

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

