

April 25th & 26th
4 year olds-1st grade

Bible Passage: From Luke 5:1–11
(Disciples)

Jesus Calls His Disciples

REMEMBER VERSE

**Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and
believes him who sent me has eternal life.**

John 5:24a

Schedule

1. Activity
2. Storytime
3. Questions to go deeper
4. Blessing
5. Optional Worship songs

Supplies

- Bible
- Pieces of paper
- Marker or pen
- Paper bags or bowls
- Small items
- Fishing pole OR a stick with a string tied on the end

//Optional Activity//

Parents, this is a fun way to introduce the lesson and get your kids to thinking about listening to our Heavenly Father and his disciples.

Some of These Things Are Not Like the Others

Today, children will engage with groupings of things that are similar yet have differences. This activity will prompt thinking about what made Jesus' followers different from others who crossed paths with Jesus.

SUPPLIES (per small group)

- Resealable bags or bowls (3)
- Small items for bags (see below)

PREPARE AHEAD

Gather any groupings of small items to fill the bags or bowls, where all of the items are similar but a few are different. (Example: You might fill a bag with small green toys, but throw in a couple of red ones. Other options might include square blocks with a few rectangular ones or plastic spoons with a few forks. Get creative with what you have on hand!)

SET UP

Place the bags or bowls of items on the table.

RELATE

Encourage children to join you at a table. Explain that all of the items are similar, but a few are different. **Go ahead and put all the items that are similar in a group together. As you sort through the items, tell me how the objects are similar to each other. Now can you tell me some differences between them (how they look or feel)? How did you know the items were similar? For the items that are different, what makes them “special”?** Help them identify which items are different and why.

//Storytime//

Hey parents! We will start with learning our Remember Verse.

- Write the Remember Verse (listed below) on a piece of paper and hide it somewhere in your house near where you will be telling the story
- Grab an empty box with a lid near where you will tell the story. This will be used to help tell the story 😊

Mail Time

SUPPLIES

- Remember Verse written on a piece of paper
- Bibles (your personal and children's)

RELATE

Hide the Remember Verse somewhere in your house, perhaps near where you will tell the story. Choose one child to “seek” the Remember Verse. Give clues to its whereabouts by calling out “hot” and “cold.”

Once the verse is found, find the Remember Verse in Bible and read the words aloud. Talk about the meaning of the verse while interacting with the children.

Lead the children in reciting the Remember Verse several times together using a variety of engaging methods. Hand motions, different voices, various speeds, and character integration are all great ways to help commit the Scripture to memory.

REMEMBER VERSE

**Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life.
John 5:24a**

REMEMBER VERSE DEFINITIONS

Eternal: Lasting forever and ever

REMEMBER VERSE MOTIONS

Very truly I tell you: Nod head in affirmation, cup hands around mouth.

whoever hears my word: cup hands around ears.

and believes him who sent me: Point index fingers to the sky.

has eternal life: Point right index finger outward and make a circular motion.

Wardrobe of Wonder (Where a secret item is hidden that connects to the Big God Story. Use a box, a cabinet or whatever you have)

SUPPLIES

- What's It/Secret item: Fishing Pole (you can use a stick with a string tied at the end)
- Covered place to hide secret item

What's It: Fishing Pole

Many of the disciples were fishermen when Jesus called them. When we answer Jesus' call in our life, we become fishers of men.

RELATE

Invite your child volunteer to “spy” on the What’s It by peeking into the “wardrobe.” Have him whisper the identity of the What’s It in your ear to ensure he knows what it is.

Then lead your family in asking the assistant yes-or-no questions about the What’s It. Once the children have guessed correctly, ask your assistant to retrieve the What’s It from the wardrobe and bring it to you.

ASK

What’s this we’ve found in the wardrobe today? Children answer. **When would we use a fishing pole? What does it help us do?** Pause for responses. **Have any of you ever used a fishing pole? I wonder, why would this be in the wardrobe today?** Discuss possibilities with children. **Those are all very good thoughts. Well, we’re about to find out because ... friends, do you know what time it is? It’s time for The Big God Story!**

The Big God Story

This is the “meat” of the lesson where we open up the Bible to see how God moved in people’s lives.

From Luke 5:1–11

Storytelling Technique: Actions

SUPPLIES

- What’s It: Fishing Pole
- Fish drawn on a pieces of paper

SET UP

Place the What’s It Fishing Pole near the stage. If using the fish drawn on paper, have them within reach for use when prompted during storytelling.

RELATE

Hi, everybody! Every week we hear part of The Big God Story, and I can’t wait to learn more today! Where do we find The Big God Story? Children respond. **Yes! In the Bible! Before we start, we need to stop and ask Someone to come and teach us. Do you know who that is?** Children respond. **That’s right! God! Let’s pray and ask Him to come and teach us.** Lead your children and family in a Prayer of Release to pause, be still, and ask the Holy Spirit to quiet their hearts and minds.

In the beginning, God had a really big plan for the whole world! Part of God’s big plan for the whole world was to send a Savior to save us from our sins. Sins are the things we do wrong—the bad choices we make. Do you know who came to save us from sin, so we could know God and be with Him forever? Pause for responses. **That’s right ... God sent Jesus to save us! Jesus followed God the Father’s plan exactly, and He wanted to find some other people to help Him with God’s big plan.**

One day, Jesus went down to a lake to teach the people. While He was teaching, He saw some men. Do you know who they were? I’ll give you a hint ... it has to do with our What’s It! Hold up fishing pole as children respond. **Yes! They were fishermen. Instead of using fishing poles like this one, they used nets to catch their fish. A fishing pole catches one fish at a time, but a net can catch many fish all at once. Jesus went over to these men as they were cleaning their nets. Jesus told the men to go back out and put their nets in the deep**

water. One of the men, named Simon, told Jesus they had tried all night to catch fish and hadn't caught anything. But Simon knew there was something special about Jesus, so he said they would try again. Children pretend to cast net as Storyteller throws net over side of "boat."

What happened next? Do you think they caught a lot of fish, or nothing? Children answer. Yes ... they caught a *lot* of fish! Encourage children to pretend to toss fish into net. In fact, they caught so many fish their nets began to break. They couldn't even bring all the fish into the boat because there were so many! Everyone pretends to pull heavy nets into boat. So another boat had to come out and help. Even then, there were so many fish the boats began to sink! Jesus had just performed a miracle for these fishermen. The fishermen were amazed! They knew Jesus was unlike anyone else!

Remember how I said Jesus wanted to find people to help Him with God's big plan? Well, these fishermen were the first people Jesus chose! When they came back to the shore, Jesus told them to come with Him. Do you think they went? Children respond. Yes! Do you think they took some time to think about it? Children respond. No! They knew Jesus was unlike anyone else. So when He called them to come, they followed Him.

That day, Jesus called four fishermen to come and follow Him. Soon after, He called eight more men. That's 12! When Jesus called, all 12 men left everything they were doing to follow Him. There's a word for people who have decided to follow God. They're called "disciples." Let's say that word together. Children repeat. Disciples! Excellent. A disciple is someone who follows a teacher, learns from him, and models or copies his behavior. After disciples learn enough, they go and teach other people the things they've learned from their teacher.

But there was something special about these disciples. It's a little bit like the activity you did earlier. When you looked at the different items they seemed similar, but some of them were different. The special thing about the 12 men Jesus chose to follow Him was that they got to spend every day and every night with Jesus, learning from Him. He showed them how to care for people and teach people about His love. Jesus showed them the very best way to live. When Jesus returned to heaven, He told the disciples to go out into the world and make other disciples by telling them all about Jesus.

When we choose to trust and obey Jesus, we become His disciples! As Jesus' disciples, we get to show the world God's love and everything Jesus teaches us. Friends, where do we get to learn all about Jesus and His love? From the Bible, that's right. How else can we learn these things? Kids answer; interact with their responses. Good thinking. We can learn from our parents, leaders—the people we know who love Jesus, trust Him, and obey His words. These people can help us learn more about Jesus by showing us the very best way to live—the way Jesus lived when He was here on earth.

Worship as Response

Supplies:

Paper

Crayons, markers, colored pencils

Just like Jesus invited the disciples to know and follow Him, He invites us too. When we choose to trust and obey Jesus, we become His disciples too. As Jesus' disciples, we get to show His love to the people around us! Today, in the middle of your paper, draw a person to look like yourself. Then when we're done, draw more people onto your paper. Do the activity along with the children.

See how more people are on your paper now? That's like when we tell others about God and we spread the good news of Jesus by what we do and say! When others see how we live, they'll want to have a relationship with Jesus too, and be part of God's big plan!

//Questions to go Deeper//

RELATE

In The Big God Story today, we heard how Jesus chose 12 disciples as part of God's big plan for the world. God wants you and me to tell everyone about Him and how much He loves us. We get to be part of God's big plan!

I wonder ... Why does God want me to know Him?
I wonder ... How can I know God more?
I wonder ... How can I be more like Jesus?

//Bless//

This is where YOU get to speak God's word over your child. It's powerful! Even if it feels awkward at first, give it a shot. You won't regret speaking TRUTH over your child.

RELATE

In the Bible, people would sometimes use their words to remind each other of things that were true about God. Today we're all going to have a chance to bless each other with our words. Help children form pairs. If a child doesn't have a partner, help her locate a leader. You get to take turns saying the blessing to each other. One of you will go first, and then your partner will speak the blessing over you as well. Model this for children by pairing up with another leader or child and speaking the blessing. Have children repeat after you.

May you know God's love (children repeat), and share His good news everywhere you go (children repeat).

After children have blessed one another, gather everyone around you and close with a final group blessing:

Children, may you follow Jesus wherever He calls you.

//Worship Songs//

Find our weekend songs online.

[Shelter](#)

[Everybody, Everywhere](#)

[My God](#)