

LESSON 11

The Miraculous Catch

LUKE 5:1–11



BIBLE TRUTH

WHEN JESUS CALLED THE DISCIPLES WITH POWER, THEY COULD NOT RESIST

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 89)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Where Is the Gospel?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is the Gospel?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: snack food and beverage

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5–10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20–30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES: coloring page for NT Lesson 11—one for each child; markers or crayons

Boys against the Girls

Blanket Net

SUPPLIES: large blanket for a net; simple Peter costume made of a flat sheet and a rope for a belt

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60–75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

In today's lesson the children will learn about the calling of Simon, James, and John.

After you welcome the children tell them you are going to play a game that will tell them what today's lesson is about. (Make sure you know all the children's names.)

Start walking around the room while you say, "I'm walking around the room, and I wonder if anyone knows who I am pretending to be?" Call out the name of a child (pick a more mature child to start) and say, "Come follow me." Have a helper ready to direct each child to stand and start walking behind you.

One by one ask all of the children to follow you. Once the last child joins your train of followers, circle around the room a few times and then have them all sit down and ask them the following questions:

- **Who do you think I was pretending to be? Who called people to come follow him?**

(The answer is Jesus. You can have a helper give a clue to the children to help them guess correctly if they need help.)

- **What do we call the people Jesus invited to come and follow him?**

(We call them disciples.)

Today we are going to read a story about how Jesus called Peter, who was a fisherman, to be one of his disciples. Jesus told Peter that, instead of fishing for fish, he was going to start fishing for men!

Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 89, "The Miraculous Catch," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

- **What was Jesus doing in the boat?**
(He sat in the boat and taught the people who stood on the shore.)

- **What happened in the story?**
(The fishermen had been out all night fishing but had caught nothing. Jesus told Simon Peter to push the boat out into deep water and cast the nets again. This time they caught a huge number of fish.)

- **How did the miraculous catch of fish and Jesus' teaching make Simon Peter feel?**
(He realized that he was a sinful man.)

Where Is the Gospel?

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Luke 19:10 says that Jesus came to seek and to save the lost. In our story today, Jesus seeks out a man named Peter and a few of his fishing companions and calls them to join him in his mission to reach the world. Though they were accustomed to netting fish, Jesus told them they were called to catch men (Luke 5:10). Like Peter, whom the Lord did not condemn for his sin, they would join Jesus in calling others. The picture of the nets, bursting with fish, depicts the kingdom of God. Through his death on the cross, Jesus would call men from every tribe, language, and nation. This catching of men would only be possible through the grace of God available through Jesus' death on the cross and his resurrection.

Jesus called other men as well and they responded and followed him. For instance, when Jesus told Nathanael where he had been earlier in the day—before they met—and went on to describe the setting, Nathanael was amazed. He instantly believed and praised Jesus, saying, "You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" (John 1:49).

SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking the following questions:

- **Why would these men leave everything to follow Jesus?**
(They did not do this on their own strength. God gave them the grace to leave and placed a call upon their lives that they could not ignore.)

- **Does God call people to follow him and be his disciples today?**
(Yes, every person who becomes a Christian has been changed by the power of God and called to follow him as a disciple of the Lord. All Christians are Jesus’ disciples or followers. That is what the name Christian means.)

- **Jesus taught the crowd gathered on the shore from the boat. How does God teach us today?**
(God teaches us today through his Word—the Bible.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. 20-30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 11—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- **How many fish with eyes can you see in the picture?**
(Help the children count the fish. There are five fish showing with eyes. Then ask the children how many fish they think are in the net. There is no correct answer. The idea is that they realize the disciples caught a lot of fish.)

- **What was so amazing about catching so many fish?**
(The disciples had already worked all night and had not caught a single fish.)

- **What was Jesus trying to teach the disciples by helping them catch all these fish?**

(He used this miracle to illustrate his awesome power and control of all things. By this he taught them he was not just a good teacher, he was God.)

- **What lessons are there in this story for us?**

(Jesus is more than a wise teacher. Jesus is all-powerful and able to supply all of our needs.)

Boys against the Girls

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Use the following trivia questions in a contest. You will need an adult helper on each team to feed clues as needed.

Divide the class into two teams. Alternate asking questions of the two teams. Your classroom helpers should give clues but not say the exact answer. (For instance, they could give a clue like “it is has a lot of water and you can swim in it” for lake. They could also act out something or give part of the answer and have the children guess the missing word.) If a team guesses the correct answer, give them a point. Give each team three chances to guess correctly. If they get it wrong give their opponent a try. If their opponent guesses correctly, they get one point. Total up the score in the end and announce the winning team.

- **Where was Jesus standing?**

(by the lake)

- **What was the lake’s name?**

(Gennesaret)

- **How many boats were by the lake?**

(two)

- **What were the fishermen doing?**

(washing their nets)

- **Why did Jesus get into one of the boats and ask the fishermen to put their boats out further in the water?**

(so he could teach from the boat to the people on the shore)

- **After Jesus finished teaching, what did he tell Simon Peter to do?**
(put out into deeper water and let his net down for a catch)
- **How many boats did they fill with the many fish?**
(two)
- **Why did Peter want Jesus to leave him?**
(Peter realized that Jesus was God and he himself was a sinful man.)
- **What did Jesus say the fisherman would be catching next?**
(men)
- **What did the men leave to follow Jesus?**
(everything)

Blanket Net

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ large blanket for a net
- ✓ simple Peter costume made of a flat sheet and a rope for a belt

Retell the story acting it out as Peter. Use the blanket as a net to cast into the classroom (the sea). At the beginning of the story cast it out and pull it back easily because it is empty. But after Jesus directs you to cast the net, pretend that it is very heavy. This is an easy thing to pantomime. You can really make the presentation dramatic and then talk about how amazing Jesus was that he could command the fish to swim into your net!

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Take time at the end of class to thank God for what you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as a way for the children to remember today's lesson.

