

Don't Miss the Boat – Week 4 – Sunday 16th August

(You may like to have paper and pens etc handy to 'be creative'. This week you will need a strip of paper about the size and shape of a ruler.)

Welcome

Welcome to our service this morning, the 4th in our Don't miss the Boat Summer Worship Service. We will begin this morning with our gathering song, My Lighthouse (click the link below to watch)

[My Lighthouse](#)



Prayer- When we open God's book may we remember that we're looking for Jesus, the rescue He offers, and how to live as his children. Amen.

The Bible was written by people, people who told stories and passed them on and sat down and wrote them. It comes from real people and real places at a particular time. It is a record of God interacting with people- a collection of stories that teach us what it looks like when God is at work through actual people. The stories we are looking at could be our stories- who hasn't felt 'shipwrecked' and overwhelmed? Sometimes we might have been obedient, going against the grain like Noah, trusting God's word, or we may have wanted to run away and sulk like Jonah.

This week's story is about some men who were going about their daily business, they were fishermen,



but not this sort of fishermen, men who fished for a living as a job



READING : Bible Story- Matthew 4 v. 18-22

¹⁸ As Jesus walked along the shore of Lake Galilee, he saw two brothers who were fishermen, Simon (called Peter) and his brother Andrew, catching fish in the lake with a net. ¹⁹ Jesus said to them, “Come with me, and I will teach you to catch people.” ²⁰ At once they left their nets and went with him.

²¹ He went on and saw two other brothers, James and John, the sons of Zebedee. They were in their boat with their father Zebedee, getting their nets ready. Jesus called them, ²² and at once they left the boat and their father

Retelling- If you are with someone at the moment have a go at retelling the story to one another, or if alone, jot down what you can remember from the story

Remembering the story : Have you ever used a doodle sheet - you can make notes, diagrams and draw pictures to remember a story and remind you of the key points.

Have you used ‘wonder questions’ before? “I wonder if.....? or I wonder what...?” These can help us to consider new aspects of the new story and explore new ideas as we consider what God is saying to us. Give it a go now...

Questions are good- we don’t have the ‘answers’ and the idea is just to think aloud, to wonder, to ponder the story. We will all see something different. Here are 2 questions :

1) **Is this the beginning of a story, the end of a story or both?**

2) **When you retold the story, did Jesus’s words sound like a command/challenge or invitation?**

Reflection or join in with song – you can use the song to reflect on the story or join in the singing

Song- [‘Lord you have come to the seashore’](#).

Response

We have our own stories of times when life changed for us. Remember Jesus said in John 15v16- “you did not choose me, I chose you”. Our stories are precious to God.

You are invited to take a strip of paper about the size of a 30cm ruler

You will see below I have written 0 at left hand end and my age now at right hand.



Now divide into quarters. You will have a strip that represents your life- nos. =ages. Write in a couple of things that shaped your life- moving house, marriage, college- things you can say I was that age when that happened mark/symbol/picture



Now if not already, write in 2 things part of your spiritual story.

Spend a few minutes reflecting on this and creating your timeline

We are all following something – a team, TV series, an exercise regime.

The invitation to follow Jesus is always an open invitation. Every day we make decisions about how to spend our time, our money; how to treat other people. As Christians we are on ‘The Way’- following the way of Jesus.

[Song- Will you come and follow me?](#)

Guided prayer- We have created a video that you can watch, click below, for our prayers this morning, or if you prefer, you can read the words below

[CLICK HERE FOR PRAYER VIDEO](#)

In our prayers today we are building a cairn. Each stone represents what we are praying for. The cairn will be left in place in the porch for you to add your own stones to it. So let us pray:

We have heard how your first disciples left their nets and livelihoods and followed you. There have been times in our life when you have spoken to us. Have we always been willing to do your bidding or have we always found an excuse not to.

Forgive us Father. Forgive us for our human failures, for all the things we have done this week that have offended you.

In the silence let us offer up our wrong doings and ask for forgiveness.

Let us pray for the world

Never before in our lifetime have we needed your guiding hand and presence. The pain and desperation people go through is beyond our comprehension. We pray for all caught up in wars, persecution and tragedies, especially remembering the people of Lebanon. Coronavirus continues to spread at an alarming rate and in many countries sufferers do not receive treatment due to sheer numbers. Be with the scientists and medical experts as they work to find a virus.

In the silence let us offer our prayers for the world.

We offer you our thanks for your many good gifts, for fresh air, food and shelter.

We thank you for the lovely weather and the visitors to our town who are helping restore productivity to our shops and catering establishments.

We have so much to thank you for. In the silence let us give you our thanks.

And finally we pray for our families. Thank you Lord for the blessings you have bestowed on our lives. You have provided us with more than we could ever imagine. You have surrounded us with people who look out for us. You have given us family and friends who bless us everyday with words and actions. (Stone)

We think of our church family remembering. - Margot, Audrey Brown, Jason and family, Zara, Dave, David and Vivian, Brenda, Ann, Dean, Chelsea and baby, Val.

In the silence let us remember our families and friends

Let us bring all our prayers together by saying the Lords Prayer

Things to consider this week -

- keep thinking and praying about story.
- add prayers to the cairn when we pass church
- think about Beginnings and Endings – for us as individuals and as a church – what will be our “new normal”

Matthew 4 v 19 “Come follow me “ Jesus said:



What is it time to put down/leave behind?

“and I will make you fishers of men.”



What new things are we being called to do?

Blessing- by request we will listen to the UK blessing- to help us remember from those first followers came a Worldwide church. Jesus in His final words to them sent them to make more disciples, and our stories are part of that bigger story

[CLICK HERE TO WATCH](#)