

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

Select one of the object lessons to use to cover the teaching points.

5. OBJECT LESSON 2 20 MIN

Who Are the Fish in Your Life?

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ construction paper fish—three for each student
- ✓ fish template (Cut a simple cardboard fish shape to use as a template for drawing identical fish outlines.)
- ✓ pens or markers

6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

7. ACTIVITY TIME 15 MIN

A Gospel Net?

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ roll of butcher paper—one foot per student
- ✓ pencils and crayons
- ✓ yardstick for drawing lines

8. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON 20 MIN

Pantomime the Story

TOTAL 90 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.

A LITTLE BIT MORE

Fishing

The disciples were cleaning their nets after laboring all night. Nets would gather all sorts of trash and debris when used. In addition, the best time to catch fish is in the evening or the early morning. Jesus had the disciples throw out their net in the middle of the day, usually a poor time to catch fish. This further emphasized the miraculous nature of the catch.

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

Select one of the object lessons to use to cover the teaching points.

OBJECT LESON 2 15 MIN

Who Are the Fish in Your Life?

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ construction paper fish—three for each student
- ✓ fish template (Cut a simple cardboard fish shape to use as a template for drawing identical fish outlines.)
- ✓ pens or markers

Pass out three construction paper fish to each child. (If you prefer, have the children cut out the fish themselves in class.) Have the children write the names of people they have contact with who are not Christians. They will put the fish up at home as a reminder to pray for those folks and share the gospel with them.

Take time in class to pray out loud for some or all of the people. Ask the children for ideas on ways that they can reach out to these folks. (Remember to have the children get their parents’ support for ways they would like to reach out to their friends and neighbors.)

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 15 MIN

A Gospel Net?

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ roll of butcher paper—one foot per student
- ✓ pencils and crayons
- ✓ yardstick for drawing lines

Before class cut the roll of paper into six- to eight-foot lengths. Allowing one foot of paper per student, have an approximately equal number of students work on each length of paper (for example, if you have fourteen students have two groups of seven work on two seven-foot lengths of paper). Work on long tables or on the floor. Start by having each child draw a self-portrait on the paper. They can draw a face or a whole body, but they should make it large (at least one-foot tall). Give them five minutes to complete their drawings. Then take a pencil and draw diagonal lines approximately every four inches with the yardstick. Do the same in the opposite direction to create the appearance of a net that covers the whole paper. Then have each child pick a diagonal line and write the word “gospel” over and over and over along the whole line. When all of the lines are filled, hang up the drawings in the class and explain to the children that the gospel message is the net that God uses to draw us into the kingdom.

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

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

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 20 MIN

Pantomime the Story

Divide the class in half and have each group create a three-minute skit depicting today’s story. It need not be literal, but it should contain the gospel message. For instance, some of the group could represent people listening to a preacher pantomiming a gospel proclamation. The rest of the group could join hands, forming a net to gather them up. Help the two groups come up with an idea, plan it out, and then perform their skit for the class.