

PRAY *Have a parent open up this lesson in prayer*

“Dear God, bless us in our time of Family Worship! Help us to understand the Bible more so that we can love You. Amen.”

OPENING ACTIVITY

Boats in the Water

Provide each kid with a sheet of aluminum foil and have them make a boat that should float. Provide a basin of water, and see if their boats will float. Add marbles or dimes to each boat to see whose boat can hold the most weight before it sinks.

Say: Did you know that many of Jesus’ disciples were fishermen when Jesus met them. When Jesus called them, they left their boats and followed Jesus immediately. Jesus promised to teach them a new way to fish. What do you think they would catch?

Say: Jesus said they would catch people! This relates to our big picture question, which is:

Why did Jesus become human?

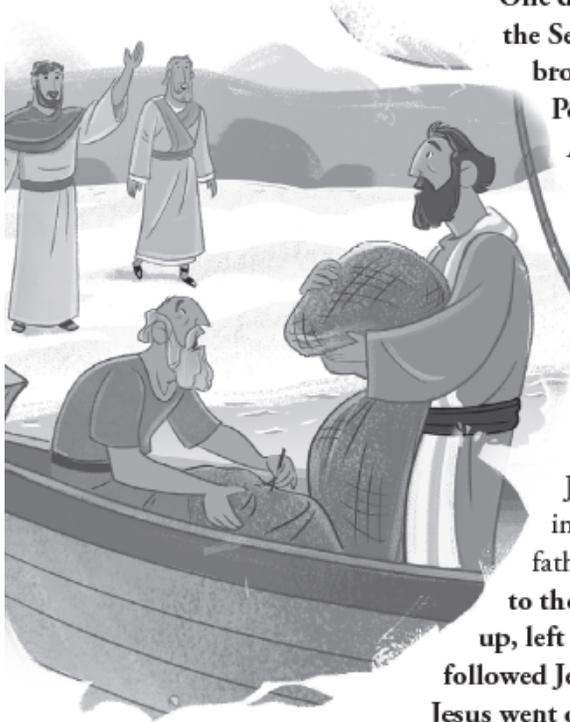
Say: Jesus became human to obey His Father’s plan and rescue sinners. God’s plan was for Jesus to die on the cross to save people from sin, so that they could love and obey God. By calling disciples, Jesus was going to teach others how to love and obey God too.

The **BIBLE** Story

Jesus Called Disciples

Matthew 4; 9; Mark 1-3; Luke 5-6

Jesus' ministry had begun. He traveled around, preaching about God and telling people to turn away from their sins. People started talking about Jesus and the things He was teaching. They were interested in what Jesus had to say. **Large crowds followed Jesus around and listened to Him teach.**



One day, Jesus was walking along the Sea of Galilee. He saw two brothers: Simon—who was called Peter—and Andrew. Peter and Andrew were fishermen. Jesus called out to them, “Follow Me, and I will teach you to fish for people!” Right away, Peter and Andrew dropped their nets and followed Jesus.

Later, He saw two more brothers. Their names were James and John. They were in a boat fixing nets with their father, Zebedee. Jesus called out to them, and right away they got up, left their father and the boat, and followed Jesus.

Jesus went on and saw a man named Matthew (who was also called Levi). Matthew was sitting at the tax office. Matthew was a tax collector. Many people didn't like tax collectors because tax collectors were unfair. Jesus called out to him, “Follow Me!” So Matthew got up, left everything behind, and

followed Jesus.

Matthew had a big feast for Jesus at his house. Many tax collectors and sinners came to eat with Jesus and His disciples. The religious leaders saw this, and they didn't think Jesus should be friends with people who did wrong things. They complained to the disciples, "Why does your Teacher eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?"

Jesus heard the religious leaders and said, "People who are healthy don't need a doctor, but people who are sick do. I did not come to invite good people; I came to invite sinners to turn back to God."

Later, Jesus gathered His followers together and chose twelve of them to be His apostles. Jesus' apostles would work closely with Jesus and would go out to tell others about Him. These are the men Jesus chose: Simon (who was called Peter), Simon's brother Andrew, James and John (who were called the "Sons of Thunder"), Philip and Bartholomew, Matthew and Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus (al FEE uhs), Thaddaeus (THAD ih uhs), Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot (iss KAR ih aht).

Christ Connection: Jesus came to earth to show what God is like and to save people from their sins. This is great news! Jesus told His disciples to tell others about Him, and we are Jesus' disciples when we trust in Him. Everyone in the world needs to hear the good news about Jesus.

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **List names:** Write the disciples' names on a dry erase board and point to them as you tell the story.
- **Use props:** Display fishing nets as you tell about the fishermen who left their nets to follow Jesus.

Take to Heart

As a family, take time to memorize the Key Bible Passage over the next several weeks! Take it to heart and notice how God's Word becomes alive in you!

"He must become greater; I must become less."

— John 3:30

LEARN *as you read through the lesson, have kids each read a question and the answers. Let's learn about God's Word together!*

Ask: Jesus asked his disciples to leave stuff, in order to follow Him. What were some of the things the disciples left behind?

Say: The men Jesus called left basically everything they had to follow and obey Jesus. The fishermen walked away from their boats, and the tax collector left his tax booth. When Jesus called they answered. They were far from perfect, but they obeyed right away!

Ask: What were some of the things Jesus and his disciples did right away?



Say: Jesus and his disciples had a feast with "sinners."

Ask: Why did Jesus hang out with sinners?

Say: Many people thought that the Messiah would only hang out with "perfect people" but Jesus hung out with sinners because it is "sick people who need a doctor." Jesus knew if people's hearts were righteous, their actions would line up with God's Word. People needed to be taught the truth about how to obey God.

Say: Jesus came to earth to show us what God is like and to save people from their sins. This is great news! Jesus taught His disciples how to truly obey God. He told His disciples to tell others about Him and to love others the same way that God has loved us! We can obey God by serving and caring for others.

Say: When we receive the forgiveness of our sins, through faith, we become one of Jesus' disciples. We are far from perfect, but our life becomes a journey of learning how to follow Jesus and obey God!

PRACTICE YOUR FAITH

Jesus changes lives! Help your family consider the cost and benefit of learning to love and obey God.

Ask: What might following Jesus cost me? What might we gain?

Guide kids to think about the ways others might react to them if they choose to follow Jesus. It might affect the sports we choose to play, the movies we choose to watch or the music we choose to listen. In some ways, following Jesus may place us on the "outside" of pop-culture and what is "cool." But when we follow Jesus we gain a sense of true belonging. We understand our purpose in life, we have hope! We look forward to the day that Jesus will return and make everything perfect and we learn to live in a way that expects Jesus to return at any moment!

PRAY

"God, thank You for sending Jesus to love us and rescue us from sin. Help us to follow Him each day. Give us love for Jesus and for the people we meet every day. Fill us with Your Spirit so we can obey You more. Amen

THE GOSPEL

GOD'S PLAN for US

The gospel is the good news, the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use these prompts to share the gospel with your kids.



GOD RULES. Ask: "Who is in charge at home?" Explain that because God created everything, He is in charge of everything. Read Revelation 4:11.



WE SINNED. Ask: "Have you ever done something wrong?" Tell kids that everyone sins, or disobeys God. Our sin separates us from God. Read Romans 3:23.



GOD PROVIDED. Explain that God is holy and must punish sin. God sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment we deserve. Read John 3:16.



JESUS GIVES. Ask: "What is the best gift you've ever received?" Say that Jesus took our punishment for sin by giving His life, and He gives us His righteousness. God sees us as if we lived the perfect life Jesus lived. This is the best gift ever! Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.



WE RESPOND. Explain that everyone has a choice to make. Ask: "Will you trust Jesus as your Savior and Lord? You can turn from self and sin and turn to Jesus." Read Romans 10:9-10.

Hint for next week: Can you guess what our lesson will be about?

