

## **Xplorers Report 6<sup>th</sup>. October Theme fishermen in the Bible**

**Georgina writes:** It was a great pleasure for us all to have Walter and Heather Ritchie coming to help lead the Prayz time for the Xplorers as Ken was away.

But first Walter joined in with the Balcony group to make paper boats. Hugo, Kelsey and Angus became dab hands at the folding and opening the paper out into sturdy little craft and made one to sail along the balcony shelf and one to take home to see how long they floated in water.

Walter taught us the Greek word IXTHUS [fish] which became the secret sign for Christians who were being persecuted. Hugo was best at remembering the full significance of each letter of the greek for fish at the Prayz time. Kelsey and Angus added the story of Peter and James casting out their net and agreed that friends were needed to come and help haul in the huge catch.

Hugo, Kelsey and Angus helped word this report and are happy to write some of the next one.

There was much fun and laughter as all the Xplorers rowed a boat up the aisle before settling down for the Prayz Time.

Many thanks to Walter and Heather for coming to lead and join in.

**For the middle group Lucy writes:** Joshua, Hugh, Arabella and Heather heard the story of how Jesus went onto the fishing boat with the disciples Simon, Andrew, James and John who had already been fishing all night without success. Jesus told them to drop their nets into deeper waters and, despite their tiredness and the fact that they had already tried and caught nothing, they did as Jesus asked. Their reward was an enormous catch of fish. Jenny asked the children to think of the qualities needed to be good fishermen and we had some discussion about qualities such as bravery, strength and determination. We then talked about the faith and trust that these disciples had in Jesus. They dropped their nets again despite having already been fishing for hours and catching nothing, just because Jesus told them to and this faith and trust was rewarded. Our activity was to make fishing scenes with nets to illustrate what we had learned. The children made paper boats and fish and wrote key words from our session on them. They hung these against sea backgrounds they had made with fishing nets (orange and lemon nets) and were delighted that, thanks to Jenny, their fishing nets sweets in them.

**For the youngest group Rachel writes:** We started off explorers welcoming Eilidh and Isaac into the group and then read from the children's bible Luke 5, Jesus gets the fishermen to recast their nets after catching nothing and then they catch loads!

The children caught different fish and shells in their own nets from a bucket and explored what they were, before making a huge collage of boat, fish and nets. There seem to be a plethora of jelly fish! They glued seaweed and stuck on little fish stickers and Archie made a fabulous bright fishing net. Isaac and Eilidh's Dads were brilliant at helping.

