



JESUS CALLS THE DISCIPLES - DAY 4

PRESCHOOL BIBLE LESSON

LESSON TITLE: Jesus Calls the Disciples

LESSON OVERVIEW: Jesus called the disciples to follow Him and to tell people about Him. He wants you and I to do the same.

BIBLE STORY: Jesus Calls the Disciples (Luke 5:1-11)

MEMORY VERSE: And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."
Matthew 4:19

TEACHING OBJECTIVE: To help kids learn God wants them to tell other friends about Him.

SUPPLIES NEEDED FOR THE LESSON

- **Part 1: Bible Lesson:** Bible, fishing net with fish in it, and a fishing net with people in it.
- **Part 2: Memory Verse Activity:** Bible verse words individually written on fish shapes with the last word "people" on a person shape, attached with velcro to a ribbon so that they hang vertically. Snack could be fish crackers or Swedish Fish
- **Part 3: Craft:** Bible verse words on fish and people shapes, ribbon, glue sticks, magnets or a type of hanger for top fish.

PART 1: BIBLE LESSON (15 minutes)**BIBLE LESSON TEXT:** Matthew 4:18-22**SUPPLIES:** Bible, a fishing net with fish and a fishing net with people. Fun option: dress as if you are going fishing.**PREPARE:** Read over story in the Bible, pray for clarity while telling the story. Be prepared to alter the story for the younger children's "sit still" skills.**INTRODUCTION TO LESSON:** Have you ever been fishing? What stuff do you need to go fishing? In our Bible many of the men were fishermen. They didn't fish with fishing poles and worms like we do now. They were catching large amounts of fish so they could sell them to the people of their town. That was how they made the money to take care of their families. That was their job. Do any of your mommies or daddies work on a boat and catch fish?

The men of the Bible fished with nets like this one. (Show net with fish in it). If it were a good day of fishing this net would be so full it would take more than one person to pull it back into the boat. (Describe the process and show the casting and pulling back of a full, heavy net of fish. You could even ask a couple of kids to help you pull it in because it's so heavy.)

Teaching Tip: Always have your Bible open to the Scripture you are telling the story from so children will know that what you are teaching them is from the Bible, God's Word.

BIBLE LESSON: One day Jesus was walking along the Sea of Galilee, and he saw two brothers named Simon and Andrew casting their nets into the sea to catch fish. Jesus said, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people!" (You could say this as if you are Jesus on the shore and shouting out to the boat on the water.) Do you know what Simon and Andrew did? Do you think they said, "Just a minute Jesus we are busy."? Or did they say, "No, we don't want to."? No they didn't! The bible says they immediately, which means "instantly" or "right away", they left their nets and followed him.

What would happen if I pulled a super, heavy net of fish into my boat over and over again? Maybe it would snag on the side of the boat, or if I caught a fish with sharp fins, what might happen to the net? They would get holes and little tears that would make the net weak. If there are holes in the net, what would happen to the fish they were trying to catch? They would swim out of the holes and wouldn't get caught. So the effort of casting would be a waste of time.

Jesus went on from where Simon and Andrew were and saw another boat that had two more brothers in it. They were named James and John. They were with their daddy

Zebedee and they were fixing the holes and weak spots in their nets. They didn't want to lose any fish through the holes so they were sewing them closed. (Mimic sewing your net.) Jesus called to them also. "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people." Do you think they said, "Just a minute Jesus we are busy."? Or did they say, "No, we don't want to."? No they didn't! They immediately, which means "instantly" or "right away", left the boat and their daddy and followed Jesus.

Jesus ended up finding Twelve men to "follow him and fish for people". Now Jesus is asking you to do the same thing. ("Cast" out the net of people and bring it back in as if it's really, really heavy. Invite everyone to join you or have them try casting it out and bringing it back in) Jesus wants us to tell everyone that He loves them. It is our job to immediately, which means "instantly" or "right away" to pray for someone who needs help. We are not to say, "Just a minute, I'm busy" or "no, I don't want to." We are to obey and catch great big, full nets of people for Jesus.

EXTRA ACTIVITY: Teach the song *Fishers of Men or Twelve Disciples*

PART 2: MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY/GAME (15 minutes)

"Follow me and I will make you fish for people." Matthew 4:19

SUPPLIES: Fish shapes with each word of the verse on them except the last word "people" is on a person shape (template for shapes are on pages 5 and 6), long ribbon with velcro so word shapes could be attached in order, goldfish crackers or Swedish fish to enhance lesson for snack.

PREPARATION: Pray for the children to know and desire to hide God's word in their heart. Learn the Bible verse that you are teaching.

READ THE VERSE: Read the verse while placing the shapes in the appropriate order on the ribbon.

EXPLAIN THE VERSE: Jesus wants us to know and obey him and tell everyone about Him. Jesus wants everyone to know Him.

LEARN THE VERSE: Place the shapes in the appropriate order on the ribbon. Have the children say it with you. Then if the children are capable, pass out the fish and let each child place them in the correct order taking turns and saying the verse altogether as the words are placed.

EXTRA ACTIVITY: Play Follow the Leader if room permits, or you could incorporate a stationary game of Follow the Leader. (i.e. touch your head, your nose, your toes, etc.) Talk about how the disciples "followed" Jesus just like they are following the leader in their class.

PART 3: CRAFT (15 minutes)

SUPPLIES: Bible verse words on fish and people shapes, wide ribbon, glue sticks and large adhesive magnets

PREPARATION: Make sure you have plenty of each cut out so that the entire Bible verse is available to everyone (10 fish and 1 person per child)

"Follow me and I will make you fish for people." Matthew 4:19

INSTRUCTION: Glue the bible verse vertically down the ribbon. Attach a magnet to the top so verse can be hung. Help children not put glue over the entire back of the shape, just in the area that will actually come in contact with the ribbon. Be generous with glue so the craft actually makes it home to be hung.

EXTRA ACTIVITY: This craft should take the entire 15 minutes.



