

February

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2004

Education Sunday

2004

worship materials

2004

Education Sunday: what's it all about then?



Rupert Kaye
Chief Executive,
Association of Christian Teachers

Help and support

Most Christian leaders realise the strategic importance of being able to reach out to young people, adult learners and those who work with them. But many of those leaders, quite frankly, aren't sure where to start.

Likewise, many churches would like to offer help and support to Christian teachers and lecturers, classroom assistants and support staff, volunteers and school governors ... but have never got around to doing anything about it.

Of course, many congregations would love to show how much they value every child and adult in their community by affirming them in their life-long educational journey (whether at school, college, university or in the work-place) and offering meaningful spiritual and practical support. However, many congregations aren't sure how to do this without sounding patronising.

An annual day of prayer and celebration

Education Sunday is the answer. In fact, for well over a century there has been an annual day of prayer and celebration for everyone involved in education in England and Wales. Now 'Education Sunday', as it has become known, is an event recognised by all the major Christian Churches. Education Sunday is celebrated on the ninth Sunday before Easter.

And Education Sunday (whenever it is celebrated!) provides the perfect opportunity for Christian leaders, churches and congregations to demonstrate their commitment to learning and teaching, and, more specifically, to those who learn and teach.

With this in mind, an ecumenical steering group representing different Christian denominations (together with the Association of Christian Teachers and the Student Christian Movement) meets each year to devise the Education Sunday theme. The theme for 2004 is 'Putting out into the Deep' (based on the story in Luke 5: 1-11).

Online resources

The content of *Education Sunday 2004 worship materials* is intended to be shared, photocopied and, most importantly, used! Also, to make things even easier this year, all the worship resources included are now available at: (www.christian-teachers.org.uk).

It should be noted that, although all of the ideas presented in *Education Sunday 2004 worship materials* are intended to be used in Christian worship on or around Education Sunday on 8 February 2004, they can be used at any time of the year!

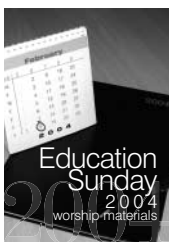
Putting out into the Deep

God invites learners and teachers to put out into the deep. The invitation carries a challenge! We shouldn't be satisfied with paddling in the shallows of knowledge and understanding. Rather, we are urged to reach out to new learning experiences. This will involve tackling more difficult concepts and issues. God encourages us to learn more of His complex world.

As learners and teachers it is not always straightforward to move from the easy to the complex. We often fail in our initial attempts. However God, through the Holy Spirit, challenges us to take risks to fulfil our God-given potential and not to be discouraged by failure.

As we learn more we realise our dependence upon God; whose transforming grace enables us to grow in understanding. We then discover the joy of learning and grow in self-confidence as we think more deeply.

Are we now ready to trust and obey God's call to put out into the deep?



Lectionary readings

Psalm 138

Isaiah 6: 1-8

Luke 5: 1-11

Corinthians 15: 1-11

Sermon outline: Luke 5: 1 – 11

The Gospel tells of a powerful experience, an experience of Jesus as the Son of God for Peter and the other disciples – their initial fear is followed by words of assurance from Jesus and finally, after the great catch, words of commission which take them into a new world and a new way of life.

'Put out into the deep' is a practical invitation from Jesus to the disciples to proclaim his kingdom after they have heard his preaching and seen the fruit of his words in action/symbol.

'From now on' indicates a real turning point in the lives of the disciples – called in the ordinary circumstances of their daily lives, they will now cast a different kind of net and put out into a new deep. They will become followers of Jesus.

Suggested hymns and praise songs

- Be bold, be strong
- Be thou my vision
- In heavenly love abiding
- Lead us heavenly Father lead us
- When I feel afraid
- Wide, wide as the ocean
- Will you come and follow me
- Will your anchor hold

Recommended resources

It's a Challenge

from *52 Easy-to-use Assemblies for Middle and Secondary Schools*

(Janet King / 1999 / Monarch Books / paperback / 256 pages / ISBN: 1854244329)

It's your move

(Brian Ogden / 2003 / Scripture Union / paperback / 64 pages / ISBN: 1859995012)

Linking Churches and Schools

(Gillian Wood / 2003 / Churches Together in England / paperback / 28 pages / ISBN: 1874295239)

Pillars of the Church: supporting chaplaincy in further and higher education

(Board of Education / 2002 / paperback / 56 pages / Church House publishing / ISBN: 0715190466)

Ready, steady, school

(Margery Francis, Clare Harding & Nick Harding / 2002 / Scripture Union / paperback / 24 pages (plus *Little Fish Book*) / ISBN: 1859995926)



Prayers of Praise, Thanksgiving and Confession

Creator God, we praise you!

You are the creator of all things; without you there would be no stars or planets;
without you there would be no canyons or deserts; no beaches or mountain ranges;
and without you there would be no plants or animals or people.

Inspirational God, we thank you that you give us inquisitive minds;

Thank you for eager brains which are hungry to acquire new knowledge and use new skills.

Thank you for the unique talents and gifts you give each one of us and for opportunities to learn and grow as your children day by day. Thank you for homes and families; for playgroups and nurseries and schools; for colleges and universities.

In the silence we THANK YOU for the people who have helped us to learn and grow.

[SILENCE]

Generous God, we thank you for all you have provided for us.

We thank you that we live in a world which is so wonderfully enriched by the people who share their gifts with others: thank you for musicians and engineers; for scientists, writers, and artists; for builders, doctors and dancers; for explorers, counsellors and teachers.

We thank you that we live in a world which is blessed by the people who bring hope and love to those in despair; who bring healing to those who are damaged; who bring joy and laughter to those who have experienced pain and loss.

In the silence we think of gifts and talents you call us to use for the benefit of others.

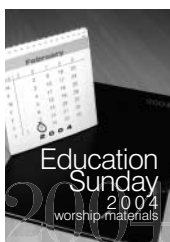
[SILENCE]

Merciful and forgiving God, we are sorry for the times when we have ignored the gifts and talents you have given us; and we are sorry for the times when we have boasted about our own gifts and talents and made fun of others who could not do the things that we could do.

We are sorry for the times we have not appreciated the people who have tried to help us learn and we are sorry for the occasions when we have wasted our own precious time and the time of others. We are sorry for being selfish and hurting other people's feelings.

Forgive us, we pray and show us TODAY the talents and gifts you would like us to develop further and share with others.

AMEN



Prayers of Intercession

Leader: We pray for all those who help children learn and grow in their early years: at home and in playgroups, nurseries and schools. We pray for those who help children to acquire and develop basic skills – helping children to experience the world around them and helping them to communicate with others. Lord, we lift to you ...

[*mention individuals and schools/colleges/universities by name*]

LORD IN YOUR MERCY

All: HEAR OUR PRAYER AND BLESS YOUR FAMILY

Leader: We pray for all those who help children learn and grow in their infant and junior years: at home and in schools. We pray for those who help children to grow in confidence – helping children to discover their gifts and talents – building character and personality, and learning right from wrong. Lord, we lift to you ...

[*mention individuals and schools/colleges/universities by name*]

LORD IN YOUR MERCY

All: HEAR OUR PRAYER AND BLESS YOUR FAMILY

Leader: We pray for all those who help young adults learn and grow in their time at secondary schools and colleges. We especially pray for teenagers and their parents as they face these challenging and exciting years together. We also pray for the effective witness of Christian teachers, Christian schools workers and Christians who run youth clubs and activities. Lord, we lift to you ...

[*mention individuals and schools/colleges/universities by name*]

LORD IN YOUR MERCY

All: HEAR OUR PRAYER AND BLESS YOUR FAMILY

Leader: We pray for all those who work in places of further and higher education. And we pray for chaplains and Christian Unions in their ministries to students. We pray that students might be open to your calling on their lives as they consider what to do when their studies end. Lord, we lift to you ...

[*mention individuals and schools/colleges/universities by name*]

LORD IN YOUR MERCY

All: HEAR OUR PRAYER AND BLESS YOUR FAMILY

Leader: We pray for politicians, policy makers and administrators who allocate funds and decide on educational priorities. We pray also for those who advise, inspect and monitor places of learning. Lord, give them wisdom and integrity. Lord, we lift to you ...

[*mention individuals and schools/colleges/universities by name*]

LORD IN YOUR MERCY

All: HEAR OUR PRAYER AND BLESS YOUR FAMILY

AMEN



An Ignatian-style Meditation on Luke 5: 1-11

Author's note:

The form of Ignatian meditation chosen is *lectio divina*: 'a response to scripture'. The three elements involved are: (i) reading (the Bible passage); (ii) meditating (upon the themes and images in the passage); (iii) praying (in response to the passage and one's own meditations upon it).

Step 1:

Read Luke 5: 1-11.

Step 2:

Read the following Meditation:

You are at your place of work or study. You see and hear the people you know going about their normal business. But everyone looks tired and disheartened. It's been a long day, in fact it's been a demanding week! You've all tried your best ... but it seems your best isn't good enough! Work that needed to be done on Monday still hasn't been finished – and now it's Friday.

How do you feel? (PAUSE)

Everyone is starting to pack things away ready for the weekend when suddenly Jesus walks into the building. Jesus looks at each person in turn and smiles. He asks you to open a window for him so he can speak to the crowd of onlookers who have gathered in the street outside.

What do you see and hear? (PAUSE)

Jesus is in your place of work! And you have just opened a window at his request! You notice that everyone around you has stopped what they were doing and has pulled up a chair to listen to Jesus. They sit, cradling their mugs of coffee and cups of squash, hanging on every word.

What does Jesus say that speaks to them most? (PAUSE)

As you listen to Jesus you feel the stress easing from your body; your neck and shoulders feel less tense; your worries and concerns don't seem such a burden anymore; you begin to laugh and smile.

What worries and burdens do you most want to be released from? (PAUSE)

When Jesus has finished speaking to the crowd he closes the window and turns to face you and your workmates. He tells you to unpack everything you have packed away for the weekend and says he wants to help you do your work right now. "Put out into the deep," says Jesus. You reply, "Lord, we've worked all week and haven't accomplished a thing. But because you say so, we will start again." Suddenly all the things that didn't go your way before begin to work! In fact, people who work at the school/shop/factory next door have to come and lend a hand!

Picture the scene: what happens? What is the reaction of your workmates now? (PAUSE)

Then one of your friends falls to their knees and says, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful person!" Jesus replies: "Don't be afraid; from now on you will be working for me."

What is your friend's response? What is your response? (PAUSE)

Step 3:

Read the following prayer:

Loving God,
Help us to welcome you into our place of work without feeling embarrassed. "Do not be afraid!" says the Lord.

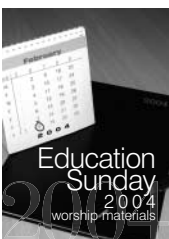
Help us to invite you into every situation, especially when we can no longer cope ... when we feel stressed out or inadequate; when our best no longer seems good enough. "Do not be afraid!" says the Lord.

Help us to cast all our worries and burdens onto you and listen for your guidance in the things we do day by day. "Do not be afraid!" says the Lord.

We pray that we might become bold enough to obey your call and 'put out into the deep' – trusting that you will bless us generously and, through us, bless those around us.

Help us to hear and answer your call to us.

AMEN



An Ignatian-style Meditation on Isaiah 6: 1-8

Author's note:

The form of Ignatian meditation chosen is *lectio divina*: 'a response to scripture'. The three elements involved are:
(i) reading (the Bible passage);
(ii) meditating (upon the themes and images in the passage);
(iii) praying (in response to the passage and one's own meditations upon it).

Step 1:

Read Isaiah 6: 1-8.

Step 2:

Read the following Meditation:

You are transported with Isaiah to God's heavenly temple. Although you are unseen you see everything. You see the fabric of God's robe all around you. The robe is so enormous it fills the room, obscuring the floor, the walls and the ceiling. You feel the robe's texture; you see its marvellous design; you hear the sound it makes as it billows and swirls around you; you smell it as it brushes against you.

How do you feel? (PAUSE)

You see Isaiah. You hear the fear in his voice. You see his body trembling. You see him covering his eyes. (PAUSE)

You look up and see what Isaiah sees. A sudden burst of light temporarily blinds you. You squint and shade your face with your hands and there, in front of you, is a huge throne. You attempt

to focus your eyes on the figure seated on the throne because you want to see God for yourself.

What do you see? (PAUSE)

Your eyes can only see the angels – each with six wings – flying back and forth in front of the throne of God. Your ears are filled with the sound of the angels praising God. Your nostrils are filled with the smoke that fills the room. You can hardly stand upright because the temple is shaking so violently. (PAUSE)

You hear Isaiah cry out, "Woe is me! I am doomed, for my own eyes have seen the King, the Lord of Hosts, I, a man of unclean lips, I, who dwell among a people of unclean lips."

What do you want to say to God? (PAUSE)

You see an angel take a hot coal from the altar and fly towards Isaiah. You see the angel place the coal onto Isaiah's lips. You see the miracle of healing take place before your very eyes. You hear the angel say, "Your sin is wiped out." You see Isaiah's joy.

What sin do you want wiped out? (PAUSE)

You then hear God say: "Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?" (PAUSE)

You hear Isaiah's response: "Here am I. Send me!"

What is your response? (PAUSE)

Step 3:

Read the following prayer:

Lord, You see the needs of children and young people and you ask:
"Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?"

You see the needs of those who work in nurseries and playgroups; schools, colleges and universities and you ask:
"Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?"

You see the needs of those who inspect, audit and advise places of learning and you ask:
"Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?"

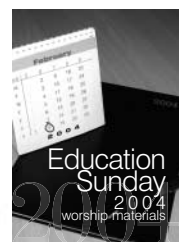
You see the needs of the policy makers and politicians who shape education policy and allocate resources to fund learning and you ask:
"Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?"

You see the needs of those who support, minister and pray for those engaged in education and you ask:
"Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?"

Help us to hear and answer your call to us:

Here am I! Send me!

AMEN



Push Your Boat Out Into Deeper Water!

(A drama based on Luke 5: 1-11)

INTRODUCTORY NOTE FROM THE WRITER:

This play focuses on Jesus' meeting with Peter by Lake Galilee. Luke's story complements stories in Matthew 4: 18 - 21 and Mark 1:14 - 20. Jesus had already demonstrated his power to Peter by healing Peter's mother in law (Luke 4: 38 - 39). I assume that after their initial call to follow Jesus as recorded by Matthew and Mark, the disciples returned to their ordinary lives until Jesus called them for a second time. Even then both Jesus and the disciples remained in touch with their families. Jesus' family came to see him during his ministry and the mother of James and John tried to get Jesus to give her sons exalted positions in his kingdom.

Jesus' family were working class. Joseph was at least a skilled carpenter and probably also a competent builder. Jesus mastered all these skills and used them to support Mary and her large family. Till the age of 30 when his public ministry began, Jesus would have observed and shared in the life of his family and community. His teaching, especially his parables, reflect his experience of family life with all its stresses and joys. They also reveal his intimate knowledge of agriculture and animal husbandry, house building and many other facets of everyday life.

When Jesus came to build his inner core of disciples, the first four were fishermen, called while at work. Matthew, a tax collector, was also called to follow Jesus while working. Simon the Zealot was the most surprising choice: Zealots were committed to throwing out the occupying power, the Romans.

The moment when Jesus told Peter and his fellow fishermen to push their boats into deep water was a pivotal point in the story. It was also a key moment in Peter's life. The others evidently looked to him for leadership. Does he obey Jesus who he knows healed his mother in law? Or does he follow his own instinct, experience and desire for his own safety? The Greek word 'epistates' in Luke 5: 5 translated 'Master' can also mean organiser, superintendent, taskmaster, inspector, leader or chief. Its actual meaning is 'one who stands over.' He chooses to obey Jesus. Then he nets a huge catch of fish. He realises Jesus was no ordinary man. He is too holy for Peter to cope with. Then, like Isaiah, he receives his divine commission. The name 'Peter', given him by Jesus, means 'rock', from the Greek word 'petros'. I have added an optional Scene 3, based on 1 and 2 Peter, to indicate how faithfully Peter fulfilled the commission his Master had given him, even to the point of martyrdom, as Jesus had warned him.

MAIN CHARACTERS (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE):

Luke [researching material for his book about the life of Jesus]

Peter

Jesus

Andrew

Onlooker 1

Onlooker 2

Onlooker 3

Onlooker 4

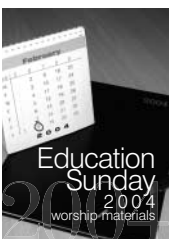
James

John

Silas [for optional Scene 3]

Guard 1 [for optional Scene 3]

Guard 2 [for optional Scene 3]



SCENE 1: LUKE INTERVIEWS PETER

Luke: Peter, you and your brother Andrew were the first disciples Jesus called weren't you?
Peter: Yes, Luke we were. We were by Lake Galilee washing our nets. We had been trying to catch fish all night.
Luke: What about the other disciples Jesus called?
Peter: There were twelve of us - a few were fishermen like me. There was my brother Andrew and our friends James and John, sons of Zebedee.
Luke: Didn't they have rather unusual nicknames?
Peter: Sons of thunder!
Luke: One of your group was a tax collector, wasn't he?
Peter: Matthew. Jesus called him while he was at work and he left his job to join us.
Luke: Did it surprise you that Jesus called someone as unpopular as a tax collector - one who worked for the Romans?
Peter: Jesus often surprised us!
Luke: Were there any other surprises in his choice of disciples?
Peter: Simon the Zealot. Zealots hated the Romans and wanted to throw them out of the country. Then there was Judas.
Luke: How did you all get on together?
Peter: With great difficulty at times.
Luke: Did you have any differences of opinion ... even arguments?
Peter: Often.
Luke: What about?
Peter: [AFTER A PAUSE] We argued ... about who was going to be the greatest in the kingdom.
Luke: Who was to be the greatest ... in which kingdom?
Peter: We thought Jesus was going to set up a kingdom on earth - with our help.
Luke: Did Jesus sort you out? Did he explain what he meant by his kingdom?
Peter: He told us often ... he knew what was going to happen to him ... and us ... but we just couldn't understand ... we were very slow learners.
Luke: What happened next? On that day Jesus met you on the beach?

SCENE 2: LAKE GALILEE

Jesus [GETTING INTO PETER'S BOAT] Peter, will you push the boat out a little way? Then I will talk to the people.
[PETER OBEYS AND JESUS SITS DOWN AND TALKS TO A GROUP OF PEOPLE]
Peter: [TO ANDREW] I shall be glad when he has finished ... I could do with a good meal.
Andrew: Me too. But what are we going to eat?
Peter: I don't know. We caught nothing last night. A lot of hanging around for nothing!
Andrew: Fishing is all very well, but if the fish won't go in the nets, what can we do?
[JESUS DISMISSES THE CROWD AND MAKES HIS WAY TO THE DISCIPLES]
Peter: Here comes Jesus. He must have finished talking to the crowd. I expect he's on his way somewhere else now.
Jesus: [TO PETER] Push the boat further out to the deep water, and you and your partners let down your nets for a catch.
Peter: Master, we have worked hard all night long and caught nothing. But if you say so, I will let down the nets.
[THOSE IN THE BOATS FREEZE TO FORM A TABLEAU WHILST THE ONLOOKERS TALK AMONG THEMSELVES]
Onlooker 1: They are pushing the boats out now.
Onlooker 2: I wonder if they will catch any fish.
Onlooker 1: Look, Peter has let down the nets ... he's waiting and watching.
Onlooker 2: What's happening? Peter can't pull in the nets - they are too heavy!
Onlooker 3: Peter is signalling to his partners to come and help.
Onlooker 4: They can do it together ... what a huge catch it must be!
Onlooker 1: Look - the boats are beginning to sink!
Onlooker 2: Both boats are full of fish!
Onlooker 3: I wouldn't like to be out there!
Onlooker 4: I hope they can get back safely!
Onlooker 1: They are coming in slowly ...
Onlooker 2: Here they are at last safely back on the beach!
Onlooker 3: Peter is looking at their catch ... he looks completely dazed!
Onlooker 4: Here comes Jesus towards him. Look! Peter has fallen on his knees.
[THE ONLOOKERS FREEZE TO FORM A TABLEAU WHILST THOSE IN THE BOATS SPEAK]
Peter: [TO JESUS] Go away from me, Lord! I am a sinful man.
Jesus: Don't be afraid; from now on you will be catching people!
Andrew: Come on! Let's pull the boats up on the beach.
Peter: Yes, but you heard what Jesus said. I'm for leaving all this behind and following him.
Andrew: Me too, I want Jesus as my leader.
James: I'll come as well - he'll be my chief from now on.
John: Yes, he's the one to stand over me for the rest of my life.
[EXIT ALL - INCLUDING THE ONLOOKERS - EXCEPT PETER AND LUKE]



Luke: So you left your boats and nets and followed Jesus.
Peter: Yes, it was a huge decision for us to make.
Luke: Why did you say to Jesus, 'Go away from me Lord! I am a sinful man'?
Peter: I just knew he was so completely holy and I was so utterly bad. I knew the story of Isaiah in the Temple and his vision of God ...
Luke: You felt like Isaiah?
Peter: Yes, I didn't feel good enough to be in his presence.
Luke: What was the high point of your time following Jesus?
Peter: When we were with him on the mountain - we saw him with Moses and Elijah: We saw Jesus in all his glory - and heard God's voice!
Luke: And your lowest point?
Peter: When I denied even knowing Jesus, three times - I was so ashamed!
Luke: But that wasn't the end of the story was it?
Peter: Praise God it wasn't! Jesus forgave me. And, in the power of the Holy Spirit whom he sent as he promised, we started to spread the good news that Jesus is alive!

[EXIT BOTH]

(OPTIONAL) SCENE 3: A PRISON CELL IN ROME

Silas: Are you ready to go on writing Peter?
Peter: Yes. I must send another letter to our Christian friends.
Silas: They will be glad to hear from you again.
Peter: I must keep in touch with them before ...
Silas: Before ...?
Peter: Before I die - it won't be long now before they come for me just as Jesus said they would.
Silas: Our Christian friends will read your letter carefully.
Peter: I hope so - and act upon what I say - they must be like rocks in their trust in Jesus.
Silas: There are some false teachers causing trouble in the church.
Peter: That is why the church must hold fast to the truth in Jesus.
Silas: Three times Jesus told me to look after his flock - the church - and I will!
Silas: Some false teachers are saying Jesus is not coming back as he said he would.
Peter: Jesus told us very clearly that he will come back one day - when people least expect him - like a thief in the night!
Silas: That will encourage all true believers!
Peter: Brother Paul and I are as one in our teaching. Some people have tried to twist his teaching - and other great truths. I want everyone in the church to be on their guard against error and to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
Silas: The church must stand firm, whatever the cost.
Peter: Yes, there will be a cost ... but Jesus said to me, 'Take care of my sheep.'
Silas: And that's why you're here!
Peter: Jesus told me what would happen to me. He said, 'When you were young you used to get ready and go anywhere you wanted to; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands and someone else will bind you and take you where you don't want to go.'
Silas: So, what happened came as no surprise!
Peter: Not at all! Jesus said, 'Follow me!' and that's exactly what I've done ... whatever the cost!

[ENTER TWO GUARDS]

Silas: I think they've come for you, brother Peter.

[PETER AND SILAS EMBRACE]

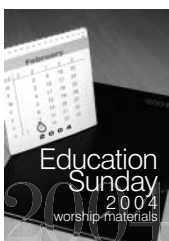
Peter: I am ready.

[THE TWO GUARDS ESCORT PETER FROM THE CELL, LEAVING SILAS ALONE]

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Outline for a Children's Address

Launching into the deep

I wonder if you like taking risks. What kind of risks would you take?

- Crossing the road while the red man is showing
- Taking an exam without revising
- Crossing the English Channel in a rowing boat
- Standing up to a bully who is picking on a friend
- Bungee jumping
- Trying a new food

You could ask for ideas; have a vote on who would do what; include pictures of the activities; offer an unusual kind of food such as sushi and see how many children will try it!

There are different kinds of risks:

- Some risks are foolish or dangerous
- Some need courage to act for another person
- Some are exciting
- Some introduce us to something new that we might find we enjoy

Ask the children to decide which kind of risk is which. You could do this by having pictures or written labels with them on.

Using a children's version of the Bible or a Bible story book, tell the story found in Luke 5: 1-11. You could include a mime, pictures or objects as illustrations, use different voices for the different characters or play the story from the 'Faith Comes By Hearing' series. In this story Simon (Peter) takes a small risk and a big one.

Question: What was the small risk? **Answer:** Fishing where Jesus told him to. (Jesus wasn't a fisherman, how would he know where the fish were?) But because Jesus said so, he did it and they caught an enormous number of fish. Peter was so amazed that he fell on his knees in front of Jesus. Doing what Jesus said had been a risk worth taking. The next thing Jesus asked was a much bigger risk.

Question: What was the big risk? **Answer:** Jesus told Simon (Peter) not to be afraid and said from now on he would be catching people! (It doesn't say that he asked them to leave everything but that was just what they did; they left everything to follow Jesus.) That really was a risk!

Questions: But what kind of a risk was it for Simon (Peter) to follow Jesus? Was it foolish? dangerous? exciting? Would it mean having to be brave? Would it show them new things? *(If there is time you could ask the children what they think.)*

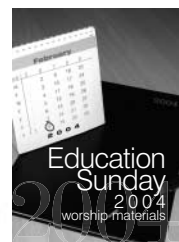
Following Jesus can seem like a risk. He never said it would be easy and sometimes it may be difficult or frightening.

Question: What kind of risks might we need to take?

At this point you could think about what some of the risks might be or interview someone, young if possible, who took a risk for God. Whatever the risks it will be the best, most exciting, challenging, brilliant thing you can ever do.

Here are some songs to end with:

- All of my heart
- I reach up high
- I will dance I will sing





ACT

The Education Sunday 2004 theme (and most of the material in *Education Sunday 2004 worship materials*) was devised by an ecumenical steering group representing the following Christian denominations and educational organisations:

Association of Christian Teachers (www.christian-teachers.org.uk)

Baptist Union of Great Britain (www.baptist.org.uk)

Catholic Church (www.catholiceducation.org.uk)

Church of England (www.natsoc.org.uk)

Methodist Church (www.methodist.org.uk)

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ACT strives to influence policy makers, politicians, the media, the Church and all those with an interest in education, by proclaiming a loving, biblical Christian response to contemporary educational issues.

ACT's 2200 members work across all sectors and at every level in education in England. ACT members regularly receive colourful magazines, prayer diaries and newsletters. Standard membership costs £30 per annum (£15 for those who are students, unwaged, retired or work as missionaries overseas).

ACT was founded in 1971 by the Universities and Colleges Christian Fellowship, Scripture Union and The Teachers' Prayer Fellowship (formerly The Teachers' Prayer Bond - founded in 1920).