



Imagination Station

A Boatload of Fish

BIG IDEA: Jesus wants me to follow Him.

BIBLE BASIS: Luke 5:1–11

KEY VERSE: “Come and follow me,’ Jesus said, ‘I will send you out to fish for people.’” Matthew 4:19

☆ PLAY TIME ACTIVITY

HOW MANY GOLDFISH

Supplies: Small cup (1), goldfish crackers (enough to fill the cup)

Directions: Gather some children around. While they are watching, fill a cup with goldfish crackers, then ask the children to guess how many fish are in the cup. After all of the children have guessed, pour the goldfish crackers onto the table. Together, count out loud how many fish there are. Determine which child’s guess was the closest. When finished, allow the children to eat the goldfish crackers.

Say: Wow—those were some really good guesses. Today, we’re going to hear a true Bible story about a whole bunch of fish. They weren’t goldfish crackers, they were *real* fish. And they didn’t just fill a cup, they filled a *whole boat!* During that story, we’re going to learn that **Jesus wants me to follow Him.**

Question: Have you ever been fishing before? If so, what was it like? If not, would you like to go fishing?

☆ LARGE GROUP LESSON



★ SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

FOLLOW THE LEADER

Supplies: None

Directions: Tell the children that you are the leader and whatever the leader does, the followers must do also. Begin the game by moving around and performing actions that the children can mimic. Suggestions might include hopping like a kangaroo, doing sit ups, or doing a silly dance. As the game progresses, make the actions slightly more difficult. After performing a few actions, allow one of the children to be the leader and continue the game. Continue playing until every child has had a turn being the leader.

Say: During our game, we had to follow the leader and do what they did. If you are a Christian, that means Jesus is your leader. We have to follow Him and do what He does. We can follow Jesus by making good choices, by loving God and other people, and by believing that Jesus took away the punishment for the bad things we do.

Question: If Jesus asked you to follow Him, like He asked Simon in our story, what would you say to Him?

FISHING DERBY (Application Activity)

Supplies: Fishing Derby cards (1 set per group), paper clips (8 per group), dowel rods or sticks (2 per group), pieces of string (2 per group), small disc magnets (2 per group)

Directions: Spread the Fishing Derby cards on the ground with the fish facing up. Give the two fishing poles to two different children and have them race to catch a fish. (The magnet on the string will attract the paperclip on the card.) When a child has caught a fish, remove the card and read it to the children. The card will have either a question for the children to answer or an action for the children to perform. Next, have the child who caught the fish hand their pole to another child and repeat. (The child who did not catch a fish can try again until they do.) Continue until all of the fish have been caught.

TOSS ACROSS (Bible Memorization Activity)

Supplies: Beach ball

Today's Bible verse:

"Come (*motion to come with one hand, then the other*) and follow me (*march in place*)," Jesus said. "I will send you out (*pretend to cast with fishing pole*) to fish for people (*pretend to reel in with fishing pole*)." Matthew 4:19 (*extend hands like you're holding a book*).

Directions: Have the children sit in a circle. Practice the verse together until the children can remember it. When ready, pass the beach ball to a child across the circle. As you pass the ball, have the entire group recite the first word of the verse. Have the group continue passing the ball to different children. Each time the ball is passed, say the next word from the verse. Continue



until the entire verse has been recited. Challenge the children to say the entire verse without dropping the ball. You can also challenge the children to go faster and faster each round.

WHAT'S NEXT? (Bible Story Review Activity)

Supplies: None

Directions: The following activity is designed to help children remember the sequence of events in a story. Ask the children, "What happened first in today's Bible story?" Allow the children to answer. Then, ask the children to come up with one motion or action that represents that part of the story. For example, if the answer is, "Jesus walked to the boat on the sea," the children could stand and march in place. Next, ask the children what happened next in the story. Then, just like before, have them come up with a corresponding action. After each new action is created, have the children perform all of the actions from the very beginning. In the end, the children will have created a series of actions that will help them remember the entire story from beginning to end.

COLORING SHEET AND SNACK TIME (GO! Deeper Activity)

Directions: Give each child a Bible story coloring sheet and some crayons or markers. While the children are coloring, give them a snack to eat and ask the following questions to help them go deeper into the story:

Question: What did you learn about Jesus in today's story?

Question: In today's story, Simon left his fishing boat and nets to follow Jesus. If you were Simon, would you have done that? Why or why not?

Say: One of the ways we can follow Jesus is by showing love to other people. Let's say a prayer to God and ask Him to help us show love to our friends.

Prayer: Begin by asking if any of the children would like to pray. Allow any children who want to pray the opportunity to do so. When they're finished, close the prayer by asking God to help each child show love to their friends.