



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

Series: Jesus is God's Son  
Winter Year 2, Lesson 36

# The Calling of the First Disciples

**Bible Event:** Matthew 4:18-22

**Take Home Point:** \*JESUS IS GOD'S SON – *I follow Jesus every day.*

\*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:** Jesus is the perfect leader to follow.

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

- Kids will learn that we can all be disciples of Jesus and fishers of men. That means that every day we can show and tell others about Jesus. We do that by doing kind things for others and showing people God's love. Kids will take home the point: \*JESUS IS GOD'S SON - *I follow Jesus every day.*
- Children will respond to God's love as they pray to him, thanking him for loving them and giving them Jesus. They will offer him their songs of worship, their offerings, and their actions of love as they actively learn God's word.



## 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:** Your choice, if available.

**Activity Suggestion:** Blocks, toys, puzzles, paper and crayons.\



## 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: Imagination Theater

*Imagination Theater is audience participation drama where the Bible event is told in creative fashion using children as actors. The Imagination Box contains the Bible and other special props used for the drama. Begin by removing the Bible and explain that it is God's Word. Briefly summarize the story, and then remove an imaginary hat and place it on your head. This is your Imagination Hat. Invite the children to put on theirs as well. They will also use their imaginations to picture the events the Bible tells us about. Some will even use their imaginations to help act out these events. Distribute props to actors as they are called forward at the beginning of the presentation. Have them sit to the side until they are called on stage.*

Use blue tablecloths or towels on the floor to create the Sea of Galilee. Have a boat (or box made into a boat) on the Sea for the disciples to sit in. Provide costumes and/or headpieces for Jesus, Peter, Andrew, James, John and Zebedee. Peter and Andrew should be in the boat to start, with the others waiting off to the side. Provide a net, if available, or even a makeshift fishing pole for the fishermen to use.

**Presenter:** This is a true Bible event about how Jesus found his first disciples. A disciple is a person who follows Jesus and tells others about Jesus. The first disciples were special friends of Jesus. Here is how they met.

**A long time ago, Jesus was walking next to some water called the Sea of Galilee.** Have Jesus walk up to the water. **There were boats in the Sea and people were throwing nets into the water to try to catch fish.** Have Peter and Andrew throwing nets and trying to catch fish.

**Jesus saw one boat that had two brothers trying to catch fish. Their names were Peter and Andrew. Jesus was walking beside the water near their boat and he stopped to talk to them. He said, “Come follow me and I will make you fishers of men.”** Have Jesus say these lines, broken into manageable segments.

**And do you know what they did? They dropped their nets and climbed from their boat and followed Jesus! Have Peter and Andrew leave their net and climb out of the boat. They knew how special Jesus was and wanted to spend their lives following him!**

Have Peter and Andrew stay with Jesus while James, John and Zebedee climb into the boat. **Jesus kept walking and came upon another boat of fishermen.** Have James, John and Zebedee cast their net. **On this boat, Jesus saw two brothers named James and John. They were fishing with their dad, Zebedee. Again, Jesus called out to the boat. He said, “Come follow me and I will make you fishers of men.”** Have Jesus repeat these lines, broken into manageable segments.

**Guess what they did? James and John left their dad Zebedee so he could keep fishing and they climbed out of their boat and followed Jesus!** Have James and John leave the boat and walk up to Jesus. Have all costumed characters have a seat and hear the conclusion of the story.

**That is how Jesus met his first followers. They were fishermen who spent their time catching fish. But Jesus told them that they would become fishers of men instead. That meant that instead of catching fish, they would try to “catch” people by telling them about Jesus. We can learn to be fishers of men by coming to Kids Church to learn about Jesus. We can be fishers of men by telling other people about Jesus. We can be fishers of men by doing kind things for other people, just like Jesus would want us to do. These are all ways that we follow Jesus. Just like Peter and Andrew and James and John, we can be Jesus’ disciples today and every day. Remember: \*JESUS IS GOD’S SON – *I follow Jesus every day.***



## 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:** Provide Goldfish crackers. *Option:* Give each child a pretzel stick with a small amount of squeeze cheese and Goldfish crackers. Have them dip their pretzel stick in the cheese and then “fish” for Goldfish crackers. Tell the kids “Fish with God’s love – people stick to it.”

**Drama Zone:** Use props from the Bible event and allow kids to reenact the scene.

**Puppet Zone:** Let the children use puppets to talk about ways that they can share God’s love with others.

**Felt Zone:** Use felt board materials to show the story of Jesus calling his disciples from today’s Bible event.

**Craft Zone:** Give each child a half sheet of cardstock with the “Get hooked on Jesus” logo (see template). Allow children to color and decorate the card with markers, crayons, stickers, glitter, etc. Fill a snack plastic bag with a few Goldfish crackers and/or gummy fish. Seal the bag and staple it to the back of the card to give to a friend.

**Play Zone:** Play the “Fishers-of-men tag game.” When the designated “it” person tags someone, they then hold hands and become “it” together (like the game Chain tag).

**Quiet Reading Zone:** Basket of books. Include any that feature the story of Jesus calling the First Disciples.

**Music Zone:** Your choice of music.

**Coloring Zone:** “The Calling of the First Disciples” coloring page



## 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 comes out with a fishing pole (long, thin "stick" of any kind with yarn or string for the line and a loop tied at the end of the line). He nonchalantly asks the large group presenter to stick his hand through the loop. The presenter complies and Bubba gets very excited because he caught his first person. He knows this lesson is about fishing for men!

The large group presenter is impressed that Bubba knows today's lesson is about fishing for men but tells Bubba that this isn't really the way to do it. Bubba figures it wasn't going to work exactly that way. The presenter explains that the way we fish for men is by showing them God's love and telling them about Jesus. We show God's love by doing kind things for other people, by not hitting our brother or sister, and by helping others. These are things we can do every day. We can tell others about Jesus by telling them Jesus loves them and inviting them to Kids Church. Instead of catching people with a fishing pole, we can catch them with God's love. (Presenter can attach a construction paper heart to Bubba's fishing pole with a paper clip, if desired.) When we catch others with God's love, we are followers of Jesus! Remember: **\*JESUS IS GOD'S SON – I follow Jesus every day.**

## 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 a 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.

**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.

# Supplies:

## *Welcome Zone:*

- blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons

## *Opening Worship:*

- cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box—the treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event
- blue tablecloths or towels for water
- a boat or box made into a boat for kids to sit in
- costumes and/or headpieces for the six characters
- nets or fishing poles

## *Action Zones:*

### *Snack:*

- Goldfish crackers
- *optional:* squeeze cheese
- *optional:* pretzel sticks

### *Drama:*

- blue tablecloths or towels for water
- a boat or box made into a boat for kids to sit in
- costumes and/or headpieces for the six characters
- nets or fishing poles

### *Craft:*

- white card stock half sheets (with template)
- crayons, markers, stickers, glitter, etc.
- snack bags
- Goldfish crackers or gummy fish
- stapler

### *Quiet Reading:*

- basket of books

### *Music:*

- your choice of music

### *Puppet:*

- various puppets

### *Felt:*

- materials to reenact story (for example: use *Betty Lukens Through the Bible in Felt*, #103, Jesus Begins His work in Cana)

### *Coloring page:*

- “The Calling of the First Disciples”

## *Closing Worship:*

- Bubba, the puppet
- fishing pole of any kind with a large loop at the end of the fishing line
- construction paper heart
- paper clip

## *Closing Zones:*

- colored pencils
- paper
- basket of books

*Get Hooked  
On*

*Jesus*