

Bible Lesson

Jesus Commands Fish

Luke 5



Jesus said, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people."

Luke 5:10

Jesus Commands Fish

The moon sparkled on the dark lake. Simon Peter threw a net into the water. James and John pulled it into the boat. Not one fish was in the net. Sigh. Throw, splash, pull ... sigh. They finally gave up.

On the shore, James and John washed the empty nets. Why a crowd so early in the morning?

Jesus was there! He said to Simon, "Go back to the deep water. Put down your nets for a catch."

"Master, we did not catch a fish all night," Simon said. "But I will obey." They went back out.

Under the sea... fish swam from the south. Sardines raced from the north. Barbels wiggled from the west. Silver fins flashed from the east.

The water bubbled with scales and tails. Hundreds of fish jumped with joy into the nets.

"Our nets are breaking!" James said with a laugh. Two boats were so full, they began to sink!

Simon fell down at the feet of Jesus. "Go away from me, Lord," he said. "I am a sinful man."

"Don't be afraid," Jesus said. "From now on, you will fish for people."

The men left all they had and followed Jesus.

Questions

1. What miracle did Jesus perform?
2. How did a full net of fish change the lives of the fishermen?
3. All Christians are called to “fish for people.” What does that mean?
4. Who would you like to “catch” (bring into the kingdom of God)? How can you “fish” for this person?

Pray this Prayer:

Dear King Jesus,
You are the Lord of the seas. You command fish and they obey you. I want to obey you and follow you. Will you help me “fish for people”? I want to bring these friends and family into the kingdom of God. Amen

Write the names of those who do not know Jesus as Lord on the fish.



Story S-t-r-e-tch-ing

16. Jesus Commands Fish

Show students where the story is in the Bible. Use the Bible references above the illustration.

Before you read:

Activate Prior Knowledge

- a) Have you ever gone fishing? Did you catch a fish?
- b) What did you use for bait?
- c) If you begged a fish to jump into your boat, would it?

After you read:

Lord of the Heights and the Depths

On the coloring page write a prayer in the sail. Ask Jesus to help you bring others into the kingdom of God." Label one of the disciples with your name. Write the names of people who do not know Jesus as Lord on the fish. Draw shining rays in the sky. Draw lines going from the fish to "heaven." Go fish for the lost! Write in the arms how might do this.

Rod and Reel

Bring in a variety of fishing equipment: tackle, rod, net, reel, and bait. Talk about the variety of methods it takes to catch different fish. Compare those tools to programs in your church that are used to "reel in" others. Who can you invite to church? Write on the board under these two sentences what you will do to "reel" in friends:
Fishermen use fishing methods to bring *fish* into their "boat to sell."
I will use the Easter program to bring *Ed* to "church and the kingdom."

Our Illuminating Lord

Simon's reaction to the miraculous haul of fish was immediately, "Go away from me, Lord. I am a sinful man." The light of Jesus shone so bright that he saw his sin, fell at the feet of Jesus, and called him Lord. To illustrate this concept, have the kids scribble some white crayon (sin) onto white paper (our hearts). In ordinary light, you can't see the blotch. Now, pass around the paper and a flashlight. It is only with the extra light that you can see the sins. Next, write on the paper a sin you struggle with. Pass it around again with a silent prayer for Jesus to reveal your sin in the light of his glory. Admit your sins and fall at his feet. THEN the great adventure of following Jesus can begin.

From Frustration to Celebration

Simon Peter's story starts with disappointment and ends in the greatest odyssey the world has ever seen. And it started with failure, with empty nets. Using crayons or colored pencils, circle the lines in the story that correspond with the steps below. For example, when you see the words: "7. Obey. Do the hard work," circle that in blue and on the story page, circle this sentence in blue that says: "They went back out." Each stage will be circled in a different color. When finished, go back through the steps and think about what Jesus is calling you to do. Put a check mark in the boxes as it happens. Ask God to help you fulfill his mission for your life. Start your huge adventure today!

1. Go through disappointment, failure, loss, or tragedy.

2. Ask questions.

3. Turn to Jesus.

4. Listen to God about what he wants you to do even if it doesn't make sense to you at the time.

5. Argue with God about it.

6. Decide to obey.

7. Obey; do the hard work.

8. God does his part.

9. Enjoy the harvest!

10. Admit your sins; stay humble.

11. Get rid of fear.

12. Be ready to give up everything you have.

13. Follow Jesus. Don't look back.

Have the most thrilling adventure life can bring!



Fish for Friends

Use a plastic hanger, hole puncher, yarn, and the fish below to make a prayer mobile. Photocopy as many as you need. Write on each fish in pen the name of a friend or family member who may not know Jesus as Lord. On the back of the fish, write down what you will do to be a friend and share the good news about Jesus with each "fish." Pray often for your "fishy" friends often. Prepare for a catch!

