

January 20, 2013

Lesson 22: Peter Fishes for People

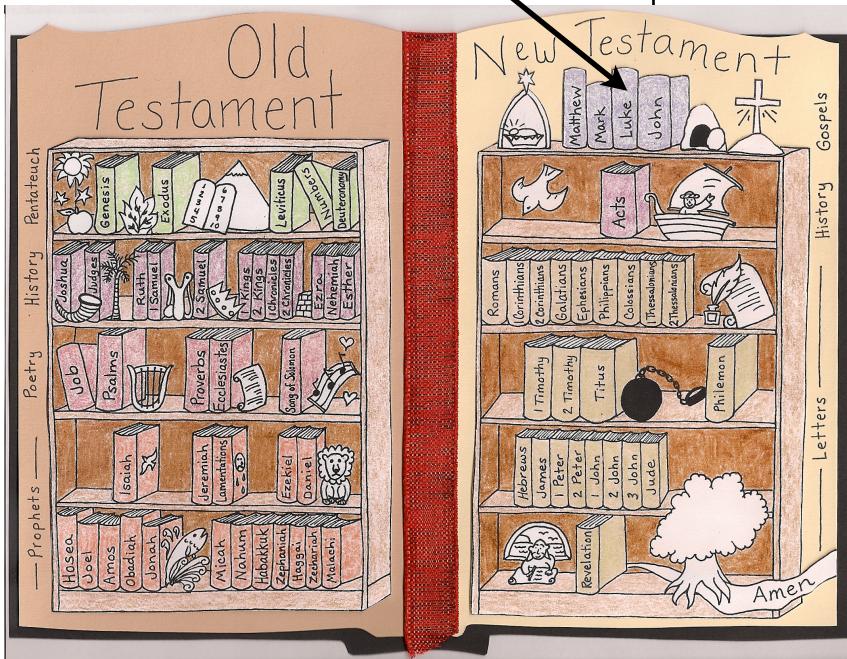


Luke 5:1-11

Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, ‘Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.’ Simon answered, ‘Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.’ When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So they signalled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, ‘Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!’ For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, ‘Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.’ When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

Peter Fishes for People

Luke 5:1-11



For Your Reflection

1. Have you ever been in the middle of doing something and realized that God was asking you (calling) you to do something else? What was your response? What was the outcome?
2. The fishermen were exhausted after a long night of unproductive work when Jesus asked them to put down their nets again one more time. Though tired and probably frustrated, they did it because Jesus asked them to. What is Jesus asking you to do (or keep doing) now?

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The Big Story Truth: Jesus shows up right where we are in daily life with the call to follow. When we follow Jesus, God provides more than we can imagine!

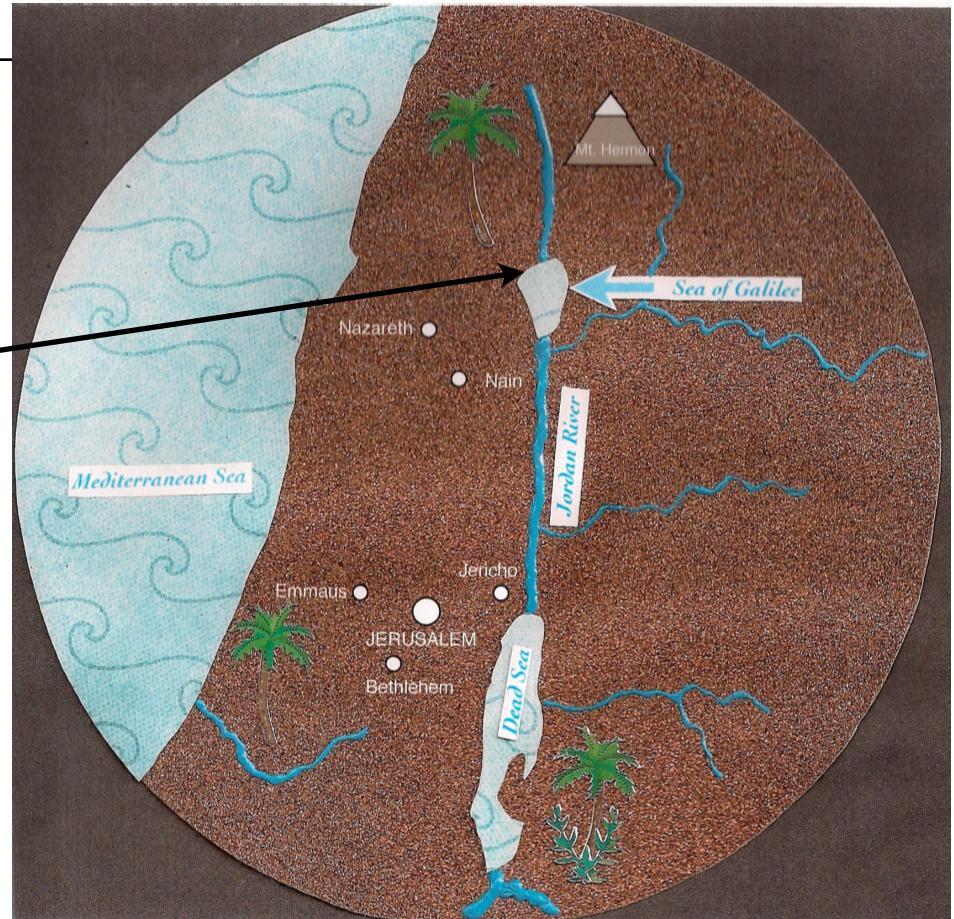
About the Scripture Passage: When Jesus showed up and told the fishermen to let down their nets again, they didn't think it would make any difference. They had been working all night without any results... but they trusted Jesus

enough to do what he asked in spite of their doubts. The result was an unexpected abundant catch and the call to follow Jesus to see how God would bless the work of these fishermen in new ways. The fishermen left their boats and nets to follow Jesus and learn what it would mean to "catch people." As disciples of Jesus, they would spread the good news of the gospel far and wide in order to gather all people into the community of Christ.

Making the Connection: Children often delight in being given the opportunity to do an important job. They will appreciate hearing how Jesus showed up and gave the disciples a new job, a big responsibility. They will delight even more to realize that they have been given the same responsibility to catch people with the good news of Jesus. The cool thing about "fishing" with Jesus is that it doesn't require any special skills. With Jesus, as long as we are doing what Jesus asks of us, we can trust that good things are going to happen!

Where in the World are We:

The lake in this passage is called the lake of Gennesaret. Gennesaret was a town along the Sea of Galilee. So the location of this story was probably right about here



Great Big Word:
Follower
One who listens to Jesus
and tells others about him.

Preschool

Materials List:

Spark Story Bible

Prepared “fishing net” pictures (see below)

Pan of water

Blue food coloring

Beads (1 each of Christian fish symbol and others optional)

Thread or yarn

Before the Children Arrive:

Set out a 9x13” pan with just a thin layer of water in the bottom. Place approximately 15 drops of food coloring in the water. Your classroom should already have prepared cardstock pieces of paper for each child. A piece of white cardstock is sandwiched in between two pieces of brown cardstock cut away to look like fish nets. One side of the paper is white card stock is left plain. The other side has been marked with white crayon. You won’t be able to see it now, but when this side of the paper is dipped into the water, the fish will appear!

Experiencing the Story:

As the children gather in the room, begin by playing a simple game of follow the leader. You might have them follow you as you walk around the room, as you clap your hands, as you touch your toes, etc. Tell the kids that today the story that we are going to read a story about Jesus asking people to follow him.

Read “The Disciples” in the Spark Story Bible pages 258-263.

After reading the story, review the story by holding up one of the fishing net cardstock pages. Tell the kids that the fishermen worked all night long putting their nets out into the water but caught nothing. (Put the side of the paper labeled with a “1” down on the water so that just that side gets wet. Lift the paper up again to show the kids that they didn’t catch anything.) Then flip the paper over and say, But when Jesus told them to put their nets in the water again..... (put the side labeled with the Jesus part of the story into the water and lift it up so that the kids can see) The nets were full of fish!!!

Have the class help tell the story over and over again as each child has a chance to dip their picture into the water.

Activity:

Say: After that day the disciples didn't fish for fish anymore... they followed Jesus and told people about him instead! Jesus asks us to be followers too, to listen to Jesus and to tell others about him. Since the first followers of Jesus were fishermen, sometimes we still use the shape of a fish to remind us to be followers too! Today I have some beads with a fish shape on it that we can use to make necklaces as a reminder that we get to be followers of Jesus!

Give each student one fish bead and allow them to use other beads and string to make their own necklace or bracelet.

Additional Optional Activities:

1. Play Follow the Leader again. This time take turns having the person leading pretend to be Jesus. What kinds of things does Jesus ask us to do?
2. Practice singing the books of the Bible songs. Find the book of Luke on the Books of the Bible chart. What things on the shelf with the books help remind us that those books are about Jesus?
3. Being a friend and follower of Jesus is an important job. Help kids think about the ways that they follow Jesus. Have kids draw a picture of how they follow Jesus.

Early Elementary

Materials List:

Nets Full of Fish Story tellings sheet

Beads (1 fish and others as desired)

Yarn or String

Before the Children Arrive:

Read through the Nets Full of Fish story.

Experiencing the Story:

Use the Nets Full of Fish lesson plan to tell the story and have the kids participate. Then invite the children to act the story out according to the suggestions on the bottom Nets Full of Fish page 42 including the Follow the Leader game.

Activity:

If you have time after completing the story telling and activities, have the kids make fish necklaces as a reminder that they too have been called to be “fishers of people.” You can tell the kids that for many years this fish symbol has been a sign used by Jesus’ followers to remind each other that we are following Jesus!

Give students an opportunity to draw the fish symbol in their Smash Books. Around the design of the fish ask students to illustrate or past pictures that show what it means to them to “follow Jesus.”

Chapter 12

Nets Full of Fish

BASED ON: Luke 5:1-11

BIG IDEA: When we discover the true identity of Jesus, our lives are changed forever.

BACKGROUND: Even though the first disciples (Peter, Andrew, James, and John) had started to follow Jesus, they hadn't truly recognized who he really was. One day, after a miraculous catch of fish, they left their nets behind and followed Jesus for good. When we recognize the true identity of Christ, our lives are changed forever as well.

KEY VERSE: "Then Jesus said to Simon, 'Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men.' So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him" (Luke 5:10, 11).

John also records a miraculous catch of fish (see John 21). Some Bible scholars believe that John and Luke are referring to the same account, but others see enough differences to trust that these are two distinctly different stories—one that happened at the beginning of Jesus' ministry on earth (see Luke's story), and one that happened at the very end (see John's account).

When telling the following sound effects story, remember to practice it a couple of times before class to learn the rhythm of the sound effects. Remind the children that you'll be saying each refrain one time by yourself, and then they'll join along saying it two additional times. **"Remember, we'll only say each thing three times so we can all hear the rest of the story!"**

Feel free to use appropriate voice inflection as you tell the story. For example, during the exciting parts you can make your voice sound excited, or during happy parts sound happy and relieved. Also, if desired you may wish to do the suggested actions as you say each refrain.

STORY:	REFRAINS:	SUGGESTED ACTIONS:
One day, Jesus' friends went out fishing.	Row! Row! Row-y row! Row! Row! Row-y row! Row! Row! Row-y row!	Row your boats!
It was nighttime when they went.	Yawn. Yawn. Yawny yawn! Yawn. Yawn. Yawny yawn! Yawn. Yawn. Yawny yawn!	Yawn.
Back then, they'd go fishing by tossing nets out into the water.	Splash. Splash. Splashy splash. Splash. Splash. Splashy splash. Splash. Splash. Splashy splash.	Toss your nets!
All night, they tossed their nets out and then dragged them back in again.	Drag. Drag. Draggy drag. Drag. Drag. Draggy drag. Drag. Drag. Draggy drag.	Pull your nets in!
But each time the nets were empty!	Bum. Bum. Bummer bum. Bum. Bum. Bummer bum. Bum. Bum. Bummer bum.	Snap your finger. You're disappointed.
Finally, they rowed back to shore and started cleaning their nets.	Scrub. Scrub. Scrub-a-dub! Scrub. Scrub. Scrub-a-dub! Scrub. Scrub. Scrub-a-dub!	Scrub your nets.

Meanwhile, Jesus was preaching to the people,	Talk. Talk. Talky talk. Talk. Talk. Talky talk. Talk. Talk. Talky talk.	Pretend to preach.
And there were so many people on the beach, he was getting crowded into the water!	Shove! Shove! Shove-y shove! Shove! Shove! Shove-y shove! Shove! Shove! Shove-y shove!	Shove an imaginary person next to you.
So, he climbed onto Peter's boat,	Climb. Climb. Climb aboard. Climb. Climb. Climb aboard. Climb. Climb. Climb aboard.	Climb up!
He finished preaching, and then he excused the people.	Bye. Bye. Bye goodbye! Bye. Bye. Bye goodbye! Bye. Bye. Bye goodbye!	Wave goodbye.
Then, he asked if he could go fishing with the guys, and they said yes.	OK. Kay. Kay OK. OK. Kay. Kay OK. OK. Kay. Kay OK.	Nod. Two thumbs up.
Then, he told them to toss the nets out and when they did, the nets immediately filled with fish!	Whoa. Whoa. Whoa-y whoa! Whoa. Whoa. Whoa-y whoa! Whoa. Whoa. Whoa-y whoa!	Look surprised.
The nets were so full, they started to tear apart!	Rip! Rip! Rippy rip! Rip! Rip! Rippy rip! Rip! Rip! Rippy rip!	Rip the nets.
Then, the boats started to sink!	Blub. Blub. Blubby blub. Blub. Blub. Blubby blub. Blub. Blub. Blubby blub.	Grab your nose with one hand, wave with the other.
Peter realized Jesus was from God, and he was scared of him!	Yikes! Yikes! Yike-y yikes! Yikes! Yikes! Yike-y yikes! Yikes! Yikes! Yike-y yikes!	Be scared!
They made it back to the shore.	Hip! Hip! Hip hooray! Hip! Hip! Hip hooray! Hip! Hip! Hip hooray!	Smiles! Lots of cheering!
And Jesus invited the men to be his followers and they left to be with Jesus!	Go, go, go with God! Go, go, go with God! Go, go, go with God!	Walk in place.
The end!		

Explain that Jesus invited the men to fish for people. “Did he really mean people were sinking in the water? . . . Did he really mean that people eat worms? . . . No! He meant they needed to be drawn to God just like fishermen pull fish into the boat!”

After telling the story with sound effects, invite the children to act out the story by joining you in the following story dramatization.

OK everyone, let’s pretend we are those fishermen! OK, push your boat off from shore . . . And grab your oars and let’s row our boat out to the sea. Are there big waves? (*rock back and forth*) . . . Whoa! These waves are huge! Don’t let the boat tip over! . . .

Let’s row faster . . . And faster . . . And faster! . . . And faster! Good! Now slower rowing . . . Be a slower rorer . . . An even slower rorer . . .

Now, let’s drop the nets into the water. Splash! . . . OK then, we wait for some fish to swim into our nets . . . (*yawn*) . . . That should be long enough.

Pull the nets back in . . . Wow, it's easy to pull them in today! Well, look! There's no fish there! Bummer! Everyone say, "Bummer!" . . . "BUMMER!"

Were they happy or sad when they saw they hadn't caught any fish? . . . Let's see those sad faces . . .

All right, let's row back to shore. . . . Faster rower . . . Slower rower . . . Faster rower . . . Slower rower . . . Faster . . . Slower . . .

Now, we're tired because we've been fishing all night long! (yawn) . . . Hmm, I guess before we can go to sleep we need to put the nets away . . . Gather up your nets . . . But who's this? It's Jesus! He wants to get on our boat so he can talk to the people! OK, drop the nets on the deck of the boat . . . and shove 'em to the side to make room for Jesus! . . .

Everyone say, "Come on aboard, Jesus!" . . . "COME ON ABOARD, JESUS!"

Great! Let's push the boat away from shore again . . . Wait for Jesus to finish, and now wave goodbye to the people . . .

Now Jesus is asking us to go fishing! OK, here we go again . . . Faster rower . . . Slower rower . . . Faster rower . . . Slower rower . . . Faster . . . Slower . . .

Now he wants us to drop the nets over the side of the boat! Let's see what happens when we do. Drop your nets . . . Pull them back in . . . Oh, no! It's too hard to pull in the nets! They're full of fish! Pull harder . . . Harder . . . Harder . . . Oh, my! I can barely pull in my nets at all! Look at all the fish!

The boat is tipping over—everyone tip to the side! . . . Don't let it tip over! Use your oars! Let's row to shore . . . (Grunt) . . . It's hard rowing with all these fish in the nets! . . . Hurry! We have to row to shore before we sink! . . . (Lots of grunting and rowing.)

Are you surprised all these fish are in the nets? Show me how surprised you are! . . . Wow! You're really surprised! OK, let's climb out of the boat . . .

OK everyone, let's follow Jesus! (point to one of the students) _____ will pretend to be Jesus! Everyone follow him (her)! Let's go. I wonder where he's going to walk or what he's going to do? (play a short game of Follow the Leader!)

The end.

After playing a game of Follow the Leader, review the story with the children and remind them that when Jesus' friends saw his power, they realized he was someone very special, someone who was perfect in every way! They left everything to follow him.

Jesus invited them to come with him to cast out nets of love and draw people in, closer to God! "They left their fishing nets and boats and even those fish behind and followed Jesus. Sometimes we need to leave things behind when we follow Jesus—things like arguing and fighting and biting and talking back to our parents. God loves us so much he's inviting us to share his love with people and draw them closer to God just like those fishermen did long ago!"

Finally, you can end the lesson by teaching or singing the following song to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat."

Row, row, row your boat,
Gently in the lake!
See if we can catch a fish
To roast or boil or bake!
(Repeat)

Pull, pull, pull your nets.
Back up toward the boat!
Now the nets are full of fish,
It's tough for us to float!
(Repeat)

Leave, leave, leave the boat
With all those flopping fish!
Follow Jesus where he leads,
And do his every wish.
(Repeat)

Summary

The night was long and the fishing was bad.
And the friends of Jesus were not very glad.
For despite what they hoped

 And despite what they wished,
Not one of four brothers had brought in a fish!

Now Jesus was preaching to a crowd by the shore,
But they crowded around more than ever before,
So he stepped on the boat and then finished his sermon.
And when he was done, he asked all those fishermen

 “Do you want to go fishing? The day is just right!”
But Peter said, “Lord we’ve been fishing all night
 And we haven’t had even one nibble or bite!”

But they pushed out and dropped all their nets in the lake,
As the nets filled with fish and they started to break!

 (And I think that their boat began to shiver and shake!)
Peter was shocked at what Jesus could do
 “Go away!” he said, “I’m not holy like you!”
But Jesus said, “Peter, follow me and you’ll see
How amazing fishing for people can be!”

So they rowed back to land and they followed the Lord.
And they left all their nets and their boats on the shore.
 And they gave Jesus more of their faith than before.

Upper Elementary/Middle School

Materials List:

Spark NRSV Bibles

Copy of Fish Sign Description for Each Student

Beads (1 blue circle for each student, others as desired)

Thread

Paint Marker

Before the Students Arrive:

Make sure Bibles for each student are easily available and all supplies are gathered.

Experiencing the Story:

Begin by asking who in the class likes to fish. Encourage them to tell you stories about how and where they fish. Ask about their biggest catches. Was there ever a time when they went fishing and didn't catch anything??? Tell the kids that today the story that we are going to be reading in the Bible starts out with some very tired and frustrated fishermen. They hadn't caught anything at all!

Take turns with the kids reading Luke 5:1-11. Ask the kids to imagine what it would be like to tell the story of that fishing trip! What would they want to tell others about the experience?

Activity:

Share with kids the handout about the fish symbol. (Some of them may have seen this same write-up last year in Sunday school, but for others it may be new.) Tell the kids that even 2,000 years after Jesus lived, people are still using the fish symbol to identify themselves as followers of Jesus! Read through the handout with the kids. Listen to their ideas about any secret symbols they might come up with. Encourage them to draw their secret symbols in their Smash books!

With whatever time remains, show the students how to draw a fish symbol with the paint pen on the blue beads. Have the kids make a necklace or bracelet or bookmark, etc. as a reminder of their real identity as followers of Jesus!