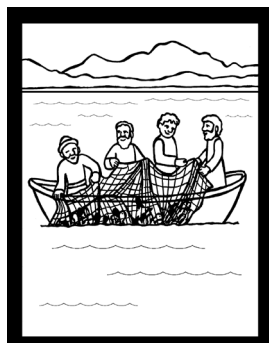


Lesson C3.2 - We Follow Jesus



Teacher's Pages with Step-by-Step Lesson Plan

For Lower Elementary Students and Classes

Recommended for students in Preschool, Kindergarten, and Grades 1-2.

Quick Facts for the Teacher

Lesson Summary: Luke 5:1-11

- Bible Characters: Jesus, Simon, James, John

Jesus asked some fishermen to row him out onto a lake so he could preach to a crowd from there. When he was done, he told the men to cast their nets. They doubted they would catch anything, but the nets filled with fish! After this, Jesus invited them to follow him, and they did.

Brief Bible Background

- Today's Lesson is from the New Testament
- Scripture Section: Discipleship

Simon Peter, James, and John were simple fishermen going about their daily lives when Jesus called them. Throughout the gospels, we see that Jesus often reached out to ordinary people, as well as to those who were often forgotten or left out. When called by Jesus, they gladly responded.

For More Information

The primary role of a Sunday School teacher for Preschool, Kindergarten (pre-readers), and Early Elementary (new readers) is to simply tell children the stories of Scripture and introduce them to the major characters of the Bible.

Teachers who want to know more about the lessons for their own familiarity with the story are encouraged to read the information in the SEED Upper Elementary and Youth Teacher's Pages.

a. Classroom Greeting

Teachers should arrive 10 to 15 minutes before class and greet students and parents by name. Write the day's Bible Message on the white board or poster board for all the kids to see. Have kids gather on a rug or in a dedicated meeting space. Encourage the children to learn each other's names.

b. Opening Prayer Song

The words to this song are sung to the tune, "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes."

Optional motions: Lift hands up on "Lord," point to ears on "hear," fold hands on "pray."

Stretch hands outwards on "all who need your help today."

Lord, hear us as we pray, as we pray!

Lord, hear us as we pray, as we pray!

Bless all who need your help today!

Lord, hear us as we pray, as we pray!

c. Introduction to Today's Message

*Teacher's Script (student responses are in **bold**).*

Have you ever played the game, "Follow the Leader" before? Who can tell me how that works? (Call on volunteers). In real life, we follow a Leader, too, but it is one who never leaves us or says we are "out." **We follow Jesus!** Say that with me: **We follow Jesus!**

- Let's name some ways **we follow Jesus** in our day to day lives. (*Coming to church and Sunday school, praying, reading our Bibles, serving others, etc.*)

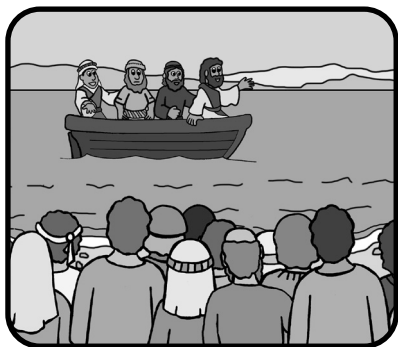
In today's story, Jesus invited some fishermen to follow him. What did they do? Let's hear our story and find out!

d. SEED Bible Story Video

The teacher may introduce the lesson by playing the video clip from the SEED website. This may be displayed simply on a laptop computer or tablet. If the classroom is equipped with a computer video monitor or video projector, the video can be displayed in a larger size.

e. Read the Story with Poster Pictures

The Bible Story has been divided into four parts, each with an accompanying Poster Picture. The teacher should hold up or point to the relevant Poster Picture while reading the individual part of the story, asking questions while reading. Posters may be printed on letter-sized paper, or enlarged and printed on ledger-sized paper if a bigger printer is available. Poster pictures may also be opened as a PDF on a computer screen, scrolling through each of the four pages.

**Picture 1**

Tell the children: Wherever Jesus went, big crowds would gather. Sometimes they would press around him so closely that he had no space! In today's story, that's just what happened.

Read the caption: Jesus was preaching outside. The crowd got so big that he climbed into a boat. That way, he could preach to them from the water.

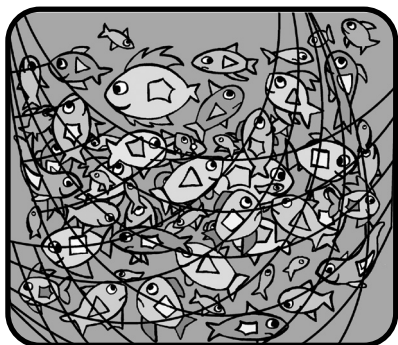
- *Where is Jesus in this picture? [Sitting in the boat, dressed in white with a red sash.] What is he doing? [He's talking to the crowd from the boat.]*
- *Who are the other men in the boat? [Simon Peter and some other fishermen.]*

**Picture 2**

Tell the children: The people listened closely to Jesus. Voices carry well over the water, and maybe they heard him even better while he was speaking from the boat.

Read the caption: When he was done, Jesus told the fishermen to throw their nets into the water to catch some fish. But they were really tired.

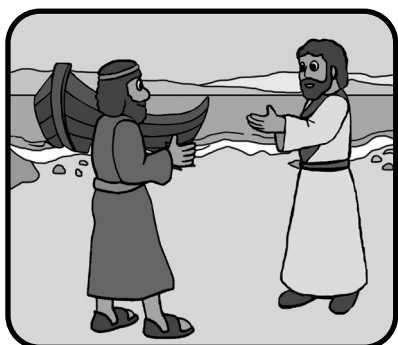
- *Look at the men's faces. What do you notice? [They aren't smiling. They don't like the idea of fishing right now.]*
- *What would you be thinking if you were one of the fishermen? [Call on volunteers.]*

**Picture 3**

Tell the children: Simon Peter and the other fishermen didn't know Jesus yet. They just wanted to go home. But they were polite and listened to him anyway.

Read the caption: "We fished all night long and caught nothing," Peter said. But he let down the nets again. Then he looked in the water.

- *What do you notice about this picture? [The nets are filled with fish!]*
- *Have you ever gone fishing before and caught nothing? [Call on volunteers.] What would you think if, after catching nothing all day, fish suddenly started appearing out of nowhere like this? [Call on volunteers.]*

**Picture 4**

Tell the children: "How can this be?" Simon Peter wondered. Just the night before, they had caught nothing. But now, fish were coming to them from every direction!

Read the caption: So many fish were filling the nets that the boat was almost sinking! After this, the fishermen left their nets and followed Jesus.

- *Who can tell me what is happening in this picture? [Jesus is inviting Peter to follow him. From now on, he'll be catching people instead of fish.]*
- *What would you have done if you were Peter? [Call on volunteers.]*

f. Bible Story Rhyme (optional)

The Bible Story Rhyme below is the same one found on the Upper Elementary Student sheet. The teacher can read the beginning of the line and see if the children can finish the last rhyming word of the phrase.

*Beside a lake, outside a town,
a group of people gathered 'round.
In hopes of hearing Jesus teach,
they crowded close to hear him preach.*

*Then Jesus saw a boat was near,
and climbing in, he taught from there!
But after, when the crowds had gone
he spoke to Peter, James and John.*

*"Throw all your nets into the sea.
The fish will fill them easily."
When all the fish had been pulled in,
they left their boats, and followed him!*

g. Young Children's Activity (optional)

Simple in-class crafts or activities may be completed by the children if there is time left at the end of class. (Note: For the youngest children, simply providing crayons and letting them complete the Coloring Page may serve as the "craft" for the day.)

Game: Untangle the Nets!**Materials Needed:**

Chairs, yarn, scissors, tape, timer

Instructions:

Divide the class into two groups of "fishermen." Group 1 will "set up the nets;" Group 2 will "untangle the nets."

Invite kids to help you place classroom chairs in a large circle. Give each student in Group 1 a very long piece of yarn. Each person will tape one end of their yarn to a random chair in the circle. Then, they will weave it around other pieces of yarn, and tape the other end to another chair on the other side of the circle. This doesn't have to look nice--the main object is to make a tangle of yarn. When the "net" has been built, challenge Group 2 to untangle it. To do this, each student will untape one piece of yarn and follow it to the end, then remove and roll their yarn into a little ball. Set a timer for five minutes and see if they can finish before it sounds.

Being a fisherman in Bible times was not easy. Not only did they have to wash their nets, but also mend and untangle them. And that was all before trying to catch the actual fish!

**h. Song (optional)**

The tune to this traditional and comforting hymn can be found on YouTube and other websites. If kids are unfamiliar with it, let them listen to it once or twice before teaching it to them.

God Will Take Care of You

Be not dismayed whate'er betide; (*Shake head "No"*)
God will take care of you. (*Cross arms over heart*)
Beneath His wings of love abide; (*Lift hands up*)
God will take care of you. (*Cross arms over heart*)

Refrain:

God will take care of you, (*Cross arms over heart*)
through ev'ry day, o'er all the way. (*Hands outstretched*)
He will take care of you; (*Point up to heaven*)
God will take care of you. (*Cross arms over heart*)

i. Story Review: Then What Happened?

Then What Happened is a learning game that helps kids retell the story and remember the flow of events. The teacher reads the starting sentence and then chooses a student to continue the story. There are two rules: each student may only add one sentence or say one new thing, and events in the story need to be in the right order.

► **Start: Jesus was preaching outside to a large crowd. What happened next?**

If the younger kids have trouble, cut a Take-Home Page into four pieces (with no words) and let the kids put the illustrations in order while they tell the story.

j. Closing Prayer

Send the children home with the Take-Home Page, and tell them to ask their parents to read the story to them again (or, perhaps, they can read it to their parents).

End class with this closing prayer, repeated each week for memorization.

*Heavenly Father, God above,
We're grateful for your faithful love.*

Bless everyone who need your care,

Help hurting people everywhere.

Be with us now, in all we do,

So we may serve and live for you. Amen.