



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Series: Jesus, Our Savior, Came to Earth  
Winter Year 1, Lesson 33

# Jesus Calls the First Disciples

**Bible Event:** Luke 5:1-11

**Take Home Point:** \*JESUS IS OUR FRIEND – *Follow Jesus.*

\*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. The leader will say the first part of the phrase (*CAPS*). The children respond with the second part of the phrase (*italics*).

**Jesus Link:** We have a personal relationship with our Savior, Jesus.

**What kids will learn about God in this worship experience:**

- The children will learn that Jesus has special friends called disciples. These are people who followed him. In this Bible event these followers were fishermen. Jesus performed a miracle in catching fish showing he was truly God's Son. Then, he told them that they should follow him and be fishers of people. The children will learn, as did the early disciples, **\*JESUS IS OUR FRIEND – *Follow Jesus.***
- The children will respond to God's love that calls them to follow him as they pray to him, and thank him for sending Jesus as their friend. They will offer him their songs, their offerings and their actions of love in their worship experience.



## Welcome Zone: (15-20 minutes)

**Purpose:** While kids arrive give them a simple learning readiness activity that requires minimal supervision. This might include a video, games, blocks, or puzzles.

**Video Suggestion:** *The Miracle Maker*, by Family Home Entertainment. 1999.

**Note:** This video will also be used in the Bible Event today so do not give away the 4-minute scene between 18:40 and 22:40.

**Activity Suggestion:** Games, blocks and puzzles. Show how one piece or one block can follow another. The same is true about us following Jesus.



## Opening Worship: (10-15 minutes)

Children can bring forward the cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box. The treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event. Open with a simple prayer having the children repeat after you. Collect offering and talk about how God will use it.

## Praise Songs:

Choose two or three songs and list them here.

## Bible Event: Video and Mystery Box

The Mystery Box contains objects will help the presenter tell the Bible even in creative fashion. They can be lifted out and shown as the story is told. Another option is to have a hole cut in the top of the box so that a child could put a hand in and guess what the object is before it is shown.

### Jesus Calls the First Disciples

Let me see what's in the mystery box today. Well, here's the Bible. It's God word. I wonder what we will discover today? It's marked at a special place... "Jesus calls the first disciples." Wow, here's an exciting event of how Jesus had some special friends who were fishermen. He told them they would be fishers of people. I wonder what that meant? See if you can think about what he meant when you watch today's Bible event on this video

Video: *The Miracle Maker*, by Family Home Entertainment. Play the four minute video segment beginning at 18:40 with the quote, "Simon, the man I told you about is here!" Conclude at 22:40 with Jesus' phrase: "Today I'm going to make you fishers of men."

After the video tell the Bible event again, letting children fill in the answers. Use objects in the Mystery Box.

**Wow, that was special how Jesus made friends with those fishermen and then had him follow him. They were people who followed Jesus and were called disciples. I even think you may be disciples here today, also. Let's see how well you learned today's Bible event. I will tell it again from the Bible and you help me fill in any special words I might forget.**

**"Jesus calls the first disciples." One day Jesus was standing by the Sea of Galilee. The people crowded around him as they listened to God's Word. So that Jesus could best talk to the people he stepped into something and asked that it be pushed away from the shore.**

**What was Jesus standing in as he talked to the people? (*Boat.*)**

Take the boat from the Mystery Box and show it.

**This boat belonged to a special man named Simon. Jesus talked about God's wonderful kingdom. Everyone listened very closely. When he was finished, he told Simon, "Take the boat into deep water and throw out your what to catch some fish? (*Nets.*)**

Show or point out the nets.

**What did Simon say? Did Simon say, "I'm sure we'll catch some fish." Or did he say, "We fished all night long and didn't catch anything." (*We fished all night and didn't catch anything.*)**

**But Simon lowered the nets. After they did this, they nets began to be filled with *blank*. (*Fish.*)**

Show or point to the fish.

**There were so many fish in one boat that they had to call what to help them ... an airplane? No, it was a... (*boat .*)**

Again show or point to a boat.

**Now the boats were filled with fish. They had never seen anything like it. When Simon Peter saw this, he knew that Jesus was God. He also knew that he was a sinful person. So he asked Jesus to get away from him. He didn't feel worthy to be with Jesus. But what did Jesus say. Did he say, 'Okay, I'm leaving.' Or did he say, "Don't be afraid, I'm your friend." (*Don't be afraid, I'm your friend.*)**

**Then Jesus told Simon Peter from now on you're not going to catch fish, you're going to catch people. So Simon and his partner left everything and followed Jesus. They were his first disciples.**

**What about us today? Does Jesus want us to follow him? Of course. We can be his disciples, too. That's because Jesus is our friend, Jesus gave his life for us by dying on the cross. All of our sin can be taken away and we can be filled with his love. So, remember our take home point today, \*JESUS IS OUR FRIEND – Follow Jesus.**

**Let's pray.** (Children repeat each phrase.)

**Dear God,** (repeat)

**Thank you for being here.** (repeat)

**Thank you for sending Jesus.** (repeat)

**He is our friend.** (repeat)

**Help us to follow him.** (repeat)

**Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!** (repeat)

**Amen.** (repeat)



## Action Zones: (20-30 minutes)

**Purpose:** Children move at their leisure to the activities according to their interest. Adults are assigned to oversee each of the zones watching for safety, assisting any activity, and helping the children connect to the lesson of the day. All zones are introduced at the beginning of Zone Time. Some suggested zones are included below. It is usually best to have all children go to the Snack Zone first. Sing a blessing song or say a snack prayer together before dismissing to the zones.

*During the Zone Time, children may arrive from mid-service dismissal if this is an option at your church. Be prepared to welcome the children and invite them to choose a zone.*

**Snack Zone:** Use small “Goldfish” crackers, straight pretzels and blue frosting. Let the children put blue frosting on the bottom of the pretzel and “catch” fish.

**Drama Zone:** Props from the mystery box. Let children act out the story.

**Messy Zone:** A water table filled with boats, shells and fish. Let the children play and be creative in their time together as you talk about the story.

*Option:* Provide a sand table, and talk about Jesus at the seashore. “I will make you fishers of men.”

**Play Zone:** Cut out paper fish and attach paper clips at their mouths. With wooden sticks, yarn and a magnet, have the children go fishing. Talk about how we can catch people with God’s love.

*Option:* Put the children’s name on the fish.

**Quiet Reading Zone:** With the basket of books, include a tape of *seashore* sounds.

**Music Zone:** Use song, *I Will Make You Fishers of Men*.

**Coloring Zone:** Precut fish to color with crayons. Or use blue watercolor paint for the children to paint over the fish and cut out. These fish remind us of people whom we might want to tell about Jesus.

**Safety and Security:** Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.



## Closing Worship: (20 minutes)

**Purpose:** As you empty the zones and clean up, begin the music so the children can start wandering over.

### Worship Songs:

Choose one or two songs and list them here.

### Bible Application with Puppet Presentation:

**Purpose:** The puppet demonstrates the need that will be met in today's lesson. The scripts are not written verbatim, but give a story line in which the group leader can interact with the puppet.

Bubba appears with a fishing pole, excited that he will go fishing with his dad. The presenter is excited for him, but asks if he knows he go fishing every day? Bubba is confused. He is only thinking of the ways that he goes fishing with his dad, which is only on special days. The presenter tells him about how we can be fishers of people. That means that were not just catching fish we're catching people. Bubba thinks we must snag them with a pole. The presenter explains that we're not using a pole and string but we are using an imaginary pole and string when we show them God's love when we are kind to them and tell them how God sent his Son, Jesus. It's a way that God will use us to capture them with his love. The boys and girls can review the story for Bubba and how Jesus called the fisherman to follow him and become fishers of people.

Another resource is *The Big Book, Jesus Appears To His Followers*. By Group Publishing.

Finally the children teach Bubba the take home point, **\*JESUS IS OUR FRIEND – Follow Jesus.**

### Prayer Time:

**Purpose:** Allow children to contribute their own prayers. This will teach them to turn to God in both good times and in times of trouble. End with the Lord's Prayer.

### "Children Pray" Options: (select one from the options below)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Prayer Train Option:** Children line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone and speak their brief prayers of thanksgiving.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Prayer Chair:** Children stand in a circle around one child sitting on a chair in the middle. All children in the circle will lay a hand on the child sitting in the chair as they say a prayer together.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and taps children on the head to stand and speak their prayer.

**Lord's Prayer:** Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire Prayer along with you.

## **Blessing:**

May God, who is all around you,  
pour his love upon you.

*(Beginning at the bottom of the circle, slowly make large circle with your hands. Finish by bringing your hands down and wiggling your fingers to resemble rain.)*

And Jesus, his life a sacrifice,  
walk right there beside you.

*(Slowly make a large sign of the cross. Then move your hands out to the sides.)*

And may God's Holy Spirit,  
the one who lives inside you,

*(Cross hands over your heart.)*

keep you strong,  
comfort, lead and guide you!

*(Move to a "strong man" position. Then cross your arms with your hands on corresponding upper arms to communicate comfort. Bring one hand forward with "lead" and the other with "guide" to complete the blessing.)*

## **Song of Sending:**

*Choose one song and list it here.*



## **Closing Zones:**

**Purpose:** Children go to an activity zone such as, the coloring zone, quiet reading zone, and children's Christian music video zone, as they wait for their parents.

# Supplies:

## *Welcome Zone:*

- video: *The Miracle Maker*, Family Home Entertainment, 1999—order from:  
<http://www.vh1.com/movies/dvd/7338/chapters.jhtml> or from  
<http://www.deepdiscountdvd.com/dvd.cfm?itemid=LVD010348>
- blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons

## *Opening Worship:*

- mystery box
- Bible
- video: *the Miracle Maker*
- boat
- nets
- artificial fish

## *Action Zones:*

### *Snack:*

- goldfish crackers
- straight pretzels
- blue frosting

### *Drama:*

- props from mystery box

### *Play:*

- paper fish
- paper clips
- wooden sticks
- yarn
- magnets

### *Coloring:*

- coloring page
- markers and crayons

### *Quiet Reading:*

- basket of books
- tape of seashore sounds

### *Music:*

- *I Will Make You Fishers of Men*—order from:  
[http://www.sheetmusicplus.com/pages.html?cart=333734461810370697&target=smp\\_detail.html%26sku%3DSH.2D5535&s=pages-www.mywebsearch.com/jsp/GGmain.jsp&e=/sheetmusic/detail/SH.2D5535.html&t=&k=&r=wwws-err5](http://www.sheetmusicplus.com/pages.html?cart=333734461810370697&target=smp_detail.html%26sku%3DSH.2D5535&s=pages-www.mywebsearch.com/jsp/GGmain.jsp&e=/sheetmusic/detail/SH.2D5535.html&t=&k=&r=wwws-err5)

## *Closing Worship:*

- Bubba, the puppet
- fishing pole

## *Closing Zones:*

- colored pencils
- paper
- basket of books



