the disciples learned from Jesus how to pay attention to God, they were changed.
- In today's story, we see how the disciples changed jobs because of the good news – how they went from being fishermen to being followers of Jesus.
- As followers of Jesus, they learned how to live the good news.
- And, the more they learned to live the good news, the more they could teach others how to live the good news as well – just like Jesus did.
- Just like the disciples learned to live the good news, so too can we learn from Jesus in the scripture stories how to pay attention to God in the here and now.
- And as we learn to live the good news, we will also learn how to share the good news with others, just like Jesus and his disciples did.
- That's the good news for today. Let's pray...

### **CLOSING Prayer**

**Dear God,**

Dear God,

**Thank you...**

Thank you...

**...for your Good News.**

...for your Good News.

**Please help us...**

Please help us...

**...to learn and live your Good News...**

...to learn and live your Good News...

**...so that...**

...so that...

**...we can share it with others.**

...we can share it with others.

**Thank you and amen.**