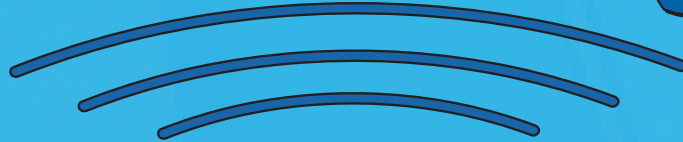


# Bible Lessons Handbook



NEW VISION  
CHILDREN



# Teaching Children

God desires to use you to impact others for eternity, and your Rock the Block will provide plenty of opportunities to do that. So, by all means, prepare yourself personally to be used by God (2 Tim 2:20-21). Walk closely with Him in prayer. Enjoy Him. Read, even memorize His Word. Live mindful of His presence, and let that be evident in the way you live. Confess and genuinely forsake anything in your life you know is not pleasing to God. And, do these things, not only for the ministry period of Rock the Block, but because this is the purpose for which God saved you.

Prepare your lessons well and you and everyone in your hearing will be glad you did. Before even approaching a lesson, ask God to use the truths of the lesson in your own life. Then, carefully read and re-read the lesson's key Bible passage. Then read multiple times. To provide a fuller understanding of the key passage, read the entire context, which may include the chapter or surrounding chapters. Read the entire lesson plan while underlining main truths. Then re-read the lesson plan making notes about how you will present the material. You are free to make the lessons your own. Please don't feel restricted to every word of the Bible lessons.

As you prepare, try to think like a child. Consider how children will hear and visualize the passages and your words. Anticipate their assumptions and questions based on concrete thinking. For instance, if you read Revelation 21:4, "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes ...," when a young child hears these words, she pictures these words in her mind and then wonders, "Does that mean every tear wiped away from every eye of every person in heaven? Wow! That's a lot of tissues." Thinking like a child helps us anticipate thoughts like this so that we can help children have a clearer understanding of what we are teaching.

When preparing the Bible lessons, we tried to break down the truth without dumbing it down. To dumb down a truth the teacher removes, or even distorts, so much of the truth's essence that the truth becomes truth-barren or worse, the teaching becomes heresy. However, to break down the truth, the teacher not only keeps the essence of the truth intact but also carefully sheds light on the truth by explaining it in terms familiar to children.

- **Be animated.**
- **Appeal to children's vivid imaginations.**
- **Be sincere.**
- **Be you.**
- **Have fun!**

When reading Scripture, always do so from an open Bible. This helps children see the Words you are reading are not your own, but God's. Occasionally allow the children to read aloud the lesson's Bible passages. This practice helps children see they don't have to be afraid of the Bible or think the Bible is only for adults.

The lessons have been prepared to offer a very low-prep approach requiring few, if any, items or preparation. Throughout the lessons, however, you may notice optional features included enhancing the experience, but these are not essential. Please refer to the Rock the Block Site Host Handbook for additional guidance related to teaching, communicating the Gospel to boys and girls, etc. At any time, if you have a question, please feel free to reach out to the Rock The Block Team. We are committed to helping your team have the most beneficial outreach experience possible.



# Lesson 2

**Text:** Luke 5:1-11

**Bottom Line:** I can trust Jesus and follow Him.

## What You Say:

(Give a brief welcome and introduce yourself.)

Before we begin learning our true Bible story today, I want to ask you a question. What do you think it means to follow someone? (Allow children time to answer.)

Today, we are going to learn about what it means to follow someone, but not just anyone. We are going to learn what it means to follow Jesus. I am going to open my Bible to Luke 5.

Here is what is going on in the true Bible story. Three men named Simon, James and John had spent the entire night fishing. They were fishermen. They caught fish for a living and sold them. Well, that night didn't go so well. They came back to the bank empty handed. But then something happened that would change their lives' forever.

Let's read Luke 5:1-11

<sup>1</sup> One day as Jesus was preaching on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, great crowds pressed in on him to listen to the word of God. <sup>2</sup> He noticed two empty boats at the water's edge, for the fishermen had left them and were washing their nets.

<sup>3</sup> Stepping into one of the boats, Jesus asked Simon, its owner, to push it out into the water. So he sat in the boat and taught the crowds from there.

Simon was a fisherman. He was a smelly fisherman, a normal working man, not the most popular, nor the richest. Jesus sat in the boat. It wasn't Jesus's boat.

<sup>4</sup> When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Now go out where it is deeper, and let down your nets to catch some fish."

Had Simon caught any fish that night? Did what Jesus was asking him to do make sense? Jesus will call you to do some strange things.

<sup>5</sup> "Master," Simon replied, "we worked hard all last night and didn't catch a thing. But if you say so, I'll let the nets down again."

Did Simon obey Jesus? Should we obey Jesus? Why? (Discuss)

<sup>6</sup> And this time their nets were so full of fish they began to tear! <sup>7</sup> A shout for help brought their partners in the other boat, and soon both boats were filled with fish and on the verge of sinking.

There were so many fish. (Dramatic) They can't get the fish up in the boat. They needed help! It was better than they could have ever planned. Trusting Jesus is always better!

How were things different than before? (Allow kids to answer) There is one way, our way, of trying to do it on our own and then there is the Jesus way of letting Him do it. When you follow Jesus, your life will look completely different. Who knows best? Jesus! Who should you trust? Jesus! We can trust Jesus and follow Him.



If you say you do follow Jesus. Does your life look different than before? Are you trusting Jesus and doing what He says?

<sup>8</sup> When Simon Peter realized what had happened, he fell to his knees before Jesus and said, “Oh, Lord, please leave me—I’m too much of a sinner.”

What does it mean to be a sinner? (Allow for response) It means we have disobeyed God. Who has sinned against God? (Everyone) You are never too sinful to stop and turn to Jesus.

<sup>9</sup> For he was awestruck by the number of fish they had caught, as were the others with him. <sup>10</sup> His partners, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were also amazed.

Jesus knows it can be scary to follow Him, to leave what you love and trust Him.

Jesus replied to Simon, “Don’t be afraid! From now on you’ll be fishing for people!”

What do you think this means, “from now on you will be fishing for people”? (Allow for response) (To tell people about Jesus, who He is and what He did for them.)

<sup>11</sup> And as soon as they landed, they left everything and followed Jesus.

They left everything and followed Jesus. Simon may not have had all the answers. He didn’t know what the future would be like, but he trusted Jesus. Jesus is trustworthy. He gave up his life so that we could be forgiven of our sins and have access to God. We want you to know that you can trust Jesus and Follow him, just like Simon, James and John. It means that we set aside what we want and set our sights on what God wants - and it means that we join in a mission much greater than ourselves.

Trusting Jesus in every area of your life; at school, at sports, hobbies, around friends, family, everywhere. It’s not just at church. Trust Him. Follow him even if you don’t know what to do or what will happen. Trust Jesus and follow him.

Our bottom line today is: **I can trust Jesus and follow Him.** (Have children repeat it after you.)

You can make the decision to trust Jesus and follow him. What are you trusting in? Who are you following? Jesus is saying to you today, “follow me”.

If you want to know more about what it means to follow Jesus and how to can follow Him, then please let myself or one of the other leaders know today. We would love to talk to you and answer any questions you may have.

You have done a great job listening and learning today. Let’s say our bottom line one more time together, **I can trust Jesus and follow Him.**

Now let’s **pray.**

