

Jesus Calls the Disciples

Theme

Jesus called us to fish for people

Object

A rod and reel or some other fishing gear

Scripture

Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people." So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him. Luke 5:10b-11 (TNIV)

Do you like to go fishing? If someone were to ask me that question, I guess I would have to say, "No." I like to catch fish, but I don't enjoy fishing unless I am catching fish. I have heard some people say that they don't care whether they catch any fish or not -- they just enjoy going fishing. Not me!

I remember one time when I went fishing with my son. He was about the age of some of you boys and girls -- about seven or eight, I guess. We got up early in the morning and went to the lake. We had been fishing for about five minutes when he turned to me and said, "Dad, when are we going to catch something?" After about thirty minutes, he gave up and went to play with some other children. I sat there and fished all day. I never did catch a fish. Now, that is not my idea of a good time!

As I think about that fishing trip, I am reminded of a story in the Bible about some men who had a fishing experience a lot like mine -- until Jesus came along.

One day Jesus was standing by the sea of Galilee. A large crowd of people started to gather around him. He saw some fishermen nearby who were cleaning and mending their nets so he climbed into one of their boats. He asked one of the men whose name was Peter, to put the boat out a little way from the shore. Jesus sat in the boat teaching the people.

When he had finished teaching, Jesus said to Peter, "Put the boat further out into the deep water and let down your nets to catch some fish."

"We've been fishing all night long and haven't caught a thing, but if you say so, we will let down the nets one more time," Peter answered.

An amazing thing happened! When they started pulling the nets up, there were so many fish that the nets began to break. As they pulled the fish into the boat, there were so many fish that the boat was beginning to sink. When Peter and his fellow fishermen saw this, they were astonished and even a bit frightened.

Jesus said, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people."

The Bible tells us that they pulled their boats up onto the shore, left everything, and followed Jesus. From that day on, Peter and his friends fished for people and brought many into God's kingdom.

Jesus wants you and me to fish for people too. If we will be faithful in telling people about Jesus and his love, we can trust Jesus to bring in the catch!

Dear Jesus, help us to be good fishers for people -- faithful to go, patiently waiting, and trusting you to bring in the catch. Amen.

Sermon Title: "Let's Go Fishing"

Scripture Reading: Luke 5:1-11

LET'S GO FISHING Game

: Tie a string so that it stretches across the room and hang a sheet over the string to make a curtain. Use an old fishing pole, purchase a toy fishing pole, or make your own from a stick and tie a string or long piece of yarn to act as a fishing line. Tie a clothespin or a large paper clip to the end of the string to make the "hook." Children will take turns letting down the fishing line behind the curtain. The teacher will put a treat (candy, pencil, anything inexpensive) on the hook and give a little tug on the line to let the child know they have had a "bite." The teacher will explain that we'll learn about FISHING today in our Bible Story so "listen for WHO will go fishing for WHAT" in our lesson!

FISH DRAWING

: Begin this activity by singing the song "Fishers of Men." Next, DRAW a picture of WATER and WAVES on a piece of butcher paper and put it up on the wall. Give the children several fish cut out of construction paper. The Children will write the names of people they know who need to know Jesus on their fish and then glue or tape their FISH onto the picture. The class will then PRAY for these "fish" and ask God to help us to become fishers for people.

NET FISHING:

Buy netting material to hang on the classroom focal wall. Children can cut out bright NEON FISH (drawn ahead of time by the teacher on neon poster board), and children can put those fish IN THE NET. Large sign can be placed IN the net that says I

WILL MAKE YOU FISH FOR PEOPLE!

LUNCH BAG FISHING:

Make "nets" from brown paper lunch bags. These are made by the teacher who cuts little slits in the bags before class time (older children may want to cut the slits themselves). Choose an OPTION below:

Option 1

: Children can place cut out fish (that have names of friends or family who need JESUS),
IN the NET "lunch bag".

Option 2

: Draw some fish on poster board and write the Bible verse (Luke 5:10b) on each fish. Cut the fish into pieces to create a simple jigsaw puzzle. Give each child a lunch bag fishing net which has one of the jigsaw puzzles inside. The children will put the puzzles together. Close the activity by reading the Bible verse together.

LETS EAT FISH:

Draw and cut out construction paper FISH and staple or tape two together leaving the top part of the fish OPEN to form a pouch. Give children a FISH to eat!! (Inside that paper fish will be gold fish crackers!!)

Song: "I Will Make You Fishers of Men" by Elaine Kirkpatrick

[Words and Music \(pdf\)](#)

[MP3 Accompaniment Track \(right click to save to your computer\)](#)

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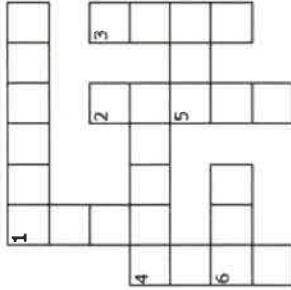
Song: "Fishers of Men" by Harry D. Clarke

[Words and Music \(pdf\)](#)

[MP3 Accompaniment Track](#)

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Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- To get behind someone and go where they go
- The land along the edge of an ocean, sea, lake, or river
- A large area of salty water, smaller than an ocean
- An openwork fabric of cords used to catch fish

DOWN

- An animal which lives in water and is covered with scales
- The Son of God
- A small vehicle for travelling on water
- To go down below the surface of the water

NET	SEA	FISH	SINK
FOLLOW	JESUS	BOAT	SHORE



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Children's Worship Bulletin

"Go Fish!"

Luke 5:1-11

Word Search Puzzle

S B C P I O A Y D R C O B X V
L L D E H N G T Y P Z H P B
Q O P X T F N G K C S H U O N
J I C B R I I X A F R A I D Z
P J X A H P K S P E O P L E F
R P R S N W E O H Y K K S S S
E U A R A G O T D I F W N I Z
A W F W D A K Z E P N E Z N O
C M Q Q E L U N M R M G G K N
H L P P E I Q D L R L F S I B
I N C L P L N X E E U T S N E
N H E Y X E I H R H A U L G X
G S T T B E S O M O S C O W S
T X E B S I H Q B E P T O D J
Z P C A F S R S J R J I T B Z

PREACHING	AFRAID	BOATS	GALILEE	PETER
JESUS	DEEP	PEOPLE	SEA	FISHING
FISHERMEN	SHORE	WASHING	NETS	SINKING

Your Church Name Here
Anytown, USA

Color Me!



Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men." So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

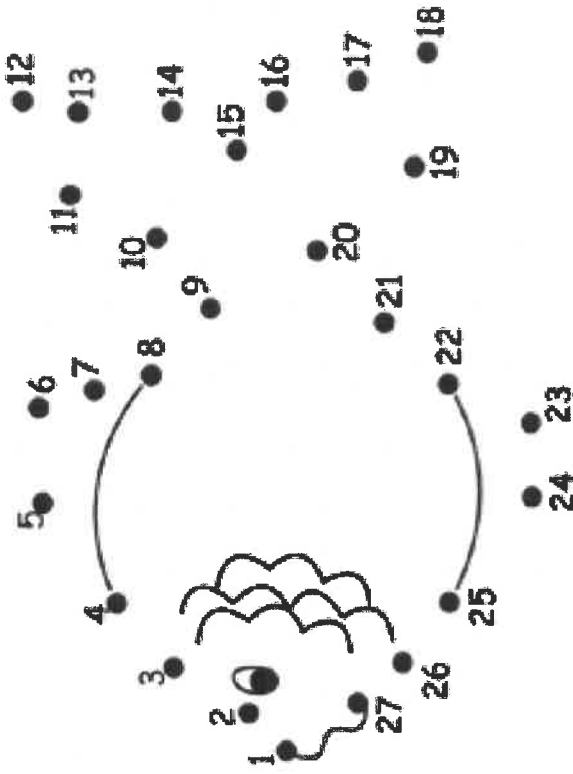
Luke 5:10-11

Dot to Dot Puzzle

When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets."

Luke 5:4-5 (NIV)

Fishing for People



www.DotToDots.net





Jesus replied to Simon, "Don't be afraid! From
now on you'll be fishing for people!"

Luke 5:10b (NLT)