

BIG IDEA

Jesus calls us to follow him.

BIBLE

A Miraculous Catch of Fish:
Luke 5:1–11

ABOUT THIS WEEK

Fish often travel in schools or groups because they've learned to trust each other and know things are easier as a group. This week, we'll look at the miracle of Jesus providing Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John with boatloads of fish. Jesus did something miraculous to build trust in these men, and he does the same for us because **Jesus calls us to follow him**.

WELCOME TIME

ACTIVITY | Follow The Leader

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this activity, have kids follow you around the room in a single file line, doing the motions you call out and demonstrate for them. Once you go around the room, invite a kid to take the lead and do any movement they want. Keep going until everyone who wants to lead has had a chance.*
- Hey everyone, follow me! We are going to pretend we are exploring the ocean. You have to stay close and do what I do.
 - Tiptoe! Tiptoe! The sand is very hot!
 - Now let's swim to our boat.
 - Let's get in our boat and row, row, row our boat!
 - Put on your goggles and explore underwater!
- Leading and following go together, don't they? We can't follow if there is no one to lead.
- In today's Bible story, we're going to learn about how Jesus called a few friends to follow him.

STORY TIME

SCRIPTURE | A Miraculous Catch of Fish (Luke 5:1–11)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Teach this passage by reading from a preschool-friendly Bible translation, or Bible storybook, or using the talking points provided below. Each time you say the word "miraculous" throughout the story, wave your hands and wiggle your fingers in an arch formation. Invite kids to join you.*
- Well, hello there, friends! **Ready to hear about another miraculous thing Jesus did?**
 - Let's practice saying that word again! **Mir-a-cu-lous.**
 - Remember, a *miracle* is something surprising (*make a surprised face*) and very hard to explain (*point to the temple, making a confused face*).

- In today's **miraculous** story, Jesus was teaching a large crowd of people. Then, Jesus saw two boats on the water's edge. Jesus then got in one of the boats that belonged to a fisherman named Simon.
 - **Have you ever been on a boat?** It moves a lot with the water.
 - **Let's rock side to side like we're on a boat.**
- When Jesus was done speaking, he told Simon to take the boats into the deep water and let down their nets to catch fish. Simon was sad because he and his friends had been trying to catch fish all night long, and they didn't catch any.
 - They didn't know it yet, but Jesus was about to do something **miraculous!**
 - Jesus told him to throw in his nets again, and Simon and his friends decided to trust him. They threw their nets into the water.
 - **What do you think happened?**
- They caught so many fish! There was so much fish that their nets began to break. They had to call their friends to bring another boat and help them with all the fish.
 - **What do we call that?** Oh yeah, **miraculous!**
 - Simon and his friends were shocked. They knew Jesus was super special.
- Jesus told them that from now on, they won't fish for fish anymore. They would fish for people.
 - **Can you say, "Huh?" What does it mean to fish for people?**
 - Jesus told Simon and his friends to follow him and help more people follow Jesus. So they left everything (even their boats and fishing gear) and followed Jesus.
- Just like that! Isn't that **miraculous?**

BIG IDEA | Jesus calls us to follow Him.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Write this week's Big Idea on a large piece of paper cut out of a fish (use outlines [like these](#)). Tape or glue the fish onto a blue sheet or plastic tablecloth representing the ocean. Keep this ocean to add more fish in the coming weeks.
- Our fish friend here will help us learn the Big Idea together!
 - **Jesus** (Sign language for "[Jesus](#)." [JESUS, YESHUA • ASL Dictionary](#))
 - **calls us** (Put your hands around your mouth like you're shouting.)
 - **to follow him** (March in place.)

VIDEO | *Miraculous*, Episode 2

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's episode of [Cali's World](#).

ACTIVITY | Follow Along

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, pair kids off and have them stand face-to-face. Assign one to be the leader and the other to be a follower. Instruct the leader to make motions and the follower to copy them like they are looking in a mirror. After a few minutes, have them switch roles..
- If you want to follow well, you have to pay close attention. Simon and his fisher friends chose to follow Jesus, meaning they needed to watch Jesus carefully. They needed to learn what Jesus did and do as he did.
- **Can we follow Jesus, too?** Of course, we can! **Jesus calls us to follow him.**

PRAYER

- Jesus, thank you for being a good leader. Please help us follow you and do what you teach us. Amen.

SHARING TIME

ACTIVITY | Circle Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Sit in a circle together. Pass around an ocean-themed stuffed animal so kids can take turns answering questions. The person holding the stuffed animal gets to speak.

- What did Jesus tell Simon and his friends to do? *To put their nets into the water*
- What did Simon say? What did Simon do? *He said they tried all night but caught no fish. But he did what Jesus told him to do.*
- What happened when Simon and his friends listened to Jesus? *They caught a bunch of fish!*
- Jesus told them to follow him, and he would make them fishers. What? *People.*
- Let's say our Big Idea together: Jesus calls us to follow him.

ACTIVITY | Fish In The Net

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Give each kid a quart-sized plastic zip bag. Use a permanent marker to draw criss-cross lines on the bag to resemble netting. Distribute fish stickers preschoolers can stick on top. Then, have them hold the bags open while leaders add a little bit of light blue paint (or blue hair gel mixed with glitter). Seal the top using duct tape, and allow preschoolers to squish the paint or gel to move it around. See worked example [here](#).*
- Simon and his friends caught a lot of fish when they followed Jesus' instructions. But Jesus told them to follow him and become fishers of people. We can be fishers of people when we tell others about Jesus!
- Jesus calls us to follow him.

MEMORY VERSE | Psalm 77:14 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Help kids learn this month's memory verse by setting the words to the tune of "Baby Shark." You can also have kids repeat the verse after you in small chunks, say it using silly voices, or create simple hand motions for keywords.*
- "You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the peoples."

PLAY TIME

ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Print and distribute [the coloring page](#) along with crayons or markers. You can review today's Bible story, Big Idea, and memory verse as the kids color.*