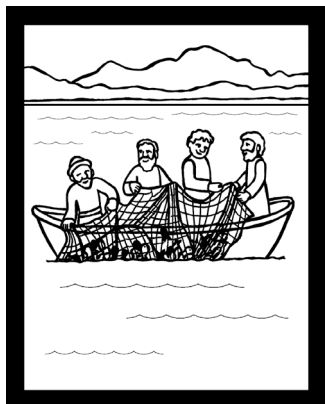




LESSON PLAN

Scripture Texts:

Luke 5:1-11

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Session Theme:

Discipleship

a. Welcome to Class

Teachers should arrive in the classroom well in advance of class. Welcome students as they enter, and inquire about their week. Pass out name tags and record attendance on a classroom chart.

b. Icebreaker: “Fish Tales”

Ask if anyone in the class has gone fishing before, and invite kids to share their stories. Did they use a special bait? Go out on a boat? More importantly, did they catch anything? If no one has ever fished, invite them to imagine what they would like most (and least) about the experience.

In today’s story, Jesus goes out on the water to help some very frustrated fishermen. If you’ve ever been fishing before, you know how it feels to spend hours on the water only to bring nothing back with you. But with Jesus on the boat, things changed in more ways than one. How? Let’s begin our lesson and find out!

c. Opening Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you for coming to us and inviting us to be part of the family of faith, just as you did for those fishermen so long ago. Help us to reach out to others and invite them to follow you too. In your holy name we pray. Amen.

d. SEED Video or Song (Optional)

The teacher may introduce the lesson by playing the video clip from the SEED website. This time may also include an opening song or two, using a commercial Sunday School music CD.

Song suggestions for this lesson:

- “I Will Make You Fishers of Men” (children’s song)
- “You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore” (hymn)

e. Brief Bible Background

Read together the introduction to the lessons for the day, and briefly summarize the context and setting:

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

Jesus came to Bethany to to visit his friends Martha and Mary. While Martha was busy running around taking care of the house and preparing meals, Mary sat at Jesus’ feet and listened to his teachings. Jesus commended her for choosing the “better portion.”

f. Communicate the Bible Story

Always keep in mind that the main purpose of Sunday School is to put people in contact with Bible stories. Use a version that is appropriate to the age level:

Children: Read aloud the Bible Story and Rhyme

Youth/Adults: Read aloud Scripture from the Bible

g. Complete the Worksheet(s)

Continue with the handout sheets appropriate to the age level of the students in class:

Pre-Readers: Coloring Page and Activity

Elementary: Children’s Pages (Worksheet and Drama)

Youth: Bible Study (Maps, Timelines, and Questions)

Adults: Bible Study (Large or Small Group Discussion)

h. Craft and Activity Time

If there is time after covering the Bible story, the class may move to craft and activity time, described on the following page. (Do not let the activity time supersede the actual time spent on the Scripture lesson.)

i. Summarize and Review

Before ending class, briefly summarize the day’s lesson one last time. Use the Bible Rhyme as a short review, or simply ask questions to help the students recall the events of the story.

Youth/Adult: Discuss “Reflection for the Week Ahead”

j. Closing Prayer

Close the session in prayer before dismissal:

Pre-Readers: Teacher leads a simple prayer

Children: Practice a prayer from memory (e.g., the Lord’s Prayer, Luther’s Morning Prayer, etc.)

Youth/Adult: Use the ADTRC Prayer format

Bible Study Leader's Guide

The following is a discussion and answer guide for the Youth and Adult Bible Study sheets. For all leaders, it can serve to provide some background on the Bible lesson.

Discuss: Luke 5:1-11

1. If Jesus' intention was to teach the people, why do you think he got into a boat and put a distance between them? Why didn't he move closer?

Sound travels well over the open water. By getting some distance between himself and the crowd, Jesus was able to make sure that more people could hear him speaking. (It also prevented him from being squished by the mob.)

2. Why were Simon and the other fishermen so tired? Do you think they really wanted to go back out on the lake with Jesus? Why do you think they did so?

Simon says that they had worked hard all through the previous night fishing. They probably would have rather stayed on the shore fixing their nets so they could go home. We know from St. John's Gospel that they had met Jesus before and had heard him speak. They took him out on the water because they believed in him. (John 1:40 says that Simon's brother Andrew had introduced his brother to Jesus.)

3. What does the miraculous catch of fish tell us about Jesus' power? Can you think of any other stories where Jesus did something with fish? What theme do these stories have in common?

It shows us that Jesus has authority over nature, including the fish in the sea. Other stories where Jesus does something with fish include the feeding of the 5000 (Luke 9:10-17 and all the other Gospels), the feeding of the 4000 (Matthew 15:32-39 and in Mark), filling the net again after his resurrection (John 21:4-11), and a coin in the mouth of a fish (Matthew 17:24-27).

These stories share the theme that Jesus is Lord over all of creation, and that he is able to provide for us in amazing and unexpected ways.

4. Jesus had just done an amazing thing for Simon. Why did he tell Jesus to go away? What was he feeling at that moment?

Simon told Jesus to go away because he recognized that Jesus had done something which only God has the power to do, and he was not worthy to be in God's presence (see Isaiah's response to being in God's presence in Isaiah 6:1-8).

Simon was astonished at what had happened and his act of worship shows that he recognized that Jesus is God and he felt his own unworthiness to be in his presence.

5. Have you ever had something really good or special happen to you that made you feel like you didn't deserve it? How is God's grace like that? How does God bless us in ways that we do not deserve?

Each participant may have something to share. God's grace is always undeserved. He loves us and calls each one of us to be his child. He takes the sin which kept us from him and gives us his righteousness without any good work or input on our part. God also blesses us physically with all that we need in this life, not because we deserve it but because he has promised that he will do so.

6. What did Jesus mean when he said, "from now on you will be catching men"? To what new work was Jesus calling them?

The word Jesus used to describe catching men implied a live catch, unlike the fish that would be caught and killed to be eaten. They were to be fishers of men, but with a gospel which brought life to those whom they caught. The new work which Jesus was calling them to was the work of an evangelist. They were to take the good news of salvation and new life in Christ to all.

7. In verse 5, Simon said, "At your word I will let down the nets." How is Jesus' word an important theme in this whole lesson? Who is the source of the Word? Who needs to hear the Word?

Jesus' word is what the crowd had come to hear. Sharing his word was why he asked to be taken out in the boat. Simon had listened to the entire message Jesus gave while preaching from his boat. Jesus not only spoke his word; he is the Word in the flesh. He is the Word who has come from his Father, God the source of the Word. Everyone needs to hear the Word and come to know Jesus as Simon did.

8. Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-31. In what way is it reassuring to know that God works through ordinary people like us? What does that show about God himself?

It is reassuring to know that God works through ordinary people like us because it shows us that God is willing to use even us to share the gospel. The fact that God uses ordinary people, those considered foolish and unlearned, to grow his kingdom shows that it is in fact God who is growing his kingdom through us, so we do not have to be afraid of failure when we do the work to which he has called us.

Classroom Craft and Activity Page

Listed below are in-class activities and craft projects related to the theme for the day. Choose one of the following based on the age and capabilities of the students. (Never let the activity or craft time take precedence over the biblical story.)

Activity 1: "Fishing Rod Snacks"

(for all children)

Materials Needed:

- Paper plates
- Plastic knives
- String licorice
- Cheez Whiz
- Fish shaped crackers
- Pretzel rods

Instructions:

Give each person a paper plate, plastic knife, a pretzel rod or two, and a thin string of licorice. Spoon or squeeze some cheese whiz onto each child's plate.

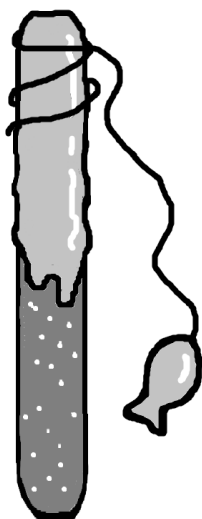
After kids have washed their hands, invite them to use the Cheez Whiz as "glue" as they arrange their supplies in a fishing rod shape. The pretzel rods can be used as the fishing pole, the string licorice as line (some of it could be wrapped around the pretzel rod if desired) and the fish shaped cracker as a fish on the end of the line.



When kids have finished making their fishing rods, they can eat their design while you talk more about the story.

During the discussion time, ask the following questions:

- We made fishing rods for our activity, but in today's story, the disciples were fishing from boats, using nets. Have you ever seen this done before? How is it done?
- Would you prefer to fish with a rod or a net? Why did you choose that option?
- The fishermen in today's story were not just doing it for fun. This was how they made their living! Do you think it was hard for them to leave their nets and follow Jesus? Why or why not?
- Why do you think Jesus chose ordinary people, like fishermen, to be his first followers?

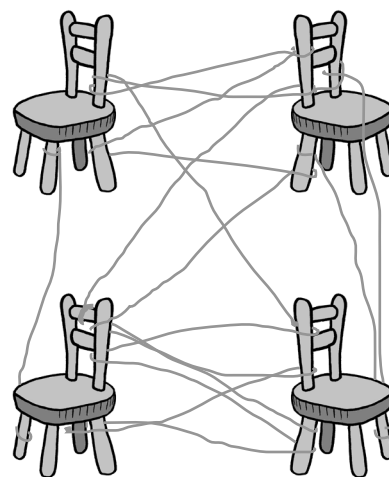


Activity 2: "Untangle the Nets" Activity

(for all children)

Materials Needed:

- Skein of yarn
- Masking tape
- Scissors
- Lesson cards (picture cards from today's lesson, cut out)
- Large area to do this activity
- Timer



Instructions:

Divide the kids into two groups of "fishermen." Group 1 will "set up the nets" in the class; Group 2 will "untangle the nets." Invite kids to help you set up classroom chairs in a large circle. Chairs should be about 5 or more feet away from one another.

Give each student in Group 1 a very long piece of yarn (about 3 yards long per piece). Explain that their job will be to make a "net." To do this, 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. Each student can tape their yarn to a different chair to spread the strands apart somewhat. This doesn't have to look nice--the main object is to make a tangle of yarn, creating a tangled "net."

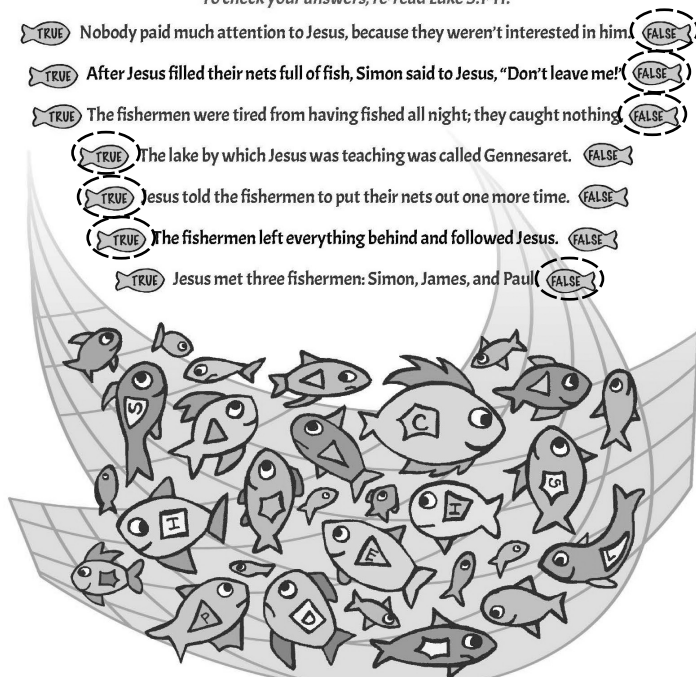
When the "net" has been built, challenge Group 2 to "untangle the net." To do this, each student will untape one piece of yarn, and *without letting it go at any point*, follow it to the end. Then, each person will roll up their piece of yarn into a ball. Before they begin, set a timer for 5-10 minutes and see if they can complete the task before the timer 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! Jesus came to ordinary people with ordinary jobs, and called them to follow him--just as he calls us today.

Worksheet Answer Key

Shown below are the answers and solution to the children's worksheet for this week's lesson:

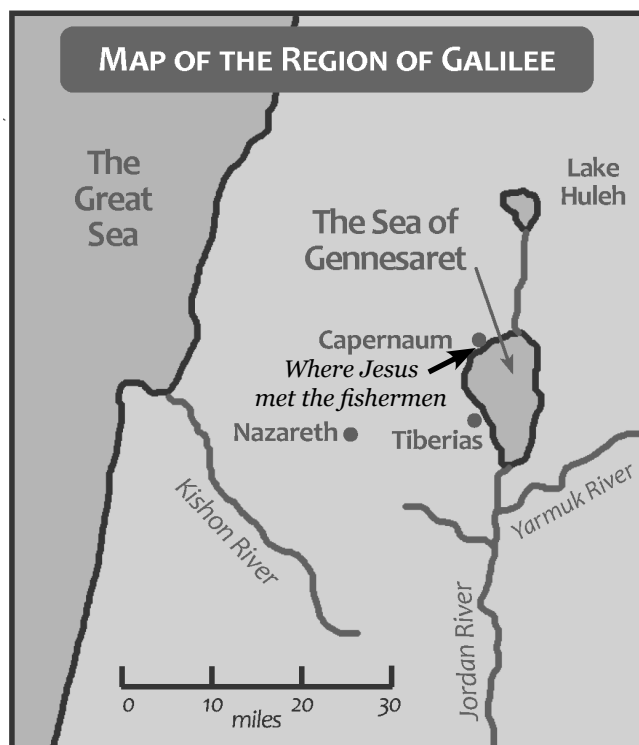
For each sentence below, circle the correct fish to indicate if the statement is True or False.
To check your answers, re-read Luke 5:1-11.



Circle the lettered fish that are caught in the net above. Unscramble the final word and complete the following sentence, by putting a letter inside each of the fish below:

The fishermen became Jesus' first **D I S C I P L E S**!

Map Answers (from the youth pages)



Reflection for the Week Ahead

We may think the early disciples had it easy.

After all, they got to know Jesus face to face and see his miracles. Yet they also had to leave their jobs and homes and spend a lot of time in unfamiliar places. They reached out to others and healed people in Jesus' name, but often faced ridicule and rejection as they did so.



God does not promise any of us an easy life, or a stress-free one either. The disciples faced obstacles on their journey, and so will we. But challenges are not to be avoided; in fact, they can make us stronger and more able to understand others. So carry on in faith, asking God to help and guide you. Keep reaching out to others. God can use us today, just as he used those ordinary disciples long ago.

Spend some time discussing the following questions: What are some things that get in the way of following Jesus and inviting others into the family of faith? How can we work with those challenges?

The Practice of Prayer

On the lines below, thank God for all that he has given you, including the ability to listen and learn. Ask the Lord to help you to focus on what is most important, as Mary did, and to seek him above all else.

Practice using the ADTRC Prayer Form: Address, Description, Thanks, Request, Conclusion.

A: _____

D: _____

T: _____

R: _____

C: _____