

Fishing for People Game



Scripture Reference: Mark 1:14-20

General Game Goal: The general idea is to use your straw to pick up the fish/people using suction and to deposit the people in one bowl (the boat) and the fish in the other bowl (the net.)

This game is based on the story where Jesus calls the disciples telling them he will teach them to “fish for people.” Jesus was promising to teach the disciples to tell the story of God in such a way that other people who heard the story would also want to join with the disciples to follow Jesus’ Way of Love as well.

Materials Needed:

- Space to play – a clear table, footstool, or space on the floor
- Paper
- Writing Utensil
- Scissors
- 2 Empty Bowls
- Drinking Straws (or empty paper towel/toilet paper rolls)

Prep: Outline and cut out the shapes of people and fish on the paper. We used one colour of paper for fish and one for people for ease of recognition, but you can use any colours you’d like. You can make as many fish and people as you’d like. We used 4 of each for a simple game with 2 people.

Set Up:

1. Put your two empty bowls on the table – close together for a simple game, further apart for a more complex game.
2. Each player will need a straw or towel tube. (Toilet paper or towel roll tubes are easier for some younger players. If you are using these, you’ll need to ensure your fish/people are wider than the opening on the tube)
3. Players can be side by side, but across from one another is easier.

Game Play:

There are several different ways to play. The age and number of players will determine what will work best for you!

- Youngest Players – cooperative – some players may find sucking through the straw or tube too challenging. For these players you can modify the game by having an older player pick up the pieces with their straw and then pass the pieces to the younger player who will use their hands to sort the pieces into the correct bowl (net or boat.) *This is how Hazel and I played in the video.
- Young Players – cooperative or competitive – Players can work together to see how fast they complete the sorting or they can go one at a time to attempt to beat one another's time. If you make a lot of game pieces they could also compete against the clock or each other to see who can collect the most fish vs. people in the allotted time (for solo play) or until all of the pieces are collected (multi-player.) (*For this final method I recommend having two bowls for each player.)
- Older Players – cooperative or competitive - Older players could use any of the strategies above or, for added difficulty, you could play on a dining room table and put the "net" at one end and the "boat" at the other with all of the fish/people scattered around the table. Players can race against one another (competitive) to collect the most fish/people.

The most important part of this game is to have fun. Hazel and I played multiple different ways for about an hour. It was a blast and enabled us to work on some developmental skills while talking about the story of Jesus calling the disciples.

Have fun!