

## Children's Sermon for Father's Day

**Scripture Focus:** Matthew 4:18-22

**Object:** Bobbers (with optional tags)

Good morning everyone! It's so wonderful to see you here on this special Sunday. Today, I've been thinking about a man named Zebedee. Not too many people remember him from the Bible. But, I think he was a really great and wonderful person! Let me tell you the story...

One day, Jesus was walking along the seashore with his first two disciples Peter and Andrew. He saw two brothers with their father mending their nets. Jesus knew they made their living by fishing, so he called out to them, "Follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!" Do you know what the sons did? They laid down their fishing nets and followed Jesus. Their names were James and John. They were the sons of Zebedee.

The Bible doesn't tell us what Zebedee did but I like to imagine that he was very proud of his sons for choosing to follow Jesus. I would be proud! Zebedee raised his sons to have courage to go with Jesus when called and to have faith even when they hadn't seen Jesus do anything yet.

Zebedee was a good father because he loved God and followed God's ways. Not all of us have a dad at home, but here at church we are surrounded by a lot of men who love God and follow God's ways. Just like Zebedee, they are proud every time one of you chooses to follow Jesus. And they want to help you grow up to have courage to go on mission trips to serve those in need and to have faith in God even when we can't see the miracles with our eyes. These men in our church are our very own Zebedees who will be with you every step of the way so you can answer Jesus' call to "Follow Me!"

And as a little "thank you" to every man in our church, we are going to give them one of these bobbers. A bobber is a float that helps hold a fishing hook at just the right depth — the men in our church, they're a bit

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like that... they help keep our church family and building in just the right condition so we can focus on fishing for people!

Let's pray together...

Holy God, we give you thanks for all the men in our church who like Zebedee help raise up the next generation to be faithful and steadfast. Above all, we give thanks for your son Jesus Christ and for You, our heavenly Father. Amen.