



## LESSON 1

## JESUS CALLS THE DISCIPLES

## LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** We Can Follow Jesus**SCRIPTURE:** [Luke 5](#)**GOD'S BIG STORY:** Jesus teaches the crowd from a boat, helps Simon Peter and his brother catch fish, and calls some of His first disciples to follow Him.**WORD OF WONDER:** God so loved the world. He gave His one and only Son. —from [John 3:16](#)

## FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

**WHO?**

Jesus is called a *rabbi* or *teacher* throughout the Gospels. This was an honored position in first-century Judaism—rabbis knew the Torah (the first five books of our Old Testament) by heart. Clearly, Jesus is no ordinary rabbi—He's the greatest teacher ever!

**WHAT?**

Rabbis had disciples who were learning to be just like them. Disciples followed their rabbis and listened to their teachings, specifically their interpretations of Jewish law. When Jesus called Peter, James, and John, they would have known they were becoming His disciples.

**WHERE?**

The Sea of Galilee is a large lake located in northern Israel. Jesus did a large part of His ministry in Capernaum and the surrounding small towns located near the Sea of Galilee.

**WHEN?**

Jesus began His official ministry around age 30 ([Luke 3:23](#)), and at this time began choosing disciples to follow Him. Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, seemed to have already been following Jesus.

**CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY**

The nation of Israel consisted of 12 tribes. Jesus chose 12 disciples to show that He was representing Israel perfectly. He showed that He is the one, true Rabbi whose teachings should always be followed because He is God in the flesh.

## Play Stations

Greet the kids warmly and briefly explain the play stations to them. Invite them to play at any of the stations.

**Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help you get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas about what we'll be learning today?**

### Play Station: Fishing Sensory Bin

**Set up:** Set up a bin with sand and toys or other items associated with fishing. Include nets, shovels, and buckets for kids to use as they explore.

**Play:** Let the kids take turns playing and sharing what they find. Encourage them to try and catch as many fish as they can.

### Play Station: Following Magnets

**Set up:** Set out a variety of magnets and small objects that stick to magnets (such as paper clips) on a metal baking sheet. Watch closely to ensure kids don't put the small objects in their mouths.

**Play:** Let the kids play with the magnets. Encourage them to make different objects "follow" the magnets or see how many objects they can collect using a magnet.

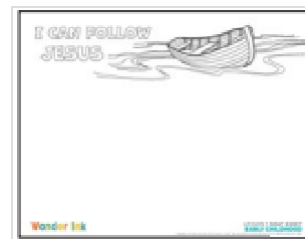
### Play Station: Jesus Calls the Disciples Coloring Sheet

**Set up:** Print one copy per kid of the coloring sheet and set out the coloring utensils.

**Play:** Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw a picture of a boat or water themed activity they would like to do.

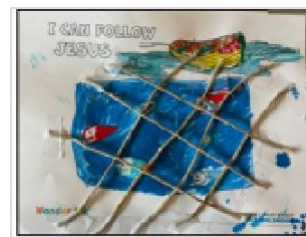
## Craft: Follow Jesus Net

Ahead of time, print a [Follow Jesus Fishing Net Sheet](#) onto cardstock for each kid. If using foam fish, set out a handful for each kid. If using the [Small Fish Sheet](#), print a few copies and cut apart the fish pictures. Set out glue or tape and yarn (or craft net).



**They were regular fishermen and had been fishing all night with nets. But they didn't catch anything ... until Jesus showed up. Jesus told them to put their nets in the water again. They let down their nets, after fishing all night, and fish filled the nets as soon as they were in the water. They caught so many fish that the nets started to break! Simon called out to his friends, James and John, in another boat to help bring in the fish. But there were so many fish that both boats began to sink! Simon couldn't believe what he was seeing. We're going to make our own fishing nets to remind us of this story and help us remember that we can follow Jesus!**

Give each kid a Follow Jesus Fishing Net sheet, some craft net or yarn and scissors, and some fish. You can use small foam fish or pictures of fish from the Small Fish Sheet. Encourage the kids to color the boat and water on the paper and then tape or glue the net to the paper, leaving the top open. They can put the fish inside the net. If using yarn instead of net, help the kids cut the yarn into equal lengths and tape or glue it to the paper in a crisscross pattern to look like a net. They can glue the fish to the paper.



**Take your picture home to remind you that you can follow Jesus too, like the fishermen in today's story, and we can fish for people by inviting others to follow Jesus too.**

# Identity

## Closing Game: Would You Rather?

We're learning about the fishermen deciding to follow Jesus. They became His closest followers, or disciples. When you have a choice between two silly things, I wonder what you'd choose. We're going to play Would You Rather. I'll give you two options, and you choose the one you'd rather do.

Call out the prompts below. Invite the kids to go to one side of the room if they would rather choose the first option and the other side of the room if they would choose the second option.

Would you rather ...

- Dance or sing in front of a lot of people?
- Eat ice cream-flavored broccoli or broccoli-flavored ice cream?
- Have spaghetti hair or grapes for fingers?
- Talk like a robot or walk like a crab?
- Be invisible or be able to fly?
- Only whisper or only sing anything you say?
- Be line leader or the last one in line?
- Go on a long car trip or ride in an airplane?
- Visit someplace hot or someplace cold?
- Go fishing or swimming?
- Ride a horse or a camel?
- Eat pancakes or cupcakes?

Of all the choices we make every day, the most important choice we can make is the choice to follow Jesus! We can follow Him every day. Jesus is the best leader.

## Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking God for including us and giving us the path to follow. **God, thank You for giving us the opportunity to follow You. You have the perfect path, and we can walk with You! We love You! In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands are open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

**Blessing:** God knows you, loves you, and calls you to follow Him as His disciple and friend! May you hear the call of God in your heart and respond. And may His love surround you all the days of your life!