

CALVARY CHAPEL OF PHILADELPHIA

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

1ST GRADE

TEACHER'S PACKET

SUNDAY MORNING

Study 5

Jesus Calls His Disciples



Jesus Calls His Disciples

The Objective is the key concept for this week's lesson. It should be the main focus of the study.

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The "Main passage" is the basis of the study, where the other verses support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the "reward box" found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God's Word.

Objective This lesson will show Jesus' desire for us to commit to a life of discipleship, which involves following Him and making other disciples.

Key Verses

Luke 5:1-11—Main Teaching Passage

Matthew 4:18-22; Mark 1:16-20 (Parallel Passage)

Memory Verse - Matthew 4:19-20

"Then He said to them, 'Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.' They immediately left their nets and followed Him."

Hook

Review last week's memory verse, John 3:16.

Draw a net, cage, and fishing pole on the board. Go through each one and ask what kind of animals you might be able to catch with each item. Finish with the fishing pole, and at the end ask if a fishing pole could be used to catch people.

In today's story, Jesus tells some people that they are going to be "fishers of men." Ask the students what they think that might mean.

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

BOOK

Today's story begins with large crowds following Jesus, hoping to hear Him teach. Jesus was by a lake and saw two boats, but the fishermen who owned the boats were on the shore washing their nets. Jesus asked one, a man named Simon, to take Him out into the water. Simon obeyed, and Jesus taught His message from the boat.

Afterwards, Jesus asked Simon to go out into the deep waters and let out his net to catch some fish. Simon told Jesus that he and the others had been out fishing all night and caught nothing, but they agreed to listen anyway. As soon as they did this, they caught so many fish that their nets began to break. In fact, once they loaded the fish onto the boats, the boats started to sink from all the added weight. Simon fell down before Jesus and told Him to go away, since he was too sinful and did not deserve to have Jesus around. However, Jesus had something else in mind. Jesus asked Simon and his partners, Andrew (Simon's brother), James, and John, to follow Him and be His disciples. He told them that instead of being catchers of fish, they were going to be catchers of men.

As soon as they got back to shore, we find out that these men left everything and followed Jesus. Jesus began to call Simon, "Peter," which means "Rock." Peter, James, and John would end up becoming the core of Jesus' group of twelve disciples, who would follow Him around for the rest of His earthly ministry.

LOOK

At the start of our story, Jesus has a big crowd following Him. Certainly, most would take such a following as a sign of God's blessing on His ministry, and indeed it was. From a worldly point of view, having large crowds following you is the pinnacle of success, so the world would look at this situation and think that this must have been what Jesus wanted. Ministry to large crowds was certainly important to Jesus, and we will regularly see Him preaching and healing among swarms of people in the Gospels. However, as we look at this story, it becomes clear that Jesus' primary desire was not for hordes of fans. What Jesus was looking for was committed disciples.

A disciple is someone who follows, lives with, and learns from a teacher. Throughout the Gospels, Jesus' ongoing ministry was to His group of disciples, which began with Simon Peter and his friends and ended up being known as the twelve apostles. These twelve men spent all their time following, watching, and listening to Jesus.

The interpretation/exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

LOOK (Continued)

The fishermen's reaction to Jesus in this passage is significant. As soon as Jesus called them to follow Him, it says they left everything behind to do so. They did not hesitate or wait until later to follow. They didn't try to take their money or belongings with them. They didn't keep fishing as a part-time job or sell their equipment for profit. They just left everything and followed Him. This is what is required to be a disciple. Following Jesus means giving up my desires and plans for a rich, comfortable life and doing whatever it takes to follow Him. It means spending time in His Word and in prayer and fellowshiping with other believers in church. Being a disciple is a total commitment.

Jesus did not tell the disciples very much about what following Him would entail. One thing He did say was that they would become fishers of men. Disciples are to be learners, but they are not to keep the message of Jesus for themselves. They are supposed to spread the message and seek to make other disciples. As followers of Jesus, this is still our mission today. Not only are we to spend as much time learning from Jesus in His Word and in church, but we are then to go out and share that message with any family, friends, neighbors, and others who do not know Him.

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

TOOK

As a class, memorize Matthew 4:19-20.

Review the lesson by asking the class what it means to be a disciple and a fisher of men. Ask how we can be disciples this week when we go home.

Pray: Ask Jesus for help in being a disciple and fisher of men. Thank Him for inviting us to follow Him.

Parent Question: How can we be disciples of Jesus and fishers of men?

FURTHER STUDY

Commentary on Luke 5:1-11 by David Guzik

DISCIPLES ARE CALLED

A. The call of four fishermen.

1. ([Luke 5:1-3](#)) Jesus teaches from a boat.

So it was, as the multitude pressed about Him to hear the word of God, that He stood by the Lake of Gennesaret, and saw two boats standing by the lake; but the fishermen had gone from them and were washing *their* nets. Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat.

a. **The multitude pressed around Him to hear the word of God:** The large crowd showed the increasing popularity of Jesus as a teacher. The crowd was so big that Jesus **got into one of the boats** and **taught the multitudes from the boat**.

i. "Note the many strange pulpits in which Christ preached." (Morrison)

b. **The Lake of Gennesaret:** This was another name for the Sea of Galilee, as it is more familiarly known. It was also sometimes called the Sea of Tiberias.

c. **One of the boats, which was Simon's:** Simon must have felt privileged that Jesus wanted to teach from his boat. We can also be sure that Simon listened to this teaching all the more attentively.

2. ([Luke 5:4-5](#)) Peter receives as Jesus directs his service.

When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net."

a. **He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets":** After Jesus had finished teaching, He wanted to do something good for Simon, who had lent Him the use of the boat. Peter could not give something to Jesus without Jesus giving even more back to him.

i. As far as we can tell, *Jesus was in the boat with them as He directed this*. His presence gave confidence. "It is a blessed thing to see Christ sitting in the boat while you cast out the net. If you catch a glimpse of his approving smile as he watches you, you will work right heartily." (Spurgeon)

b. **Master, we have toiled all night:** The particular ancient Greek word Luke used for **Master** (*epistata*) is unique to Luke's Gospel. The word has the ideas "commander," "leader," or perhaps even "boss." With this title, Peter showed he was willing to take orders from Jesus.

c. **We have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net:** Peter could have come up with any number of possible excuses.

- "I worked all night and I'm tired."
- "I know a lot more about fishing than a carpenter does."
- "The best fishing is at night, not in the day time."
- "All these crowds and loud teaching have scared the fish away."

- “We already washed our nets.”

- “Jesus may know religion, but He doesn’t know fishing.”

d. **At Your word I will let down the net:** This was Peter’s great statement of faith, and trust in Jesus’ word. God’s people throughout all ages have lived and gone forth with this confidence in the word of Jesus.

- At Your word**, there was light.

- At Your word**, the sun, moon, stars, and planets were created.

- At Your word** life came to this earth.

- At Your word** creation is held together and sustained.

- At Your word** empires rise and fall; history unfolds His great plan.

3. ([Luke 5:6-7](#)) The miraculous catch of fish.

And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. So they signaled to *their* partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink.

a. **They caught a great number of fish:** Peter *didn’t* make such excuses, and His faith in Jesus was well rewarded. Peter understood that he probably knew more about fishing than a carpenter did and that he had worked all night without any results. The only reason why Peter did what Jesus asked was because *he believed in Jesus*, not because the circumstances seemed right.

i. When Jesus *directs* our work, it makes all the difference. We can work — even work hard — for a long time with no results. But when Jesus directs our work, we see results; and we always miss something great when we make excuses instead of allowing Jesus to direct our work.

ii. “Here the dumb fishes do clearly preach Christ to be the Son of God.” (Trapp)

b. **So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them:** Peter had to work with others to get the job done. This is reminiscent of what God did in a man named James McGready on the frontiers of Kentucky starting in the 1790s. In Kentucky he pastored three small churches that met in roughly built shacks. He said that the winter of 1799 for the most part was weeping and mourning with the people of God and that it was like living in Sodom and Gomorrah on the rough, lawless, and often godless frontier. McGready started the concerts of prayer, but he also got his congregations praying for him and for his ministry of the word of God — for a half hour before they went to bed on Saturday night and for a half hour when they woke up on Sunday morning. In 1800 came an extraordinary outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and so many people began to come to Christ that McGready called out: “Any preacher of any kind who loves the Lord Jesus come and help me.”

i. “Some will rather leave souls to perish than admit of *partners* in the sacred work. It is an intolerable pride to think nothing done well but what we do ourselves; and a diabolic envy to be afraid lest others should be more successful than we are.” (Clarke)

4. ([Luke 5:8-11](#)) Peter’s reaction and the call of four disciples.

When Simon Peter saw *it*, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!” For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also *were* James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men.” So when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all and followed Him.

a. **He fell down at Jesus’ knees:** Jesus had already miraculously healed Peter’s mother-in-law ([Luke 4:38-39](#)). Yet there was something about *this* miracle of the blessed catch that made Peter worship Jesus and surrender

himself to Him.

b. **Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!** When Peter saw the great power of Jesus — displayed in Jesus' knowledge in an area where He should have no knowledge — it made Peter realize his own spiritual bankruptcy compared to Jesus.

i. Because Peter was such an experienced fisherman, and because he knew how unfavorable the conditions were, he knew all the more what a great miracle this was.

ii. Peter had hardly met Jesus, yet he already knew much about Jesus; and because of that he understood some things about himself.

- Peter knew that Jesus was **Lord**.

- Peter knew he was a **man**.

- Peter knew he was a **sinful man**

- Peter let this make him a humble man.

iii. We might say that Peter's prayer was good, but there is even a better prayer to pray: "*Come nearer to me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!*"

c. **Do not be afraid:** In the grammar of the ancient Greek, this is literally *stop being fearful*; it calms an existing fear. Peter was afraid of Jesus in the sense of holding Him in such great awe, but Jesus told Him to put away that fear. God wants to relate to us on the principle of love, not the principle of a cowering fear.

d. **From now on you will catch men:** When Jesus told Simon that he would **catch men**, He told Simon that he would do what Jesus Himself did. There was never a greater fisher of men than Jesus Himself, but He wanted others to do the work He did. Jesus started with these three, then twelve, then hundreds, then thousands, and millions upon through the centuries.

i. Clarke says that the word **catch** signifies to catch something *alive*. That is true evangelism; it isn't to bring dead people into a building, but to bring real life.

e. **They forsook all and followed Him:** This seems to mean that they left the miraculous catch of fish behind, because it was not as important as what it showed them about Jesus. It showed them that Jesus was much more than any carpenter, and this caused them to follow Him.

f. **They forsook all and followed Him:** They **followed Him** in the way that students followed their teaching rabbi in those days. In some aspects Jesus offered them a traditional education at the feet of a rabbi; in other aspects this was very different from a normal rabbinical education.

i. They started out relatively untrained and uneducated, but Jesus taught them. Their education and training came more upon an *apprenticeship* model than a *classroom* model.

ii. "The word 'follow' is a technical term in Luke for discipleship ([9:23](#), [49](#), [57](#), [59](#), [61](#); especially [18:22](#), [28](#)). As such, it is similar in nature to his term in Acts for following Christ, the 'way' ([Acts 9:2](#), [19:9](#), [23](#); [22:4](#); [24:14](#), [22](#)).“ (Pate)