

Lesson #3-19

Jesus Fishes for People

Luke 5:1-11



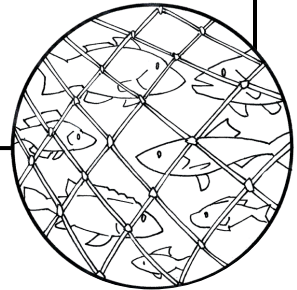
Key Verse:

Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

Luke 5:10-11

The Point:

The fishermen see and hear Jesus, call him Lord, and follow him as disciples.



Introduction

Jesus is preaching to all types of people. When he sees the fishermen have come up empty after a night of fishing, Jesus tells them to cast their nets again. When they do, their nets overflow with fish. They are so full that the other boat needs to come help. Simon Peter realizes who Jesus is and says, "Go away from me Lord, for I am a sinner." Jesus reassures Simon Peter not to be afraid and says that from now on they will catch people. Called by Jesus, the fishermen leave their nets to become his disciples.

The Point

The fishermen see and hear Jesus, call him Lord, and follow him as disciples. Through the miracle of the great catch, the fishermen recognize Jesus as Lord and become his disciples. Simon Peter understands who Jesus is and confesses himself as a sinner. The gaining of these disciples shows that Jesus' ministry is active and effective, yet it is different from other teachers'. Others are called "teacher," but Jesus is called Lord.

Activities a la Carte

Activities

Supplies

Introduction

Discipleship Chain

Follow Jesus in a line of discipleship.

10 min.

† Internet-connected video player

Learning the Story

Too Much

Show powerful reactions to Jesus.

10 min.

† Bible

† Activity Sheet #3-19.A

Activities

Paper Chain Dolls

Trace the chain of discipleship.

15 min.

† Activity Sheet #3-19.B

† Markers or crayons

† Scissors

Moving with Jesus

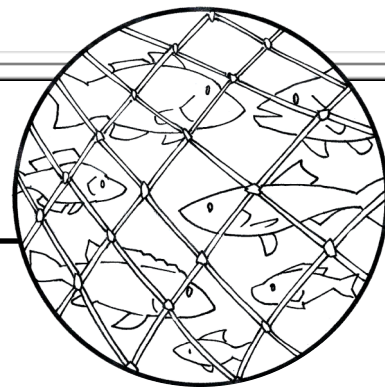
Mirror one another to follow Jesus.

10 min.

† None

Prayer

God's Story @ Home



Introduction (10 minutes)

Discipleship Chain

Follow Jesus in a line of discipleship.

Supplies:

- † Internet-connected video player

Preparation:

1. Familiarize yourself with the song "I Will Make You Fishers of Men."

Instructions:

1. **We are going to sing "I Will Make You Fishers of Men."** Show a YouTube video, or sing through the song a couple of times to familiarize everyone with it.
2. Ask for a volunteer to be a "Jesus" character and start the singing, or start the singing yourself. Have the next person connect with "Jesus," either with hands on each others' backs in a conga-style line or side-by-side holding hands, until everyone is a part of the line and singing. Each person adds their voice to "Jesus." The song continues and strengthens until everyone is connected.



Learning the Story (10 minutes)

Too Much

Show powerful reactions to Jesus.

Supplies:

- † Bible
- † Activity Sheet #3-19.A

Preparation:

1. Make copies of Activity Sheet #3-19.A, one for each character and the narrator.
2. Ask for volunteers to play the parts of Jesus, Simon Peter, James and John, and a narrator to read the story. Remember that this is in the spirit of fun, so any volunteer can play any part. Combine roles if needed.

Instructions:

1. **Our story today is found in Luke 5:1-11.** Read the story out loud.
2. Invite those who will be playing the various roles and the narrator to come to the front of your space. Provide scripts for them if they do not already have them.
3. **We are going to act out and respond to the story to get a feel for the powerful reactions Jesus gave.**
4. **When our narrator raises their hands in the air, “the crowd,” which is everyone, needs to shout, “Too much!”**
5. Invite the narrator to read the story.
6. **Thank you to our actors! Now we have a feel for how the characters were reacting to Jesus.**



Activity (10 minutes)

Paper Chain Dolls

Trace the chain of discipleship.

Supplies:

- † Activity Sheet #3-19.B
- † Markers or crayons
- † Scissors

Preparation:

1. Make one copy of Activity Sheet #3-19.B for each person.

Instructions:

1. **We are all part of the chain of disciples who follow Jesus.**
2. Distribute activity sheets.
3. **On your chain of paper dolls, label the first person “Jesus.” Help those who cannot write.**
4. **On each doll, write or draw something that has helped your discipleship or has helped you be a better follower of Jesus. It can be a person or an action.**
5. **When you finish your chain, hang your paper doll chain so that all of them connect together.**
6. When everyone has hung their paper chain dolls, invite them to stand by their drawing.
7. **Look how we all stand together as disciples and followers of Jesus. We are all connected through him.**



Activity (10 minutes)

Moving with Jesus

Mirror one another to follow Jesus.

Supplies:

† None

Instructions:

1. Ask people to divide into pairs or threes if necessary.
2. **One person will be Jesus (the leader) and the other person will be the disciple (the “mirror”).**
3. **The person who is being Jesus will move your hands and legs around, making faces, and so forth. The person who is being the mirror will do your best to follow along and copy the actions of your partner. Move slowly, so your “mirror” can more easily follow you.**
4. Allow about five minutes, then ask people to switch roles.
5. After another few minutes ask partners to reflect on following Jesus. Discuss how it felt to be Jesus versus how it felt to be the mirror.

Prayer

Close with a call and repeat, or echo, prayer.

We are going to pray as an echo. I will say a line, and you will repeat after me:

Loving God, (echo)

Let us leave everything. (echo)

Let us go out into the world. (echo)

Aware of our faults (echo)

But secure in our faith. (echo)

Not fearful (echo)

But confident fishers of people (echo)

And your followers. (echo)

Amen. (echo)

If you have the “Living the Word: Sharing God’s Story @ Home” sheet, remember to use it throughout the week as a part of your family devotions!

Too Much

Show powerful reactions to Jesus.

Roles:

- Narrator: Reads the story and raises hands to indicate when everyone should say “Too much!”
- Jesus: Pantomime teaching, and telling the disciples to put their nets in the water
- Simon: Pantomime putting nets into the water when Jesus tells him to, falling on knees and following Jesus
- James and John: Pantomime listening to Jesus, coming over to help Simon, following Jesus

Narrator: Jesus was standing beside the Lake of Gennesaret, but it was *(raise hands)*...

All: Too much!

Narrator: Everyone wanted to hear Jesus teach, so they pressed on him to hear the Word of God. Then Jesus saw some fishermen! He saw that they had been fishing, that they had been fishing *(raise hands)*...

All: Too much!

Narrator: And their nets were still empty, so they were washing up for the end of the day. Jesus said to them, "Put your nets in the deep water." And Simon said, “Although it might be *(raise hands)*...

All: Too much!

Narrator: ...since we have been fishing all night and caught nothing, I will let down my nets.” So they let down the nets, and suddenly there were fish and it was *(raise hands)*...

All: Too much!

Too Much

Show powerful reactions to Jesus.

Narrator: The nets were breaking, so the other boat came with James and John to help, but it was still *(raise hands)*...

All: Too much!

Narrator: Both boats filled up and started sinking. And that is when Simon Peter knew who Jesus was, and it was *(raise hands)*...

All: Too much!

Narrator: Simon said, “Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man.” But Simon’s sins were not *(raise hands)*...

All: Too much!

Narrator: Jesus said to them, “Do not be *(raise hands)*...

All: Too much!

Narrator: afraid, for from now on you will be catching people.” So Simon and his partners James and John left their boats, and they left the shore, and they left everything, for nothing is *(raise hands)*...

All: Too much!

Narrator: to follow Jesus! *(raise hands)*

Paper Chain Dolls

Trace the chain of our discipleship.

