

January 23, 2013

Calling of the Disciples

Mark 1:14-20; Luke 5:1-11; John 1:25-51

LESSON FOCUS***“Come, be my disciples, and I will show you how to fish for people!”*** Mark 1:17

In the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) we read of the circumstances in which Jesus called His disciples. We see Jesus preaching by the seashore and selecting four of the fishermen to become His first disciples to learn under His guidance how to become “fishers of men.” (Matthew 4:19). They were to turn all the practical knowledge and skill they knew in fishing into the work of bringing people into God’s kingdom.

It is interesting to note Jesus’ call to some of His disciples. Simon and Andrew were virtually in the middle of their work, casting a net into the lake, perhaps thinking about drying the fish that had been caught or nets that needed repair. But as the net flew out over the water, they heard someone calling their names. It was Jesus. He called busy and successful people to follow Him. Mark 1:18 says “at once they left their nets and followed him. The One who called them was worthy of their eager obedience! Jesus called them to know Him, to make Him the core of their daily lives and to live as He lived.

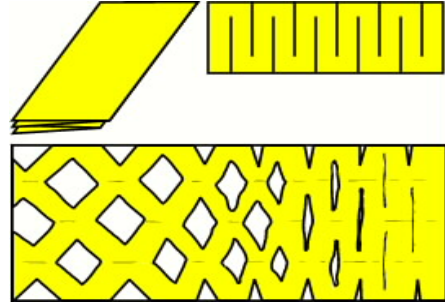
Mark 3:13-19 gives the account of Jesus appointing the 12 disciples. Verse 14 tells why Jesus chose these men: “that they might be with him.” This is what Jesus wants from us today – to take the time to be in His presence.

Jesus called Peter and these other men to be preachers and teachers of God's Word. He wanted them to concentrate on bringing the saving Gospel to people so God could gather them into His kingdom. That would be their full-time calling for life. Throughout history, God has continued to call certain individuals (both men and women) to full time service to Him as pastors and teachers. God provides the call, the gifts, and the results of the work. What a joy and privilege it is for a person to serve in this way for an entire lifetime, telling others of Jesus, their Savior. Every believer should consider carefully whether God has called him or her to serve Him as a public teacher or preacher.

WELCOME ACTIVITY

Fishing Nets

You'll need brown construction paper



Making the Net:

Fold each sheet in half length-wise and fold again.

Starting from 15mm from the end, make cuts on alternate sides of the folded paper, ending each cut 15mm from the long edges (see picture).

Unfold the sheet and gently pull the ends to open up the fisherman's net!

Across the diagonals of the net, print "Come, be my disciples." Mark 1:1

Let's hear how Jesus used these nets to tell his followers about becoming fishers of people.

BIBLE STORY

Calling of the Disciples

Mark 1:14-20; Luke 5:1-11; John 1:25-51

Open your Bible so children can see you "reading" God's Word. Show them your Bible and the words to they know what you're saying is coming from God's Word. Use Tell the Story idea below.

"Come, be my disciples." Mark 1:17

I've Caught Nothing!

One day Jesus was standing by the Sea of Galilee, when He saw two fishing boats and some fishermen who were mending their nets. Jesus climbed into Simon Peter's boat and said to him, "Please row out a little from the shore." Peter did so, and then rested on the oars and mopped his brow as Jesus began to teach the people. When Jesus had finished, He turned to Simon and said, "Row out into deep water and let down your nets for a catch."

Simon stared at Jesus and answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night long and we haven't caught a thing. But because You say so, I'll let down the nets." And so they lowered the nets over the side, with Simon probably grumbling under his breath, "He's a teacher, but what does He know about fishing?" Little did Simon know that the Creator of the world was in his boat and to please Jesus, just about every fish in the lake was going to try and jump into that net!

I've Caught Everything!

But, it's always wise to obey Jesus as He knows what is best for us. Simon gasped when he saw silvery fish leaping into his net. More and more came until the net was just a mass wriggling fish. "I've caught everything!" he shouted, but then was horrified as the net began to break! "Too many!" he yelled as he and Andrew tried to grab every side of the net at the same time. "Help!" he screamed to his partners in the other boat, "Come and help us or we're going to lose our net!"

His partners James and John, rowed over as fast as they could and came up with a splash of oars. Their eyes nearly popped out when they saw Simon knee-deep in fish. "Quick," he gasped, "Help me and Andrew pull in the net!" They struggled to pull the net over the side of the boat. Soon both boats were so full of fish that water started to pour in and the boats began to sink!

Catching Men:

Simon Peter was astonished at the size of the catch of fish they had taken and so were his partners. Falling down before Jesus on his knees he cried, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" But Jesus already knew this and had a great plan for Simon's life. Jesus also has a great plan for each of one of us today. But what did Jesus do? He just looked lovingly at that rough fisherman and gently said: "Don't be afraid Simon, from now on you will catch men."

Simon must have pointed at himself and said, "Who me Lord?" and Jesus just smiled and nodded. And so Simon, who became the Apostle Peter, slowly rowed ashore. With his brother Andrew, and with James and John, they pulled their boats up onto the beach and left them - boats, nets, fish and all! And they followed Jesus and went on to become His disciples to serve Him for the rest of their lives.

GOD'S WORD IN MY HEART

Read this passage from your Bible. Ask students to locate it in a Bible too. Help them learn this verse.

"Come, be my disciples." Mark 1:17

Pray: Thank you, God, for friends. Help me to be a friend of Jesus. Help me to tell my brothers and sisters and friends about Jesus.

Cut out two fish shapes using newspaper or cardstock. Write the verse on one of the fish. Staple or tape the two almost completely shut, leaving room to stuff with crumbled paper or tissue. Staple or tape closed.

GAME IDEAS

Fishing for People

You'll Need

Dowel with a string

Blue sheet (optional)

Children sit on blue sheet or on rug.

Select one volunteer to be the first "fisherman." The rest of the children are the fish. They sit on the blue sheet or rug with their backs facing the fisherman. The first fisherman casts his line toward the fish. Whenever the yarn string falls on someone, he/she comes to the fisherman and the fisherman tells him/her "***Come, be my disciples.***" Mark 1:17.

The "fish" who has been caught becomes the "fisherman" and casts the line toward the fish.

Red Fish! Green Fish!

Play "Red Light, Green Light," only instead of calling out "RED LIGHT" or "GREEN LIGHT" call out "RED FISH!" "GREEN FISH!" for stop and go.

Follow the Leader

Play "Follow the Leader" or "Simon Says." Do things like marching, giving someone a drink of water, saying nice things to someone.

SING AND PLAY

Fisherman – finger play

Three hungry fishermen went out to sea
To catch some fish for their families
No fish in their net
No fish in the sea
No fish at all for their families

hold up 3 fingers
pretend to scoop up fish
shake head no
shake head no
shrug shoulders with palms up

So they pulled in their nets
And headed back to shore
They washed all their nets
O what a chore!

pretend to pull
pretend to row boat
scrub fists together
Shrug shoulders with palms up

Then Jesus came and said to Peter
Try taking your boat where the water is deeper
So fisherman Peter rowed to that spot
No what do you think Peter caught?

march in place
point to a spot far away
pretend to row
Shrug shoulders

Fish of all shapes and fish of all sizes
Hundreds and hundreds of fishy surprises
They filled up the boat from bottom to top
There were so many fish that Peter had to stop!

gather fish
wiggle hands like a fish
stack hands, hand over hand
Hold hands in stop position

Jesus said, "It's fun to catch fish in the sea
But I want you to follow Me"
Peter followed Jesus with a great big grin
And from then on, he fished for me

cast a fishing pole
beckon with hands
smile big – point to smile
cast a fishing pole

Peter, James, and John Follow Jesus

To the tune of Eency Weency Spider

**Peter, James, and John went out to catch some fish.
They fished and fished all night, but not a fish was caught
So they pulled in the nets, and they turned the boat around.
When they got back to the shore, Jesus climbed aboard the boat**

Pretend to row a boat
pretend to cast a net
Pretend to pull nets in
pretend to climb in

**Jesus said to Peter, "If you want to catch some fish
Row out a little farther where the water's deep and clear"
Peter rowed the boat and they cast out all the nets
And they caught so many fish that the nets began to break**

wag your finger
point to a spot far away
row boat and cast net
pretend to carry a heavy load

**Peter, James, and John were surprised at what they saw
Never in their lives had they caught so many fish
That's when Jesus said, "Come on and follow me."
So they left the fish and left their boats and followed him that day**

put hands on cheeks
shake head no
Beckon with hands
walk in place

CLOSING ACTIVITY

Gather children around you.

Hold up your cell phone. Say: sometimes we use a phone to call someone. But sometimes we may speak loudly to call someone over.

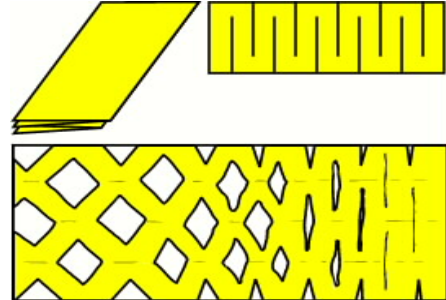
That's what Jesus did, he called to Peter, James and John. They didn't have telephones in those days. Jesus just spoke up and called out, asking the men to come over. He said, "Come, follow Me." And they became His helpers and friends.

**Peter, Andrew, John and James
There are Christ's disciples' names
We are His disciples too.
I can follow; so can you.**

In the Bible, in John chapter 15, verse 14 it says, Jesus said, "you are my friends."

Thank you Jesus for being my friend. Amen.

You'll need brown construction paper



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3. Unfold the sheet and gently pull the ends to open up the fisherman's net!
4. Across the diagonals of the net, print ***"Come, be my disciples."*** Mark 1:1

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