

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: We Can Follow Jesus

SCRIPTURE: Luke 5

WORD OF WONDER: From John 3:16

Prayer of Invitation

God, we ask Your Holy Spirit to guide us as we discover more about Your amazing love for us! Thank You for sending Jesus and calling us to follow Him. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Hello friends, my name is _____, and it's so good to see you today! Let's start by checking out our ping pong jar. What do we need to do to earn a ping pong ball?

Allow kids to answer: Bring a friend, say Word of Wonder, bring your Bible, bring an offering.

Great job! Now, why do we bring an offering?

Allow kids to answer.

That's right! Everything we have is a gift from God. When we give money, it helps us do special things on *Serve the City* days. We use the money to help people in our neighborhoods and to show them God's love.

Giving is one way we can help others and tell them about Jesus!

Thank you for giving! Let's have a fun time today!

Let's start by doing our Declaration together. Remember these are truths from the Bible we can hold onto always.

God's Big Story

Bible Time Rhyme

I open my Bible, and what do I see? *(Hold your hands together, then open your palms, as if opening a book.)*

God's big story, waiting for me! *(Point to yourself.)*

Let's start by reading part of God's big story from the book of Luke in the Bible. That's in the New Testament.

Read the God's Big Story Script provided or read [Luke 5:1–11](#) from the Bible. You can also print the Bible Story Picture to give the kids a visual depiction as you tell the story.

GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

Our God's big story today is a great story from the Bible about Jesus and His first followers. Encourage the kids to say "Jesus." Let's find out from the Bible what happened!

Ahead of time, lay a blue blanket or tablecloth on the ground. If using toy or foam fish, dump a lot of them onto the blue blanket or tablecloth. If using the Small Fish Sheet, print it and cut apart the fish. Set aside a net, towel, or bucket.

You can help tell the story. We're going to pretend this is water with fish in it. Point to the blue blanket or tablecloth and fish.

One day Jesus was walking along the shore of a big lake.

Jesus noticed some fishermen near their boats on the shore. One of them was named Simon.

Jesus got into one of the boats and asked Simon to push it out into the water. As Simon did this, Jesus talked to people more from the boat. The people on the shore watched and listened. Let's all go out to stand by the pretend water while we keep listening. Invite the kids to follow you to stand near the blue blanket or tablecloth.

Jesus said to Simon, "Go out into deep water. Let down the nets so you can catch some fish." Let's put down a pretend net and see if we can catch any fish. That's how they fished back then, instead of using fishing poles. Invite the kids to help you put the net or towel (or bucket) down onto the pretend water.

Simon and Andrew did not catch any fish all day long. And they may have thought this wouldn't be any different. But something amazing happened! Fish began filling their nets and they had so many, the nets began to break! Can you help me put lots of fish in our pretend net? Invite the kids to help put as many fish as they can into the pretend net.

Let's pull our net full of fish back up and keep listening. Pull the net back up and set it aside.

After that, Simon and his friends left everything to follow Jesus. Jesus invited them to come with Him and be His disciples, or students who follow Him really closely. Jesus invites us to follow Him too. We can follow Jesus!

Watch God's Big Story

Watch the [Jesus Calls the Disciples God's Big Story!](#)

Worship

Connecting the Wonder Truth

Our Wonder Truth today is **WE CAN FOLLOW JESUS**. Where did you see our Wonder Truth happen in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

The nation of Israel—God’s chosen people—was made up of 12 tribes. A tribe is a group of people. Jesus chose 12 disciples, like there were 12 tribes. He showed that He is the one, true Rabbi, or teacher. When we follow Jesus, we’re His students and can follow His teachings because He is God!

Word of Wonder

WORD OF WONDER

God so loved the world. He gave His one
and only Son.

—from John 3:16

Our Word of Wonder for the Hanging Out with Jesus series is from **John 3:16**. Let’s practice saying the Word of Wonder together.

Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.

- **GOD**—*Point up to God.*
- **SO LOVED**—*Hands on heart.*
- **THE WORLD**.—*Hands in a big circle over your head.*
- **HE GAVE HIS ONE**—*Point up with one finger.*
- **AND ONLY SON**.—*Hold your hands out on either side (like a cross).*
- **FROM JOHN 3:16**—*Hold your hands together as if opening a book.*

Prayer Journal questions:

- **How does God show us He loves us?** *(If kids need help, offer ideas such as: by sending Jesus, through the world and creation, by forgiving us.)*
- **How can you show others how much God loves them?** *(If kids need help, offer ideas such as: being kind to them, praying for them, telling them about God.)*

Watch the Word of Wonder Video