



COMMUNITY
BIBLE STUDY
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

GOD'S LOVE IS GREAT

Young Elementary CBS Teacher Lesson *Year 3 - Lesson 20*

UNIT 4: GOD REVEALS HIS LOVE THROUGH JESUS **Jesus' Ministry**

LESSON 20: Jesus' Helpers Become Fishers of Men

Scripture: Matthew 4:18-22; Mark 1:16-21; Luke 5:1-11

Story Overview: While walking by the Sea of Galilee, Jesus called four fishermen—Peter and his brother, Andrew, and James and his brother, John—to be his disciples. They left their boats and fishing nets to become Jesus' special helpers.

Aim: To help the learners:

- know that Jesus called His disciples to become fishers of men.
- understand what it means to be a follower of Jesus.
- be willing to do what Jesus asks and share the Good News with others.

Key Word: DISCIPLE

Memory Verse: *"Let us love one another, for love is from God."* 1 John 4:7
(sung to "Old MacDonald")

Additional Verse: *"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself."* Luke 10:27

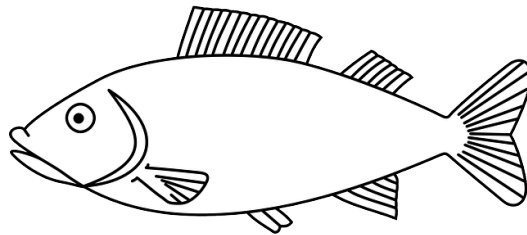
Challenge for the Week:

Think of three or four things that you know that Jesus taught His followers to do. (For example: Pray, love others.) Do you do them? If so, how? Write it down in your journal.

TEACHING IDEAS

Lead-In Activities

- **Puzzles & Patterns Activities:**
Fishers of Men page
- **Disciple Figures:** First make a list of qualities of a disciple. Then draw stick-figure pictures or create pipe cleaner figures of disciples in Jesus' day as well as disciples today.
- **Disciple Collage:** Provide newspapers and magazines where children can find pictures and articles about people who could be considered disciples today. Then make a collage.
- **Names of the Apostles Challenge:** Challenge the children to learn the names of the apostles by song or by memory.
- **Fish Sticker:** Use water-based markers to draw a colored fish on a small piece of white paper. Cut a piece of clear contact paper slightly larger. Put fish upside down in center of contact paper. Stick it on bike.



Storytelling Ideas

- Use a toy boat and toilet tissue figures.
- Mark out a boat on the floor using masking tape. Have the kids sit in the "boat" as you tell the story.
- Children share ways they can be disciples (inviting someone to church, sharing what they've learned at CBS, etc.).

Interest Centers

- As children arrive, direct them to a table where they can trace and cut out fish from construction paper. Put fish into a large net or a nylon net bag, such as one that oranges come in. Explain that in Jesus' day, fishermen did not use fishing poles; they used large nets to catch fish.

- For younger children, provide flannel fish; allow children to place the fish on the flannel board.
- Provide "special effects" such as fishing poles, fishing nets, live goldfish, bait, etc.
- Place different amounts of goldfish crackers in containers or jars. Have the children guess the number of goldfish in each container. (Use different colored lids and note how many crackers are in each container. (Remind the children NOT to remove the lids.)
- Have fish cutouts for each child to decorate with sequins, etc.
- Draw a giant fish on white paper and have the kids use crayons to decorate the fish by drawing scales on it.
- Put children's names or simple activities on fish shapes. Attach a paper clip to each fish. Make a rod from string, dowel and a magnet. Have the children "go fishing."

Games

- **Fishers of Men:** One child pretends to be Peter and says, "Who would like to be fishers of men?" All the children get in line and march behind him or her, pretending to row a boat with arms. When Peter calls out, "Jesus loves you!", all the children run (carefully) to their chairs. First one back and seated is the new Peter.
- **Go Fish:** Play the game of "Go Fish" with playing cards. (Game cards could be made from finding different colored fish and making stickers out of them to put on black cards. Kids could call out "red fish," "blue fish," "spotted fish," etc. Give 5-6 fish cards to each child. The objective is to get rid of all the cards.)
- **Hide-and-Seek:** Play hide-and-seek with fish shapes cut from colorful paper.
- **Fill-the-Basket Relay:** Set up a relay using Swedish fish (or goldfish) and plastic spoons.
- **Follow the Leader:** Play Follow the Leader game, with the leader doing different motions.
- **Big Fish, Little Fish:** Use jump ropes to form two circular "fish nets" on the floor on opposite sides of the room. Choose two children to be fishermen, and explain that Jesus had many friends who were fishermen who caught fish and sold them in the market for people to eat. Explain that in this game, when the teacher calls out, "Big fish, little fish, swim, swim, swim!" everyone is to run from the fishermen. If a fisherman tags someone, he/she must go and stand inside one of the fish nets. When the nets get too crowded, the teacher will call out, "Big fish, little fish, swim away free!" Then everyone will escape and play again. Play for several minutes. Change fishermen often.
- **DISCIPLE TAG:** Choose one child to be a "disciple." Have the other children scatter around the room. When the disciple tags someone, that person will become a disciple, too. Then both disciples will try to tag the other children. Continue until all the children have become disciples. After the game, talk about what Jesus' disciples did and what people who follow Jesus today can do.