

Children's Sermon for January 26 (based on Mt. 4: 12-23)

Items needed : a football and a basketball.

After kids come up, ask for four volunteers. Take out football, and ask kids what it is. Hand football to the group of four. If this group were to play football, whoever has the football, can run with the ball. (Ask one of four to run down the aisle and then run back.) Also, in football, the team, the group, that has the ball can kick it sometimes. (Have one of group of four hold the ball on floor and ask someone else from the group to GENTLY kick ball.) But if I were to take away the football (do so,) and give this group, this team, a basketball instead (do so,) that would change the game. For example, in basketball, whoever has the ball can't just run with it, like in football. With basketball, the person with the ball can only move with the ball, by bouncing it on the floor, as they run with the ball. And in basketball, you can't kick the ball, like you can with football. Different games have different rules. In today's Bible reading, Jesus comes to four people, and He changes the rules, kind of like switching from football to basketball. The four people in the Bible reading have been catching fish, which they then sell to people to eat.. When Jesus comes along, He changes the game for them. Instead of fishing for fish, Jesus tells them that their new game is fishing for people. What Jesus means is that they will now be inviting people to follow Jesus. Jesus also calls on us to change our game. Like the four people in today's Bible reading, we also are to invite other people to follow Jesus.

By Rev. Dave Quinn