

Third Sunday of the Year

Focus

A candle with a model or toy boat, some 'fishing' net, and some shells scattered around them.

Introduction

Some people have charisma, a special quality about them that inspires others and fills them with joyful enthusiasm. Jesus had so much charisma that he was able simply to invite his first disciples to follow him and they did so without a second thought or sign of hesitation.

Gloria

Gospel Acclamation

Light the Gospel candle and sing Acclamation 2.

Gospel

A reading from the Gospel of St Mark (1:14-20)

After John the Baptist had been arrested by Herod, Jesus began to preach to the crowds and proclaim the Good News. One day, while walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting their nets to catch fish. Jesus called out to them, 'Come, follow me and I will make you fishers of people.' The brothers left their nets and followed him.

Further along the shore Jesus saw James and his brother John, who were mending nets with their father Zebedee. Jesus called them too, and at once they left their father and followed him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection

Imagine that you were Simon and Andrew fishing on the Sea of Galilee. Would you have dropped your nets and followed a complete stranger?

It seems amazing to us to think that these men were ready to leave what they were busy doing and follow Jesus. Perhaps they had heard about his preaching and they were curious to find out more about him. Who knows, perhaps the fishing that day was very poor and they had nothing to lose by leaving their nets to follow Jesus!

Jesus called another two disciples that day. Can you remember what they were called?

James and John were also fishing on the lake that day. Just like Simon and Andrew they did not hesitate to leave their father and nets, and follow Jesus simply because he had called them.

Did Jesus choose educated people to be his first followers? He chose simple fishermen to hear and understand his message, rather than well-educated and knowledgeable Jews. Jesus read people's hearts; he knew whether they had the outlook and attitude to want to serve God with undivided hearts and minds. Jesus taught us that greatness is reflected in lowliness and service. He was looking for people with hearts full of love who would be willing and able to serve God.

Why do you think the first disciples chose to follow Jesus that day?

Jesus saw them as disciples, and called them to 'come, follow me.' This first encounter or meeting with Jesus was so powerfully life changing and transforming that these simple fishermen were ready to leave their work and boats and follow him. Something about the presence of Jesus, something about him that was so special, convinced these brothers to follow him without hesitation.

What did Jesus mean when he said that he wanted to make them 'fishers of people'?

Jesus knew that he couldn't succeed in his mission without some help. He needed disciples to share his work and to continue his mission to share the Good News with the whole world after he had returned to his Father in heaven. Just as a fisherman gathers fish into his nets from all over the sea, so the disciples would gather people from far and wide to become followers of Jesus.

Activity

As a reminder of today's Gospel story, make paper fish from paper plates or circles of card folded in half. Draw or stick eyes on and glue pieces of silver foil or coloured tissue paper on to the bodies to make scales. Other pieces of card or paper can be added to make fins and tails of various shapes and sizes.

Intercessions

As brothers and sisters in one loving family, together let us pray to our heavenly Father:

We pray for the Church and her leaders as they guide and help people to follow Christ today.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are called to follow and serve Christ as priests and sisters.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the dying as they prepare to follow Christ into the kingdom of heaven.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for people who are looking to find and follow Christ's path in their lives.

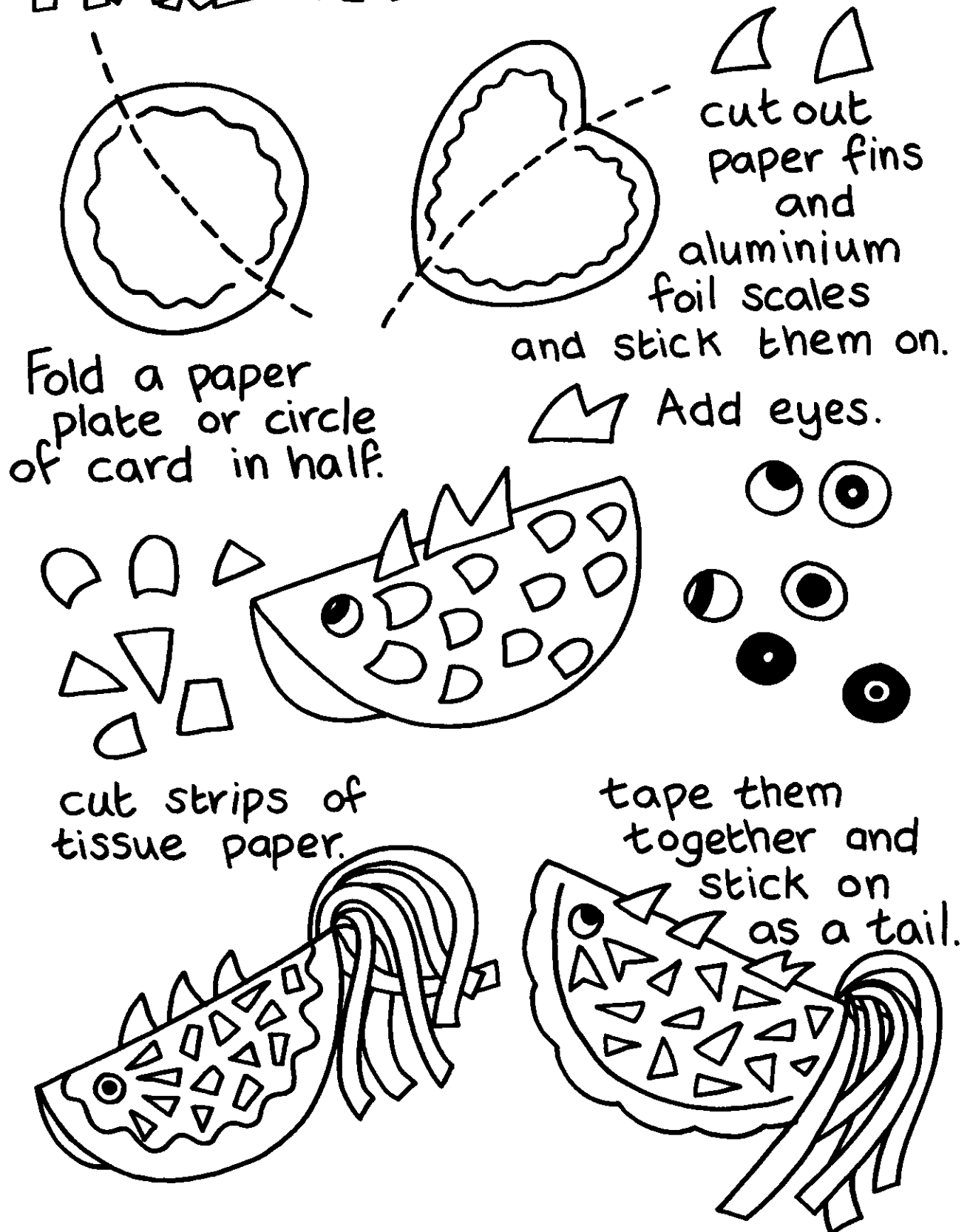
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Knowing that our heavenly Father is listening, in the silence of our hearts let us share our own unspoken prayers with him.

Silence

Loving Father,
give us the courage to follow when we hear you call.
Guide us back to the path that leads to your kingdom if we should lose our way.
We ask this in the name of Jesus our Lord.
Amen.

MAKE PAPER FISH



Third Sunday of the Year

Follow me

INTRODUCTION

Jesus called the first disciples to follow him, and they left everything and went with him. Today each of us is called to follow Jesus by sharing God's love with everyone as he taught us to.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

LIGHT THE CANDLES

Light the candles and sing the Candle Song together.

SORRY

Listen carefully to the words of this story told by Matthew in his Gospel:

One day Simon Peter asked Jesus, "Master, how many times must I forgive someone who hurts me? As many as seven times?" Jesus answered, "Not just seven times, Peter, but seventy times seven! You must always forgive someone from your heart." (Matthew 18:21-22, 35)

Ask the children to quietly think about what they have just heard before reading this prayer:

Dear Jesus, please help me to be forgiving
and ready to forget the mistakes
made by other people,
just as you are always ready to do for me.

GLORIA

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 2.

GOSPEL (MARK 1:14-20)

After John the Baptist had been arrested by Herod, Jesus began to preach to the crowds and proclaim the good news. One day, while walking beside the sea of Galilee, he saw Simon Peter and his brother Andrew casting their nets to catch fish.

Jesus called out to them, "Come, follow me and I will make you fishers of people." The brothers left their nets and followed him. Further along the shore Jesus saw James and his brother, John, who

were mending nets with their father Zebedee. Jesus called them, too, and at once they left their father and followed him.

DISCUSSION

Who were the brothers who left their boats and nets to follow Jesus? They were Simon Peter and Andrew, James and John. Jesus asked them to follow him and become fishers of people. These men would help lead people back to God and teach others of God's great love for them.

Many people followed Jesus and became his disciples, but Jesus chose a small number of them to carry on his work. How many did he choose, and can you remember some of their names?

Jesus chose twelve apostles. The name "apostle" was given to a follower of Jesus who had been specially chosen. They were all close friends of Jesus who were chosen to preach and perform miracles in his name.

The names of the twelve apostles were: Simon Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, (another) James, Thaddaeus, Simon, and Judas.

Jesus calls us to follow him, too. When we are baptized into the Christian family we are called to be followers of Christ. But Jesus also calls us to follow him every day. How?

To follow Jesus, we do not usually have to leave home like the first disciples did! By loving God and our neighbor we can follow Jesus every day by living as Jesus taught us to.

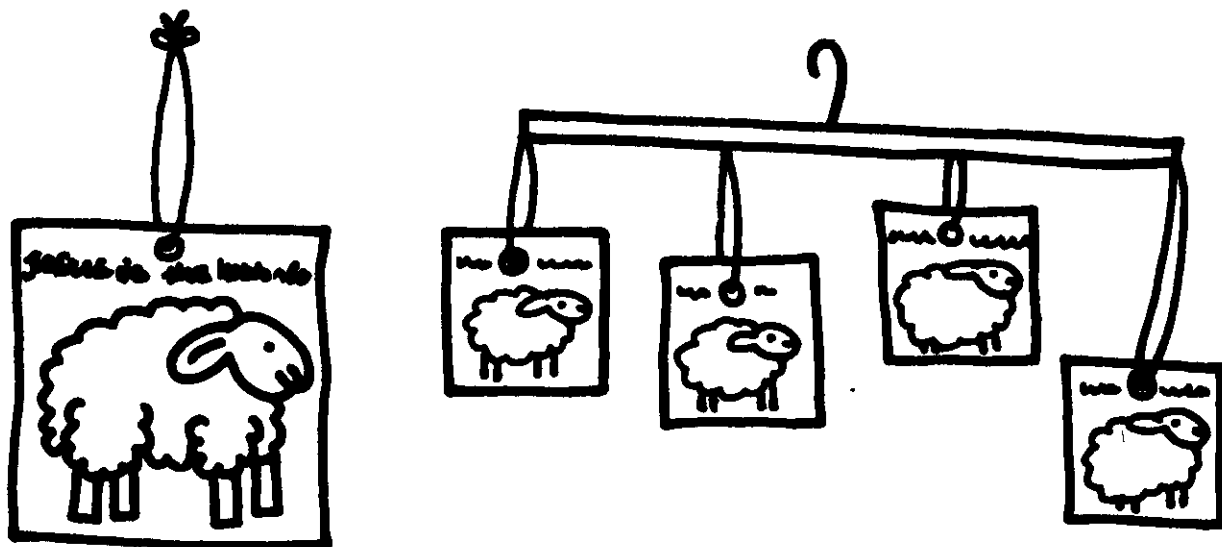
ACTIVITY

The children can cut out these invitation cards. They can then fill in the blanks and decorate their cards.

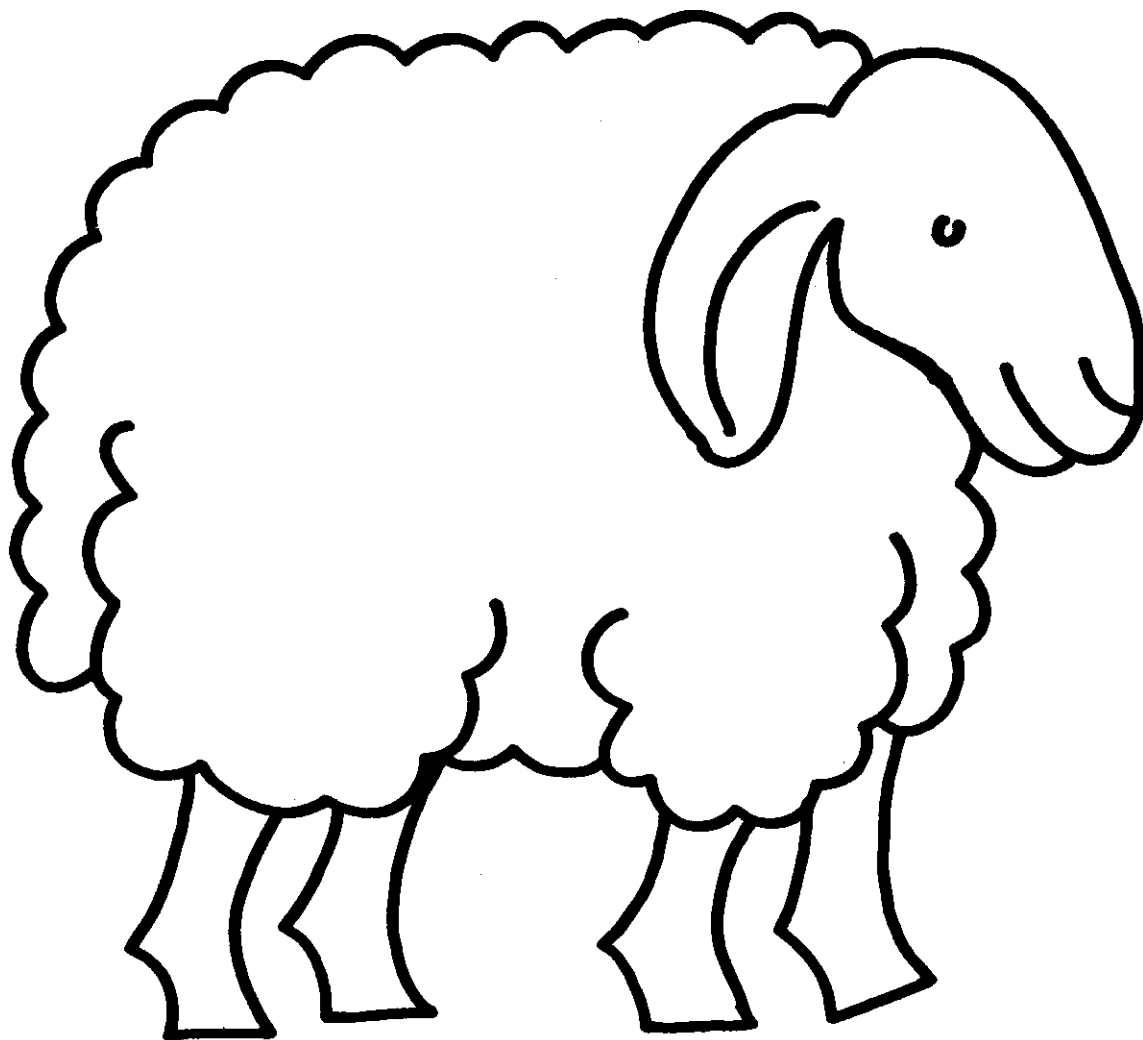
CREED

CLOSING PRAYER

Jesus, help us to follow you each day,
so that in our own small way
we can help to make our world
a better place.



Jesus is the lamb of God





Dear _ _ _ _ _

I invite you to follow me
every day of your life
From Jesus

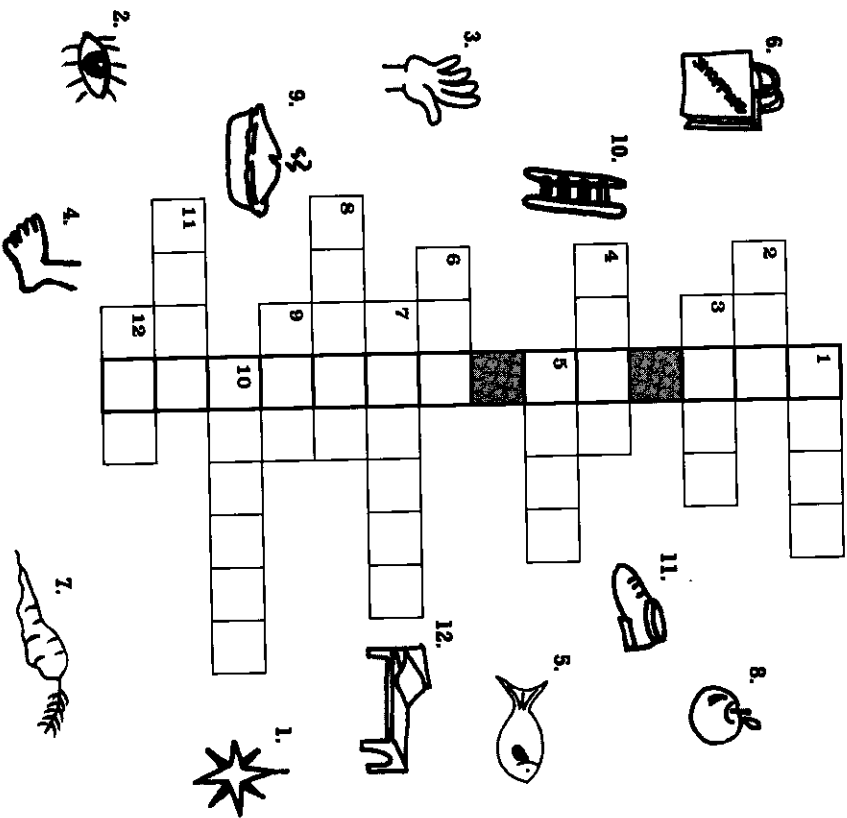
Dear Jesus

Thankyou for your invitation
I would love to be one of
your followers
From _ _ _ _ _

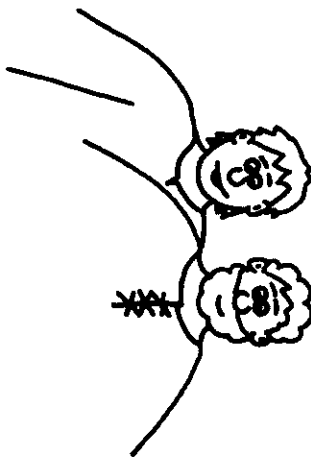
?

Where was Jesus walking when he saw Simon and his brother Andrew?

Use the picture clues to complete the puzzle.
The letters in the bold boxes will spell out the answer



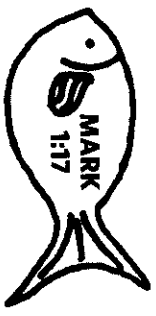
What did Jesus say to them?
Find the numbered words in their net and write them in order on the lines



1 _____
2 _____
3 _____
4 _____
5 _____
6 _____
7 _____

8 _____
9 _____
10 _____

ME	YOU	1
PEOPLE	MAKE	FOLLOW
FISHERS	WILL	OF
AND		

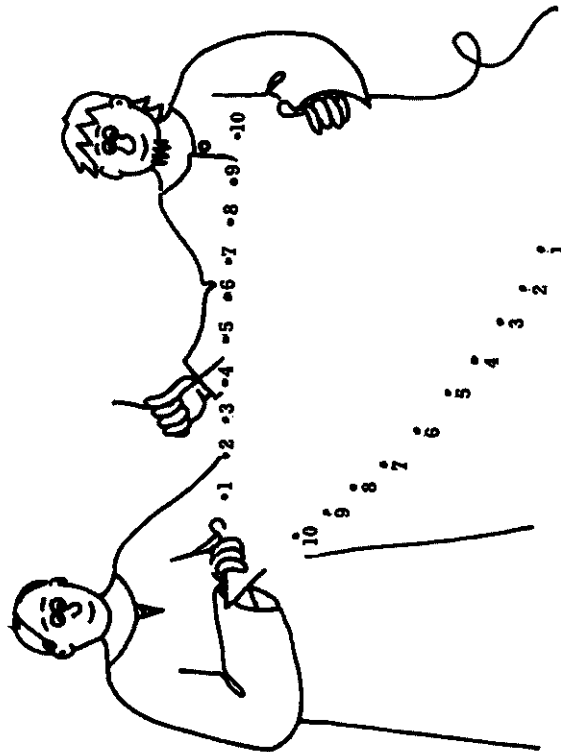
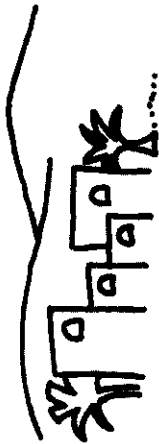


Then he called
James and his brother John
to follow him too!

Follow me!

MARK 1:14-20

Draw straight lines between dots with the
same number to see what James and John are mending



After John's arrest, Jesus went to Galilee.
What did he do there?

Use the code breaker to find the answer

1	A	14	N
2	B	15	O
3	C	16	P
4	D	17	Q
5	E	18	R
6	F	19	S
7	G	20	T
8	H	21	U
9	I	22	V
10	J	23	W
11	K	24	X
12	L	25	Y
13	M	26	Z

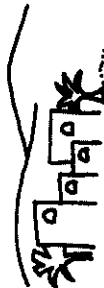
8 5

16 18 15 3 12 1 9 13 5 4

20 8 5 7 15 15 4

14 5 23 19 6 18 15 13

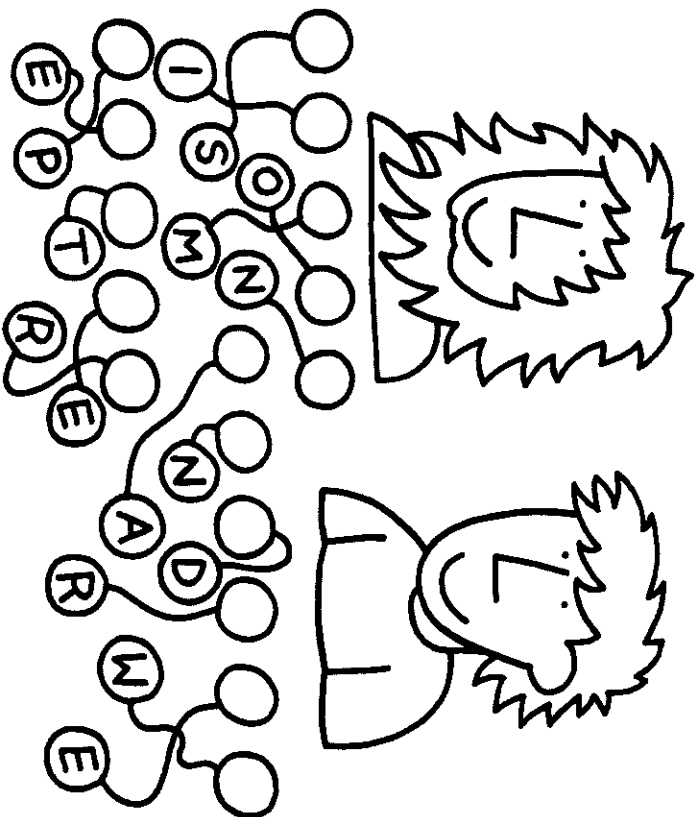
7 15 4



MARK 1:14

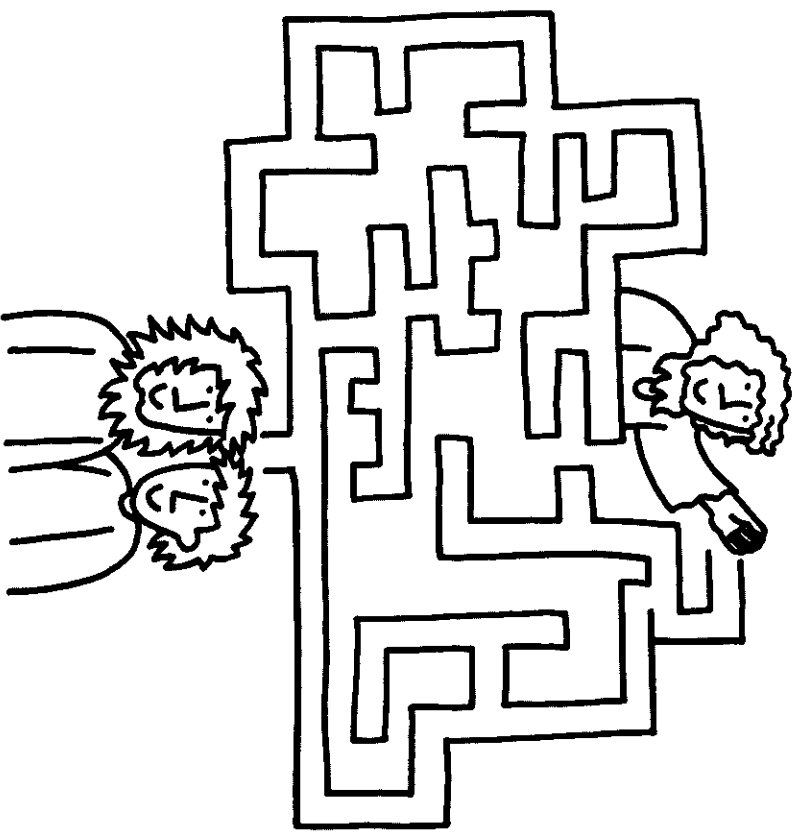
Jesus was walking
by the Sea of Galilee when
he saw two brothers.

Unscramble the letters to spell their names



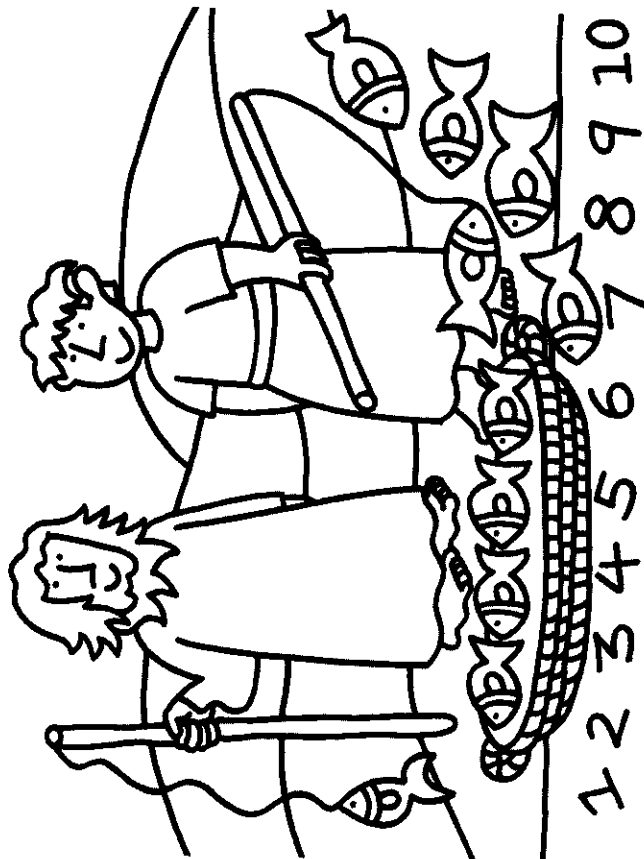
Jesus asked them
to follow him!

Which path should they follow to Jesus?



Then Jesus called James and John
to follow him too!

James and John were fishermen.
How many fish have they caught?
Circle the number



Follow me!

MARK 1:14-20

Jesus went to Galilee and began
to preach to the people.

Find these letters hidden in the picture

G - O - O - D N - E - W - S

