

LESSON 11

The Miraculous Catch

LUKE 5:1–11



BIBLE TRUTH

WHEN JESUS CALLED THE DISCIPLES WITH POWER, THEY COULD NOT RESIST

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. **OPENING REVIEW** **5 MIN**
Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.
2. **BIBLE STORY** **10 MIN**
Read Luke 5:1–11 from the Scriptures or read story 89, “The Miraculous Catch,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.
3. **OBJECT LESSON 1** **10 MIN**
Fisher of Men
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ small candy bars
 - ✓ tape
 - ✓ fishing rod and lures with hooks cut off for safety (a string tied to a wooden dowel will also work)
4. **TEACHING/DISCUSSION** **10 MIN**
Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.
5. **OBJECT LESSON 2** **10 MIN**
Play the Role of Peter
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ a gifted actor from your church to play the role of Peter
 - ✓ simple Peter costume made from a flat sheet and a rope belt
 - ✓ a piece of netting
6. **SWORD BIBLE MEMORY** **5 MIN**
7. **ACTIVITY TIME** **10 MIN**
Color a Picture
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 11—one for each child
 - ✓ markers or crayons
8. **CLOSING PRAYER** **5 MIN**
9. **BONUS OBJECT LESSON** **10 MIN**
My Mom and Dad Are Fishers of Men?

TOTAL 75 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

The amazing catch revealed the power of God at work in Christ—We learn from John 1:35–42 that Jesus had already met Simon and renamed him Peter. Jesus boarded Peter’s boat and asked him to put out from shore so he could teach the crowds. He had already healed many, and the crowds followed him. Putting away from the shore allowed people to gather along the shoreline, making it easier for them to see and hear Jesus. After Jesus finished speaking, he asked Peter to go out into the deep water and let down his nets. Peter objected, telling Jesus that the fishing was terrible—they had been out all night and not caught a thing! Even so, he let down his nets. So many fish filled the nets that they needed help to bring them in. With this, Simon was convicted of his sin. He knew that God has command over the fish of the sea. Though he didn’t yet fully understand that Jesus was God, the power and majesty of God was shown to him through the miraculous catch. Calling Jesus Lord, Peter fell down at Jesus’ knees in fear, acutely aware of his sinfulness.

Fishers of men—Jesus said four amazing words to Peter, “Do not be afraid.” Those words were a mark of grace. Peter was right to have recognized his sinfulness and Jesus could have condemned him as a sinner. Instead, Jesus told Peter not to be afraid. Jesus knew even then that Peter was called as a child of God destined to be forgiven. With those four words, Jesus recognized Peter as a member of God’s family whom he would use to reach the lost. Then Jesus called Peter to follow him and become a fisher of men. Between Peter’s call and Jesus’ death, resurrection, and ascension into heaven, Jesus would train Peter. It would be Peter, on the day of Pentecost, who would preach to the multitude and see three thousand people repent and believe in Jesus. That catch of people would parallel this catch of fish and validate Jesus’ words (see Acts 2:41).

The disciples left everything—After bringing their boats to shore, Peter, James, and John left everything to follow Jesus. Imagine leaving the biggest catch you have ever seen in your life to follow a wandering teacher. Of course, Jesus was more than a wandering teacher; he was Lord and he was King! They would see Jesus multiply fishes and loaves, heal the sick, and walk on water. It is not always easy to leave the things of the world to follow Jesus, but the disciples made the right choice.

Where Is the Gospel? _____

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Luke 19:10 says that Jesus came to seek and to save the lost. In our story today, Jesus seeks out a man named Peter and a few of his fishing companions and calls them to join him in his mission to reach the world. Though they were accustomed to netting fish, Jesus told them they were called to catch men (Luke 5:10). Like Peter, whom the Lord did not condemn for his sin, they would join Jesus in calling others. The picture of the nets, bursting with fish, depicts the kingdom of God. Through his death on the cross, Jesus would call men from every tribe, language, and nation. This catching of men would only be possible through the grace of God available through Jesus' death on the cross and his resurrection.

Jesus called other men as well and they responded and followed him. For instance, when Jesus told Nathanael where he had been earlier in the day—before they met—and went on to describe the setting, Nathanael was amazed. He instantly believed and praised Jesus, saying, "You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" (John 1:49).

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read Luke 5:1–11 from the Scriptures or read story 89, "The Miraculous Catch," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

Fisher of Men

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ small candy bars
- ✓ tape
- ✓ fishing rod and lures with hooks cut off for safety (a string tied to a wooden dowel will also work)

This is designed as a silly ad-lib skit between two teachers.

After reading Luke 5:1–11, the first teacher is interrupted by another teacher barging into the room with a fishing rod and tackle. The fisherman opens a window and casts her lure out the window and waits patiently. (If no window is available, just use an unoccupied corner of the room.)

The teacher inquires what the fisherman is doing. After hearing the response “fishing,” the teacher acknowledges that the fisherman is fishing but points out there is no water.

After some ad-lib playing out of this scene, have the fisherman explain that she is fishing for people and is going to use her secret weapon. At that point she tapes a candy bar on the line, says, “This always works,” and then recasts the lure.

She goes on to tell a story of how she caught seventy-five people like this at the mall, casting into the crowd. She shares that security kicked her out and would not listen to her “freedom of religion” defense.

The teacher finally explains what “fisher of men” means in the Bible and the fisherman appears depressed.

In the end the teacher explains that the fisherman doesn’t have to stop fishing, she just needs to use a different rod. Then the teacher offers to give the fisherman the correct rod. This makes the fisherman very excited. After calming down the fisherman, the teacher hands her a Bible and explains how to use it to catch people for Jesus.

TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

OBJECT LESON 2 10 MIN

Play the Role of Peter

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a gifted actor from your church to play the role of Peter
- ✓ simple Peter costume made from a flat sheet and a rope belt
- ✓ a piece of netting

Have the person playing the role of Peter come to class unannounced, in costume carrying the net, halfway through the session. He should pull up a chair in the front of your room and start working on his nets.

Start by asking him, “Excuse me, but who are you, and what are you doing?” He should answer, “I am Peter, also known as Simon. Yesterday Jesus came by and the most amazing thing happened...” Then he should lead right into his story.

Have him act out the part where he falls to his knees in front of Jesus when he realizes he is a sinner. Have him explain that once he saw that Jesus commanded the fish of the sea, he knew that Jesus was somehow connected to God himself.

In closing, have Peter say, “Well, I’ve got to be going now. I was just mending my nets. I’m going to need these to be very strong you know. Jesus tells me that now I am going to use them to catch people. Goodbye.”

After Peter leaves the classroom, discuss with the children what they thought of his story and ask them if they know how Peter is confused. They should point to Peter’s closing remark about how he would be using fishing nets to catch people.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Color a Picture

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 11—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- **How many fish with eyes can you see in the picture?**
(Help the children count the fish. There are five fish showing with eyes. Then ask the children how many fish they think are in the net. There is no correct answer. The idea is that they realize the disciples caught a whole lot of fish.)
- **What was so amazing about catching so many fish?**
(The disciples had already worked all night and had not caught a single fish.)
- **What was Jesus trying to teach the disciples by helping them catch all these fish?**
(He used this miracle to illustrate his awesome power and control of all things. By this he taught them he was not just a good teacher, he was God.)
- **What lessons are there in this story for us?**
(Jesus is more than a wise teacher. Jesus is all-powerful and able to supply all of our needs.)

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day's Scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN

My Mom and Dad Are Fishers of Men?

Lead a discussion to see if any of the children have stories where their parents shared the gospel with friends or family. Be sensitive toward any guests you have or children with unbelieving parents—not everyone may have a story. You and your helpers can prime the pump by relating a few stories from your own experience. In each story try to identify how the gospel message was used to draw people to Jesus.

