

Sunday Teacher's Lesson for Children

Life of Christ

Jesus chooses friends

Luke 5:1-11

Younger Verse

Christ died for you. 1 Peter 3:18

Older Verse

Christ Himself died for you. And that one death paid for your wrongs. He was not guilty, but He died for those who were guilty. He did this to bring you all to God. 1 Peter 3:18

Lesson Goals

See how Jesus loves us and wants us to go to Heaven one day
Learn how we can follow Jesus

Welcome Time

Isn't it fun to play games with friends. Do you remember how you met some of your best friends? Jesus had friends too. Let's see how He found some of His friends.

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Jesus traveled around to tell people about God's love. He walked to different places in His country to help the people know how to follow God.

One day Jesus was walking by a lake called the Sea of Galilee. It was a great place to fish so there were men with boats and nets trying to catch fish to eat or sell for money.

A crowd formed around Jesus to listen to Jesus. Jesus saw two boats that were empty. The fishermen were on the side washing their nets.

Jesus got into Peter's boat. Jesus asked Peter to push out a little from the shore so that He could talk to the people. There he sat down and taught the people about God.

When He had finished speaking, He asked Peter to row the boat into deep water and throw out their nets to catch fish.

Peter answered that they had already fished all night and had not caught one fish. Then, He obeyed Jesus and put the nets in the water.

Suddenly, they caught lots of fish! In fact, there were so many that Peter had to call two of his friends to come help so that the nets would not break.

When Peter saw what happened, he fell at Jesus feet. He knew that Jesus was someone special from God. He knew that Jesus was pure and holy and that he was not.

Jesus simply said, "Don't be afraid; come, follow me and I will help you fish for men." They pulled their boats up to shore and followed Jesus.

When Jesus used the phrase "fish for men," He was trying to explain that He would show them how to help others learn and know about him. When a person tries to catch a fish, he would put out a big net and wait for the fish to swim into the net. Then, he would draw up the net with the fish. In the same way, Jesus would show His new friends how to help people listen and be interested in learning about God then follow Him with all their heart.

Jesus and His new friends traveled around the area telling people the good news of how much God loved them. He healed people who were sick and helped them understand who God was. News about Jesus spread all over the area. Many people came to listen and see who this amazing man was. Many people began to follow Him.

Jesus' new friends were special. Jesus knew that they would learn much from the time that they spent together. He knew that, much later, they would help many people know who He was and help them trust in Him. These were not smart, handsome men. They were ordinary people. In fact, the Bible tells us that James and John were called the Sons of Thunder which meant that they got angry easily. Peter often "put his foot in his mouth." That means that he said or did something that he wished he hadn't done.

Just like Jesus chose these friends, He loves us and wants us to follow Him. He loves us just like we are, and He knows that if we follow Him with all our heart, He can help us do amazing things we never dreamed of doing to help others learn and know Him.

Is Jesus your friend? It's easy to know who Jesus is in your mind. He did many wonderful things to help people. It is a different thing to know Jesus in your heart—to trust Him and believe in Him. You must believe that He died and came back to life and ask Him to come into your heart. Jesus will come into your heart and help you live for God. If you want to know more, talk to us about it. Jesus can change your life, like he changed these fishermen's lives.

Learning Activities

Try games, crafts, or activities to help the kids see the importance of following Him.

Memory Verse Activities

Before class, write the words of the verse on fish and attach them under the chairs (or hide them). Let the kids find their fish and put the verse in order.

Prayer Time

Ask God to help us obey Him immediately, like the fishermen.

Snack Time/CleanUp

Share fun snacks together around the "fish" theme!

Planning for February 22nd
Four friends help a man
Luke 5:17-26

Preschool Lesson

For

Jesus chooses friends

One day, Jesus walked along a seashore. The lake was called the Sea of Galilee. He probably got warm sand in His sandals as He watched fishermen try to catch fish in their big nets. He knew that He would find some special friends along the way.

A crowd of people came to hear Jesus. Jesus stepped into a boat and asked a man named Peter to float the boat in the water. There, He taught the people about God and His love for them.

When He had finished talking, He asked Peter to row the boat into deep water and throw out their nets to catch fish.

Peter answered that they had already fished all night and had not caught one fish. Then, He obeyed Jesus and put the nets in the water.

Suddenly, they caught lots of fish! In fact, it was so many that Peter had to call two of his friends to come help so that the nets would not break.

When Peter saw what happened, he fell at Jesus' feet. He knew that Jesus was someone special from God.

Jesus simply said, "Don't be afraid; come, follow me, and I will help you fish for men." They pulled their boats up to shore and followed Jesus.

When Jesus used the phrase "fish for men," He was trying to explain that He would show them how to help others learn and know about him. When a person tries to catch a fish, he would put out a big net and wait for the fish to swim into the net. Then, he would draw up the net with the fish. In the same way, Jesus would show His new friends how to help people listen and be interested in learning about God, then follow Him with all their heart.

God loves us too! He wants us to be His friend and follow Him. That means that we will love Him and help others know and love Him too. Let's pray and thank God for being our friend.

Here is a fun finger play to help the kids remember the lesson:

Jesus walked along the shore (walk two fingers of right hand along left forearm).

He watched (put right hand on brow to shade eyes)

the boats at sea (touch the fingers of both hands together to form a triangle boat and rock them in the air-sea).

He loved (put both hands over heart)

the busy fishermen (pretend to use a fishing pole or net).

He called (cup hands around mouth),

"Come follow me" (wave toward yourself with your hands).

(from Group publishing)

Hands-on Activities For Jesus chooses Friends

Cut out fish shapes and write questions from the lesson. Let the kids take turns “fishing” and answering the questions.

Try the “Fishing for people” game. Bring a dowel with a string (fishing pole) or something similar. Spread out a blue sheet as a mat for the children to sit on. Select one volunteer to be the first “fisherman.” The rest of the children are the fish. They sit on the blue sheet with their backs facing the fisherman. The first fisherman casts his line toward the fish. Whenever the yarn string falls on someone, he/she comes to the fisherman and the fisherman tells him/her one thing about who Jesus is, what He is like, or what He has done for us. The "fish" who has been caught becomes the "fisherman" and casts the line toward the fish. The object of the activity is to see how many fish can be caught and how many ways we can learn to be fishers of men.

Play “Red Light, Green Light,” only instead of calling out "RED LIGHT" or “GREEN LIGHT” call out "RED FISH!" "GREEN FISH!" for stop and go.

Cut out a fish shape using newspaper or cardstock. Write the verse on the fish. Staple or tape almost completely shut, leaving room to stuff with crumbled paper or tissue. Staple or tape closed. Hang up as a reminder of the lesson.

There are lots of varieties of snacks for today’s lesson. Fish crackers or gummy fish are an option as well as blue Jell-O cups or even fish sticks (if you have a microwave or oven).

(This activity can be messy.) Before class, fill a box with sea shells or beach objects and cover with play sand. Let the kids dig for the objects. (It is best to do this outside!)