



Date: _____

Series: Jesus Chooses His Followers
Winter Year 1, Lesson 35

Jesus Chooses Fishermen

Take Home Point: *Jesus says, "Follow me."

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. Leaders say the phrase and the children repeat it.

Bible Event: Matthew 4:18-22 and/or Luke 5:1-11

We will help children know:

- Jesus showed his disciples how to be "fishers of men," i.e., how to tell others about him.
- Children can be fishers of men also.




We will help children feel:

- Confident in "fishing" for others.
- Happy to be able to serve Jesus.

We will help children do:

- Watch a puppet presentation that introduces the Bible Event.
- Participate in acting out the Bible Event.
- Eat fish crackers to remind us that we can be fishers of men.
- Make a fishing pole to catch some people.
- Play *Follow the Leader*.
- Take home a copy of *God Talk at Home* to reinforce the learning of today's Take Home Point: *Jesus says, "Follow me."

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Warm-Up (10 minutes)	3	Transition Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> your choice of toys
Large Group Opening (5-10 minutes) 	3	Puppet Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bubba puppet fishing pole made from drinking straw with yarn taped to it and pipe cleaner at the end, to look like a hook (craft)
Small Group Application (10 minutes—each activity) 	6 8 8 10	Activity 1: Bible Event Activity 2: Snack Activity 3: Craft Activity 4: Game	<i>Activity 1: Bible Event</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> children's picture Bible <i>Activity 2: Snack</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> fish crackers napkins, cups and water <i>Activity 3: Craft</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appendix sheet copied on cardstock—one per child one drinking straw or craft stick per child 9 inch piece of yarn per child 2 half pipe cleaners per child tape washable markers and/or crayons heart Appendix copied on red paper—one heart per child <i>option:</i> if the above is not copied on red paper, it may be copied on white, and then children can color the hearts <i>Activity 4: Game</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> none
Large Group Wrap-Up (5-10 minutes) 	12	Review the Take Home Point Pray Sing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> your choice of music craft example from Activity 3

Warm-Up (Prior to class and first 10 minutes of the session.)

Young children this age need a time to get acquainted with the new surroundings as they enter the classroom. Provide a variety of calm activities and toys, such as blocks, play centers and simple puzzles. These activities create an environment that helps young children let go of Mom and Dad. If necessary, Mom and Dad may play with them for a few minutes and then leave.

Large Group Opening (5-10 minutes)



Purpose: The opening puppet presentation will be an attention grabber that helps gather the children. This is not an extensive presentation but a quick overview introducing the Bible Event and the Take Home Point. Early childhood humor is also used. Bubba often says something silly about elephants. Judy says something silly about pink ponies. Let the children enjoy the “joke” but use it to call attention to the Bible Event.

Puppet Presentation:

Supplies:

- Bubba puppet
- fishing pole made from a drinking straw with yarn taped to it, pipe cleaner at the end—bent to look like a hook

Bubba Goes Fishing

Presenter: Boys and girls, shall we call out Bubba?

Kids call Bubba. **Bubba...Bubba...Bubba.** Bubba comes out with the fishing pole taped to his hand.

Presenter: Hi, Bubba. What do you have there?

Bubba: I have a fishing pole.

Presenter: My goodness, what are you trying to catch?

Bubba: I'm trying to catch an elephant.

Presenter: That's silly. Boys and girls, do you think he'll catch an elephant with a fishing pole?

Kids respond with “**No!**”

Presenter: Bubba, I don't think you'll catch an elephant because I don't see any elephants around here.

Bubba: Well, if they were here, I'd get a peanut, put it on my hook and catch one.

Presenter: If you say so. Today, though, we're not talking about fishing for elephants.

Bubba: Are we talking about fishing for fish?

Presenter: No, you'd need a worm for that. We will talk about fishing for men.

Bubba: What does that mean?

Presenter: That means when Jesus was choosing his disciples, he called to some friends who were fishing and told them to follow him. He said, "Come, follow me and I will make you fishers of men."

Bubba: How do you fish for men?

Presenter: You tell them about Jesus and show them God's love.

Bubba: And that means you are fishing for men?

Presenter: Not only men, but also women and children...all people. When you tell them about Jesus and show them God's love, God catches them and makes them his own.

Bubba: Wow.

Presenter: That is what we will learn about today. Bubba, please repeat after me, *Jesus says, "Follow me."

Bubba: Jesus says, "Follow me."

Presenter: Good. Okay, boys and girls, let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me. *Jesus says, "Follow me." Jesus says, "Follow me." Remember, when you follow Jesus, you'll be fishers not of elephants...

Bubba: Oh, shucks.

Presenter: ... and not of fish, but fishers of men.

Bubba: Oh, good!

Presenter: Bubba, will you help us learn a new song?

Bubba: Sure, I love to sing.

Song: to the tune of *Mary Had a Little Lamb*.

Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

Jesus **S**AYS come **F**ollow **M**E,
Follow **M**E, **F**ollow **M**E.
Jesus **S**AYS come **F**ollow **M**E,
And **H**ELP me **F**ISH for **M**EN.

Let's fold our hands and say a prayer. Repeat after me.

Dear Jesus, Dear Jesus,
We love you. We love you.
Help us to be Help us to be
Fishers men Fishers of men
And follow you. And follow you.
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.

Small Group Application (30-40 minutes)



Purpose: Young children learn best by repetition. Review the Bible Event and practice the Take Home Point as you rotate through the activities.

The shepherd to child ratio for two-year-olds should be one to five or fewer. Divide into groups of five with one shepherd or have a slightly larger group with two shepherds.

Groups rotate from activity to activity. Another option, especially for larger churches, is to provide a leader at each activity table with a shepherd leading a group of ten. The ratio will be maintained at one to five.

Activity 1: Bible Event

Supplies: Children's picture Bible

Part One: Read the Bible Event

Read Matthew 4:18-22 from a children's picture Bible about Jesus choosing fishermen for his disciples.

Part Two: Act Out the Bible Event

Supplies: Children's' Picture Bible

Hold up a children's picture Bible.

This is the Bible. It is God's word. Let's act out what it says in the Bible. When you see me do the actions, you do them too.

Jesus chooses his disciples.

- **Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee. Stand up and pretend to walk.** (Take a short walk around the room.)
- **Jesus saw two boats. Let's count to two. One, two.**
- **Peter and Andrew were fishing in one boat. Let's pretend to be fishing.**
- **Jesus called to them: *Come, follow me. I will make you fishers of men.* Let's say: Come, follow me. Come, follow me.**

The men follow Jesus.

- **Do you think Peter and Andrew followed Jesus? Yes, they did. Let's pretend to climb out of a boat and follow Jesus.** Pretend to climb out of a boat and then lead the children around the room.
- **Then Jesus saw the brothers James and John mending a net in the other boat. Let's pretend to tie knots in a net to fix it.**

- Jesus called to them: *Come, follow me. I will make you fishers of men.* Let's say: Come, follow me. Come, follow me.
- Do you think James and John followed Jesus? Yes, they did. Let's pretend to throw down your nets and follow Jesus. Pretend to throw down a net and then lead the children around the room.

We can be fishers of people.

- Jesus wants us to tell people about him and show them God's love. Then Jesus will catch them and make them his own.

Part Three: Pray, Sing and Review the Take Home Point

Prayer:

Let's fold our hands and say a prayer. Repeat after me.

Dear Jesus, Dear Jesus,
 We love you. We love you.
 Help us to be Help us to be
 Fishers of men Fishers of men
 And follow you. And follow you.
 Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
 In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
 Amen. Amen.

Song: to the tune of *Mary Had a Little Lamb*.

Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

Jesus **S**AYS come **F**ollow **M**E,
Follow **M**E, **F**ollow **M**E.
Jesus **S**AYS come **F**ollow **M**E,
 And **H**ELP me **F**ISH for **M**EN.

Take Home Point:

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me:

*Jesus says, "Follow me." Jesus says, "Follow me."

Activity 2: Snack

Supplies: fish crackers, napkins, cups and water

Boys and girls, today we are going to eat a snack that is something people catch when they go fishing. Can you guess what that is? Right—it's fish. Before we eat our snack, let's fold our hands and say a prayer.

Dear Jesus, Dear Jesus,
We love you. We love you.
Help us to be Help us to be
Fishers of men Fishers of men
And follow you. And follow you.
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.

BE AWARE OF ANY FOOD ALLERGIES BEFORE YOU GIVE THE CHILDREN ANY FOOD TO EAT.

Pass out napkins, fish crackers and cups of water.

When you eat fish crackers, you can remember that Jesus told fishermen to come follow him. Go ahead and eat your snack. Remember to say please if you want more.

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me. *Jesus says, "Follow me." Jesus says, "Follow me."

Song: to the tune of *Mary Had a Little Lamb*

Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung..

JESUS SAYS come FOLLOW ME,
FOLLOW ME, FOLLOW ME.
JESUS SAYS come FOLLOW ME,
And HELP me FISH for MEN.

Activity 3: Craft

Supplies:

- *one drinking straw or craft stick per child*
- *9 inches of yarn per child; tape*
- *heart Appendix copied on red paper and pre-cut before class (one heart per child), option: copy on white paper and have children color the hearts. (If available, you may also substitute die-cut hearts.)*
- *2 half pipe cleaners per child*
- *one figure Appendix per child copied on white cardstock to color and cut out*
- *washable markers and/or crayons*

Note: this craft may require a teacher helper

Boys and girls, today we are going to make a fishing pole so we can be fishers of men, just like Jesus. First we will make our fishing poles.

Help the kids assemble a fishing pole by taping yarn to the end of the straw or craft stick. At the end of the yarn, shape half of a pipe cleaner into a hook and tie/tape it to the yarn. Tape the heart to the yarn just above the hook. When they have finished assembling their fishing poles, give each child two people from the Appendix page.

Now, let's color the people we will be fishing for.

Let the children color them with washable markers or crayons. Take the other pipe cleaner, bend or cut in half. Tape the ends to the back of each cardstock figure at the top of the head and form a hook loop. Now the people can be "hooked" by the fishing pole.



Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me. *Jesus says, "Follow me." Jesus says, "Follow me."

Song: to the tune of *Mary Had a Little Lamb*
Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

Jesus **S**AYS come **F**ollow **M**E,
Follow **M**E, **F**ollow **M**E.
Jesus **S**AYS come **F**ollow **M**E,
And **H**ELP me **F**ISH for **M**EN.

Let's pray now. Fold your hands and repeat after me:

Dear Jesus, Dear Jesus,
We love you. We love you.
Help us to be Help us to be
Fishers of men Fishers of men
And follow you. And follow you.
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.

Activity 4: Learning Game

Supplies: none

Boys and girls, today we are going to play a game, called *Follow the Leader*. You will follow me and when I say, "*Stop*," you will stop and do the action I tell you. Now, everyone, follow me.

Lead the children around the room and stop every few feet to do the actions you describe. Begin again with the words "Follow me" and lead the children in walking until you stop again for the next action.

1. Follow me. Stop and clap your hands. Follow me.
2. Stop and jump up and down. Follow me.
3. Stop and turn around. Follow me.
4. Stop and bark like a dog. Follow me.
5. Stop and touch your toes. Follow me.
6. Stop and wave your arms high in the air. Follow me.
7. Stop and touch your knees. Follow me.
8. Stop and shake your head back and forth. Follow me.
9. Stop and flap your arms like a bird. Follow me.
10. Stop and hop like a frog. Follow me.
11. Stop and hug yourself. Follow me.
12. Stop and show me your teeth. Follow me.

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me.

*Jesus says, "Follow me." Jesus says, "Follow me."

Song: to the tune of *Mary Had a Little Lamb*

Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

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Jesus **S**AYS come **F**ollow **M**E,
And **H**ELP me **F**ISH for **M**EN.

Let's pray now. Fold you hands and repeat after me:

Dear Jesus, Dear Jesus,
We love you. We love you.
Help us to be Help us to be
Fishers of men Fishers of men
And follow you. And follow you.
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.

Large Group Wrap-Up (5-10 minutes)



Lesson Review:

Presenter shows the craft and compliments the children for doing a wonderful job. He/she reviews the Take Home Point: ***Jesus says, "Follow me."**

Lesson Prayer:

Let's fold our hands and pray. Repeat after me.

Dear Jesus, Dear Jesus,
We love you. We love you.
Help us to be Help us to be
Fishers of men Fishers of men
And follow you. And follow you.
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.

Lesson Song:

Song: to the tune of *Mary Had a Little Lamb*
Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

Jesus **S**AYS come **F**ollow **M**E,
Follow **M**E, **F**ollow **M**E.
Jesus **S**AYS come **F**ollow **M**E,
And **H**ELP me **F**ISH for **M**EN.

Lead them in three songs on a tape or CD until parents begin arriving. Let parents know that they are welcome to join in. Dismiss by handing out the God Talk at Home.

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.

Heart appendix: copy on red paper and pre-cut before class. May substitute die-cut hearts.

