



STORY

Peter's Catch of Fish and Jesus' call of the Apostles

Luke 5:1-11 & 6:12-16, Matthew 4:18-22; 10:1-10; Mark 3:13-14

REVIEW

Review from last week's story: (Wedding at Cana)

1. What were the followers of Jesus called? (disciples)
2. In our story last week, to what special event did Jesus and His disciples go? (a wedding)
3. What special miracle did Jesus do at the wedding? (He changed water into wine.)
4. Who remembers what a miracle is? (something that God can do but people cannot)
5. What did Jesus want to show His disciples about Himself? (Jesus is God. God has all power to do miracles.)

INTRODUCTION

Did you ever wish you could do something but you weren't big enough, or old enough, or strong enough to do it by yourself? (Name some possibilities, i.e.: cooking at the stove, climbing a tree, going to the store by yourself, etc.) Jesus has something special for you to do. Today we will learn how Jesus helps us do this special job.

PRESENTATION

To present this story you may want to draw it as you tell it. Start by drawing the lake and shoreline. Then draw a crowd of people. (Stick men are fine.)

Draw a boat and Jesus in the boat. Add Simon and Andrew in the boat. Tape the net in front of the boat. Drop many fish in the net. (These should be cut out in advance.) Draw a second boat in the background with James and John in it.

THE STORY

Jesus often traveled from town to town, telling people God's Word. He knew how important it was for people to know that He was their Savior whom God the Father had sent. He had come to take away their sin.

Everywhere Jesus went, big crowds of people gathered to hear Jesus. In today's story Jesus was preaching beside a big lake. People were crowding closer and closer, trying to see and hear Jesus. It must have been hard to hear Jesus' with so many people crowding around Him.

Some of Jesus' disciples were fishermen. Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John had their boats at the edge of the lake and were cleaning their nets. Jesus got into one boat and asked Simon to row Him a short way out into the lake. Now everyone could sit down on the shore and see and hear Jesus easily. Jesus preached to them from the boat. Jesus wanted everyone to know that He is God's Son and their Savior.

When Jesus was done preaching, He said to Simon, "Row out into the deep water and put your net into the water to catch fish."

Simon said, "Master, we have fished all night and haven't caught any, but I will obey Your word and let down the net."

When Simon and Andrew put their nets in the water, they caught so many fish that their nets were breaking. They called to their friends in the other boat. "Help us!"

Together, they filled both boats so that they began to sink. They were all amazed to catch so many fish.

Simon Peter realized that Jesus helped them catch so many fish because He is God. Simon also knew that he was a sinner and God doesn't like sin. He said, "Go away from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord."

Jesus wanted Simon and the other disciples to know that He forgives our sin. He said, "Do not be afraid. Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

So Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John left their boats and everything they had and followed Jesus.

On another day Jesus knew it was time to choose all twelve disciples. Jesus had many followers, but only twelve would be chosen to be apostles. Since this was such an important decision, He prayed all night to His Heavenly Father.

In the morning Jesus called all His disciples together. From them He chose to be His apostles, Simon, whom He also named Peter, and Andrew his brother; James and John; Philip and Bartholomew; Matthew and Thomas; James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon called the Zealot; Judas, the son of James; and Judas Iscariot who also betrayed Him. Since these men followed Jesus for several years, they heard His message and saw His miracles. They saw Jesus die on the cross and rise again. Jesus wanted them to go and tell others all about Jesus, the world's Savior.

REVIEW

(Point to the appropriate parts of the picture.)

1. Why did these people come to the lake? (to hear Jesus preach)
2. Why did Jesus preach from the boat? (so everyone could see and hear Him)
3. What did Jesus want everyone to know about Him (He is God. He is our Savior from sin.)
4. After Jesus was finished preaching, what did He tell Simon to do? (Let down his net to catch fish)
5. Simon, Andrew, James, and John had fished all night. Had they caught anything? (No)
6. Why did they catch so many fish now? (Jesus is God and did a miracle.)
7. Jesus told the fishermen, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." What did He mean by this? (He wanted them to preach God's Word to people.)

OUTER AIM

Jesus called some fishermen to preach the Gospel.

APPLICATION

1. How did the disciples follow Jesus? (They went everywhere with Jesus. Jesus taught them everyday and they saw His miracles.)
2. How could the disciples fish for men? Did they use fishing rods to fish for men? (No, they used God's Word. By telling other people God's Word they were helping them come into God's Kingdom.)
3. Jesus' message, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men," is for us, too.
4. How can we follow Jesus? (Listen to God's Word and obey it. Pray to Jesus. Etc.)
5. Every person born is a sinner. What is sin? (breaking God's Law)
6. What do we deserve because of our sin? (death, hell)
7. There is only one person who can save us from sin. Who is that? (Jesus)
8. How did He save us? (by living a perfect life for us and by dying on the cross)
9. Every person needs to hear about their Savior, so they can believe in Him and go to heaven. Jesus wants us to tell other people about Him.
10. Jesus says He will make us fishers of men. What does that mean? (He will help us

tell others God's Word.)

Let's take the fish out of the net. Put your name on one fish. Someone told you about Jesus so you could be part of God's Kingdom. Who told you about Jesus? Put your fish in the net.

Now think of some of your friends, neighbors, or relatives you could tell about Jesus. Let's write their names on these other fish. (As children suggest names, have the children say specific things they could say to their friends.) What could we say to Joe (or any name that the children suggest)? (Jesus died on the cross to take away your sins.

[Have the class practice saying this as Joe's friend drops his fish in the net.] What could we say to Sue? (Jesus came alive from the dead.) (Practice saying this as Sue's fish is dropped in the net.) Let's pretend Carl is sick. What could we say to Carl? Etc. (Think of many more things the kids can tell. If they know some passages from memory, such as John 3:16, have them say these, too, as they drop the fish into the net.)

1. What is the important job Jesus wants us to do? (Tell others about Jesus)
2. Could the disciples catch all those fish by themselves? (No) Who helped them? (Jesus)
3. Who helped the disciples tell other people about Jesus? (God)
4. Who helps us to tell others about Jesus? (God)

INNER AIM

Jesus enables those He calls to preach the Gospel.

Jesus told His disciples and also us, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20

Discuss the meaning of this verse, especially the last part. Help children realize Jesus is always with us and helps us even when we tell other people about Jesus. We are never alone in our witnessing.

The children would enjoy making their own picture of the story. Draw a boat. Tape on the net. It can be a real net (the kind they sell fruit and onions in at the grocery store), or make a net "pocket" from paper. Cut out and name fish to go into the net.

CLOSING PRAYER

Dear Jesus, thank You so much for directing someone to tell me about You so I can know You as my Savior. Help me to tell other people about You. Help me to remember that You are always with me, helping me to tell others the good news about You. Amen.

SCRIPTURE VERSES

Level 1 – Matthew 4:19 "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.

Level 2 – Matthew 4:19 and Matthew 28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

TLH #507 "Spread, Oh, Spread, Thou Mighty Word"
"This Little Gospel Light of Mine"