

Lesson 11

-Fishers of Men-

Fishers of Men

2-5 Years:

Opening Prayer to welcome the start of the session. For example:

“Dear God. We thank you for the chance to meet in your presence once again. Please help us to learn more about your work. Help us to do the good things that you want us to do. Amen.”

Bible Story:

Tell the children the story of Jesus telling Simon and Andrew that he will make them “fishers of men” (Mark 1: 16-20) in basic language that this age group can understand.

Art:

Precut two fish for each child from construction paper. Help each child to put glue and glitter on each fish. Then help them glue their fish on a piece of blue construction paper.



Song:

To the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb"

We can be a follower, follower, follower,
We can be a follower, of our Lord Jesus Christ

I can be a follower, follower, follower,
I can be a follower, of our Lord Jesus Christ

(Insert name of child) can be a follower, follower, follower,
(Insert name of child) can be a follower, of our Lord Jesus Christ

Repeat by the number of children in class



Activity:

Play Follow the Leader with the children. Begin by being the leader and then give each child a chance to be the leader.

Closing Prayer asking God to help follow Him. For example:

Dear God, thank you for our class today. Help us to be good followers like Simon and Andrew. Be with us this week and keep us safe. Amen.

6-8 Years:

Opening Prayer to welcome the start of the class. For example:

“Dear God, thank you for bringing us here together once again. Help us to learn more about you and to do the things you want us to do. Amen.”

Bible Story:

Tell the children the story of Jesus telling Simon and Andrew that he will make them “fishers of men” (Mark 1: 16-20). You can use a children’s Bible or just tell the story in simple language that this age group can understand.



Mark
1: 16-20

Drama:

Have the children act out this story. Each child can take on the roles of Jesus, Simon, Andrew, James and John. If you have many children, you can split them up into groups of five and let each group act out the story. **OR** You can have the children take turns playing the different roles.

Discussion:

Talk about what it means to be a follower of Jesus. Talk to them about what kinds of things that they can do to show that they are followers of Jesus. Ask the children if they have any ideas of their own.

Activity:

Play Follow the Leader. Let the children take turns being the leader.

Closing Prayer asking God for help in following Him. For example:

“Dear God, thank you for our class today. Help us to do things to show that we are following you. Please keep us safe in your care. Amen.”

9-11 Years:

Opening Prayer to open the session. For example:

“Dear God, we thank you for allowing us to meet in your presence today. Help us to learn more about you and do what you want us to do. Amen.”

Discussion:

Talk about following. Who should we follow? Who should we not follow? Why should we follow some and not others? Who is the most important person to follow? Should others follow us, why or why not?

Bible Story:

Retell the story of Jesus making His followers “fishers of men,” or have the students read Mark 1: 16-20.



Mark
1: 16-20

Discussion of Jesus’ followers’ feelings.

Talk about why Jesus’ followers were fishing when He approached them. Ask the students how they would feel about leaving everything that they had to follow someone who they have not known very long. Ask the students what they need to do so that they can be good examples for others to follow them.

Activity:

Have the students write the bible verse on a piece of colored paper. Have them write the reasons that they want to follow Jesus.

Closing Prayer to ask God for help in following Him. For example:

Dear God, thank you for our lesson today. Thank you for bringing us together and helping us to learn more about you. Help us to follow you and to do what you want us to do. Show us how to lead other people to you so that they can follow you too. Amen.

12-14 Years:

Opening Prayer to start the session. For example:

“Dear God, thank you for bringing us together in fellowship with each other. Help us to learn from your words. Help us to gain a better understanding of you as we study together. Amen.”

Bible Reading:

Appoint several readers and have each read a verse until they have completed the reading of Mark 1: 16-20.

**Discussion:**

Talk to the students about how they think that the fishermen felt when Jesus wanted them to drop what they were doing to follow Him. Emphasize to them that fishing was their career and that they left their career to follow Jesus. Ask them what they think might have gone through the fishermen's minds when they decided to leave their current lives to go with Jesus.

Activity:

Have the students write a letter to their family as if they are one of the fishermen who are going to follow Jesus. In the letter have them tell their family who they are going to follow and why.

Discussion:

Talk to the students about how we need to follow Jesus, but we need to live so we can lead others to Jesus. Ask them how they can lead their friends to Jesus.

Closing Prayer to ask God to help us follow Him and lead others to Him. For example:

“Dear God, thank you for leading us in our study this morning. Help us to continue to follow in your ways. Help us to lead our friends to you so that they can follow you also. Be with us this week and keep us all safe. Amen.”

9-11 Years:

Opening prayer: To welcome students to class and introduce the theme. Keep the prayer simple and easy for the children to learn so that it can be said as a group prayer rather than one that the leader says. For example:

"Dear God. We thank you for the chance to meet once again in your presence. Help us to learn more about your work and to understand how we can follow in your footsteps. Amen"

Bible Story:

Tell story of the creation of Adam and Eve.

Discussion 1:

Adam and Eve were the first man and woman God created. They looked the same as you and I. In what ways might they have been different? In what ways would they have been the same?

Activity 1:

Follow-the-leader. Appoint someone to stand at the front of the class and have them lead the class who will follow their actions - such as putting hands in the air, standing on one leg, scratching head, turning around, jumping on the spot, etc.

Discussion 2:

How can you use your body in God's work? You can read his word. You can spend time working in the service of others who need help. You can pray for guidance. Think about the you that's inside your body. What are you really like? Are you someone who wants to be different from others, or do you prefer to be the same? Are you someone who follows a leader - has to have the same brand names, same gadgets, etc - or are you an individual? Christians follow a leader - who is that leader?

Activity:

Write a letter to God telling him what you like about yourself.

Closing Prayer: Thanking God for creating you and making you an individual who is different from everyone else. For example:

9-11 Years:

Opening Prayer to open the session. For example:

“Dear God, thank you for bringing us together to learn more about your words. Please help us to follow in your footsteps and become closer to you. Amen.”

Bible Story:

Have several students read Matthew 14: 25-31 out loud until the passage has been read.



Matthew
14: 25-31

Drama:

Have the students get into pairs. Have each pair take on the roles of Peter and Jesus from the story. First have them act out the story as it is told in the Bible. Then have them act out the story as if Peter had not lost faith.

Discussion:

Ask the students why Peter began to sink. Ask them about some of the hard things that they have had to deal with. Emphasize to them that even during those hard times or storms we need to keep our eyes on Jesus.

Activity:

Give each student a piece of paper with the following word bank and list of scrambled words and have them unscramble them:

Word Bank: afraid boat doubt faith Peter prayer safe trust water windy

aerypr - prayer

atbo - boat

adfira - afraid

aerwt - water

ecptr - peter

dbotu - doubt

srttu - trust

dinyw - windy

afhti - faith

cafs - safe

Closing Prayer to ask for help in keeping our eyes on Jesus. For example:

“Thank you for our class today God. Thank you for the fun that we have had and the lesson that we learned. Please help us to remember to keep our eyes on Jesus especially during hard times. Please keep us safe in your care. Amen.”