



**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Series:** Jesus Is the King  
Winter Year 1, Lesson 36

# The King and His Men

**Take Home Point:** \*Follow Jesus and be fishers of men.      \*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

**Bible Event:** Matthew 4:17-25

**Key Verse:** Matthew 4:19 (NIV): "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."

**We will help kids know:**

- Jesus chose disciples and showed them how to be fishers of men, using Jesus' love to capture people's hearts.
- Jesus says to us, "I will make you fishers of men." That means Jesus will use us to share the message of Jesus' love with others so they can follow Jesus as well.




**We will help kids feel:**

- Aware of the importance of their work as fishers of men.
- Compelled to share Jesus' love with others.

**We will help kids do:**

- Make a commitment to share Jesus with a friend.
- Pray for that friend to come to know Jesus.

# THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
<b>Small Group Warm-Up</b> 	3	Using a gummy worm as bait, children tell about an experience that was “yummy” (something that brought joy). When someone tells about something great that happened to him, it’s called witnessing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• supply of gummy worms for each group</li> <li>• paper cut out hook for each group (p 7)</li> </ul>
<b>Large Group</b> 	4  7-8  8  8-10	<b>Overview</b>  <b>Puppet Presentation:</b> “Gordy Goes Fishing”  <b>Video:</b> <i>The Visual Bible:</i> Matthew 4:17-25  <b>Puppet Presentation Conclusion:</b> “Gordy Goes Fishing”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gordy</li> <li>• old boot</li> <li>• at least 12 homemade fishing poles that are fully baited. Wooden dowels, sticks, or clothes hangers could be used for poles. At the end of each, simply attach yarn or string with a gummy worm tied to the end.</li> <li>• video, <i>The Visual Bible: Matthew 4:17-25.</i> (Visual International and Visual Entertainment, Inc., 1997)</li> </ul>
<b>Small Group Application</b> 	4-6	As the kids make a “wormy” dessert, they tell about a time when Jesus’ love felt very real to them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• gummy worm for each child</li> <li>• small cup for each child</li> <li>• chocolate pudding</li> <li>• bowl of crushed chocolate cream-filled cookies</li> <li>• spoons</li> <li>• napkins</li> </ul>

# Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



**Purpose:** *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

*Today we will talk about the directive from Jesus to be fishers of men. It is just as important for kids to share their faith as it is for adults. To be a fisher of men means that one shares his faith with another so that person would want to trust Jesus as his Savior and follow him.*

Have a supply of gummy worms well hidden so you can retrieve them one by one. Present a gummy worm hanging on the edge of a paper cutout hook.

**Kids, I would like to tell you about this gummy worm that I have. It is wonderful. Let me take a bite of it and tell you what it tastes like. Let me see, it tastes like...**

Use your own words to describe the gummy worm. As you munch on the worm, tell the children about an experience you had that was “yummy” (something that brought you joy). Talk about a simple experience that the kids would enjoy. This might include playing a game, doing a hobby, eating at a special restaurant.

**Something else that happened this week that was “yummy” was....**  
(Tell your story.) **When someone tells about something great that happened to him, it’s called witnessing.**

Now invite the children to witness.

**Is there anyone who would also like to have a gummy worm? You can have one if you can share about a neat thing you did this week. You will be witnessing about something neat that happened to you. Maybe it’s something that some of us might want to do also.**

Let all the children participate by having a gummy worm and witnessing to their yummy event.

**Today we will learn to *\*follow Jesus and be fishers of men.* Jesus says he wants to go fishing with us. We are not fishing for fish, but we are fishing for people.**

**Jesus wants to catch people who don’t know him or trust him as their Savior. What do you think we will use for bait on our hooks? Gummy worms? No, I don’t think so. See if you can listen in large group and find out what bait Jesus used to bring people to himself.**

## Large Group: 20-30 minutes



**Purpose:** *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible Event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

### Overview

**Puppet Presentation:** “Gordy Goes Fishing”

Mr. King explains to Gordy what Jesus means to be a fisher of men.

**Video:** *The Visual Bible:* Matthew 4:17-25.

**Puppet Presentation:** “Gordy Goes Fishing” Conclusion

## Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



**Purpose:** *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion, but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

*Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.*

### Observation Questions: What happened?

Have kids refer to Matthew 4:17-25 in their Bibles for the following.

**What were the names of the four disciples that Jesus chose to follow him?** *(Matthew 4:18-22. Peter, Andrew, James, and John.)*

**How soon did they leave to follow Jesus?** *(Matthew 4:22. Immediately.)*

### Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

**What was the connection between the disciples' job and what Jesus was asking them to do?** *(They were fishermen and Jesus was asking them to catch people.)*

**Why do you think they left immediately to follow Jesus?** *(They had caught the vision and understood how important it was to catch people for Jesus.)*

**What was the bait Jesus used to get people to follow him?** *(He talked about the good news of his kingdom. He also cured every disease and sickness among the people.)*

**In large group when kids started fishing for kids, the numbers going forward multiplied quickly. How is this like what happened in Matthew 4:23-25?** *(The more people Jesus ministered to, the more they told others and large crowds started to follow him.)*

## **Application Questions: What does this mean to me?**

**How do you feel about Jesus calling you to catch people for him?**

**Why do you think it is so important that we do it immediately?** *(There are people who need to know Jesus and you may be the only person to tell them. Time may be running out for us and/or them.)*

### Application Activity:

**"Worms in the Dirt Dessert"**

Have the children put a gummy worm in a small cup and fill the cup with chocolate pudding. They can then sprinkle crushed chocolate cookies on top of their dessert and eat it with a spoon. Have napkins available for messy mouths and fingers.

While each child makes his treat, have him answer the following question.

**Tell about a time when Jesus' love felt very real to you. This might have been when you remembered how much he did for you when he died on the cross. It might have been when something sad happened in your life and you prayed and it got better. It might have been a time at church when you learned something about Jesus that you really believed in your heart and understood even more about how much he loves you.**

After the kids have shared, compliment them for their witness.

**Kids, thank you so much for sharing ways that you have felt Jesus' love in your life. When you share these same things with others, you are witnessing to them. That is just what God wants you to do.**  
***\*Follow Jesus and be fishers of men.***

Next, make a list of people the children can witness to and pray for them in prayer time.

**I would like to put together a special list of people we can pray for that you might witness to. Think of friends at school or in your neighborhood that don't know Jesus or don't have a church to attend. Think of a family member or someone who is already a believer but still needs someone to share Jesus' love with him.**

**Remember the names of the people we listed and let's pray for them every day. This is another way to *\*follow Jesus and be fishers of men* because Jesus prayed for the people he loved, too.**

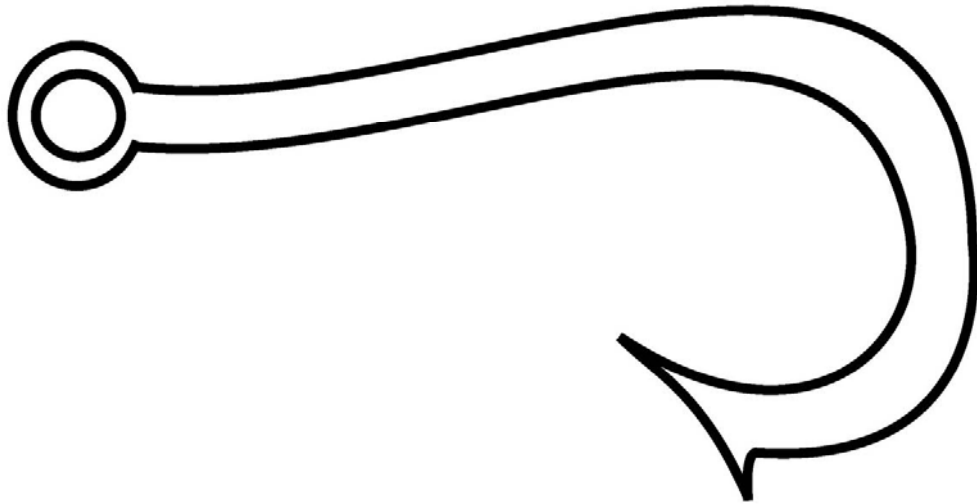
**Today's key verse from Matthew 4:19 says, "*Come, follow me,*" *Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."***

**Just like in large group and the number of kids fishing grew, you can reach many, many people as those you witness to share the love of Jesus with their friends. That's how we make a big catch for Jesus.**

**Closing Prayer:**

Let each child pray for the person(s) he mentioned. Pray for help so that each child in the group might do something this week to share Jesus' love and be a fisher of men.

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# **“Gordy Goes Fishing”**

## **Puppet Presentation**

*A supply of at least 12 homemade fishing poles that are fully baited are needed for today’s large group. Wooden dowels, sticks, or clothes hangers could be used for poles. At the end of each, simply attach yarn or string with a gummy worm tied to the end.*

**Mr. King:**    **I think I’ll go fishing. Now let’s see. Could I catch something (or someone) out here?** (Goes into the audience and dangles the worm right in front of a child.) **If you want this gummy worm, hang on to it. I have to lead you back to shore.**

(Mr. King brings the child back to the stage.) **That’s not all. Now that you are caught, would you like to go fishing like I did? Here’s a pole. Go ahead and fish.**

The child is directed back into the audience as Mr. King continues to fish also. Once he has brought another child back, both children go fishing. The children continue fishing until all the poles have been used. The number of fishermen will grow very rapidly.

As the number of fishermen reaches the limit of the fishing poles available, Mr. King puts the hook from a fishing pole behind Gordy’s puppet stage and “snags a big one.” The pole bends and tugs but Gordy doesn’t appear. Mr. King tells the fisher kids to be seated while he tries to land the big one.

**Mr. King:**    *(with fishing line dropped behind Gordy’s stage)* **Hang on here. I think I might have a big one.**

The line is tugged and an old boot is pulled up. Then Gordy appears with a gummy worm hanging from his mouth.

**Gordy:**        I don’t know what happened to your worm.

**Mr. King:**    **I’m sure you don’t, Gordy. We are having a great time out here being fishers of men... or I guess you could say...fishers of kids. Want to join us?**

**Gordy:**        Sure. What do I have to do? Eat gummy worms? Cool!

**Mr. King:**    **We are having fun eating the gummy worms, but really we are talking about very important stuff. God wants you to be a fisher of men.**

**Gordy:**        What do they do?

**Mr. King:**    **They share Jesus’ love.**



Gordy: I can't do that. I'm not a pastor.

**Mr. King: This isn't a job just for pastors.**

Gordy: But I'm not even an adult.

**Mr. King: This is a job for kids also. As a matter of fact, God wants anyone who follows Jesus to be a fisher of men. Today we're learning from Matthew 4:12-22. Watch this video. It's the exact words in the Bible. You'll see how Jesus called people to be fishers of men, just like he calls you to be a fisher of people.**

Show the video, *The Visual Bible*: Matthew 4:17-25.

## **"Gordy Goes Fishing"**

### Puppet Presentation Conclusion

**Mr. King: So you see, Gordy, Jesus is calling us to be fishers of men.**

Gordy: How am I supposed to do that? Dangle gummy worms in front of people's faces and ask if they want to get caught?

**Mr. King: Not quite. Gordy, what do you use to catch a fish?**

Gordy: A worm.

**Mr. King: Right. Fish food. What will you use to catch a kid?**

Gordy: Gummy worms?

**Mr. King: No, not that kind of food. You use spiritual food.**

Gordy: What do you mean?

**Mr. King: You use Jesus' love. That's the best spiritual food there is.**

Gordy: But how do you fit Jesus' love on a hook?

**Mr. King: It's not a real hook, Gordy. You can be like the hook because Jesus' love has been given to you. Now you can be the one to offer Jesus' love to others.**

Gordy: How do I do that?

**Mr. King: You could pray for a friend who doesn't know about Jesus and his love for us.**

Gordy: I could do that.

**Mr. King: And you could show special kindness to someone who feels lonely or left out.**

Gordy: I could do that.

**Mr. King: And you could invite a friend to church who doesn't attend.**

Gordy: I could do that.

**Mr. King: And you could witness to someone about Jesus' love.**

Gordy: Wait a minute. I don't know if I could do that! What would I say?

**Mr. King: You just tell them how *you* have experienced Jesus' love.**

Gordy: You mean, how he died on the cross for me?

**Mr. King: Yes.**

Gordy: And took away my sins?

**Mr. King: Yes.**

Gordy: And how he is with me every day and helps me when I'm lonely or lost?

**Mr. King: Yes, that's it. You tell people what Jesus has done for *you*, and tell them Jesus will do the same for *them*. You are witnessing to Jesus' love in your life.**

Gordy: Then do I get to give them a gummy worm?

**Mr. King: Sure.**

Gordy: But I don't have any.

**Mr. King: Here's one, Gordy. (*Hands Gordy a gummy worm.*)**

Gordy: But I have more than one friend.

**Mr. King: Here's some more.**

Gordy: More friends than that.

**Mr. King: Gordy!**

Gordy: And they are hungry friends.

**Mr. King:** *(Handing Gordy more gummy worms.)* **Okay, Gordy, just make sure you give your friends spiritual food, too.**

**Gordy:** You mean Jesus' love? Sure. It's just that Jesus' love tastes even better with a gummy worm.

**Mr. King:** **Good. Just make sure you share. Why don't you close us with prayer and ask God to help us all be fishers of men.**

**Gordy:** Sure! Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus. Thank you, Jesus, for giving your whole life for us. It really is wonderful to know how much you love us. Now help us to follow you and to be fishers of other people. Help us share your love with them so that you could catch them and they would be friends with you forever. One more thing, God...Thank you for gummy worms! In Jesus' name, Amen.