

Preschool Small Group

Day 1



Today's Bible Story

Jesus calls His disciples. Luke 5:1-11

Bottom Line

Jesus invites us to follow Him.

Memory Verse

John 14:6 (NIV):
"Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life.'"

Small Group Leader Guide Day 1

Kingdom Quest VBS



TOKENS

This year, our kids will participate in a Token Challenge! To recognize and encourage meaningful participation and positive behavior, we will be rewarding kids with tokens throughout VBS!

- **Who is giving out tokens?** All of our volunteers will receive tokens to reward kids as they catch them engaging well in VBS.
- **What are we doing with the tokens?** Kids will work together to reach an Overall Token Goal and receive a celebration on the last night of VBS! Tokens are used to reward kids for remarkable expressions of love, kindness, great listening, participation, and memorizing our Bottom Line and Bible verse!
- **When are we passing out tokens?** Immediately! We want to help kids connect their positive attitudes, behaviors, and participation with the reward of the token, so as soon as you see a behavior to celebrate, pass out the reward!
- **Where are we getting tokens from?** We will have tokens available for all volunteers at check-in each night. As we use up our stash, there will be designated spots to go to for more throughout the night.
- **How do we distribute tokens?** Our volunteers will keep their eyes and ears tuned in to our kids so they can immediately reward them with a token to celebrate what we want repeated! They will praise the specific behavior that earned the reward when we give them their token. For example:
 - Active engagement during each rotation
 - Invite kids to "Show Me What You Know!" and let them earn a token by sharing the memory verse, finishing the lyrics to a worship song, sharing today's "Main Point", etc.
 - Displays of the fruit of the spirit - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, self-control, gentleness
 - Demonstrating good manners, listening attentively, and following instructions the first time they're asked
 - Being respectful to volunteers, peers, and the VBS environment.
- **When do kids turn in their tokens?** There will be buckets available at each rotation for kids to drop their tokens in. All tokens will be brought to the closing session and combined so we can see how we're progressing towards our goal each night!
- **Remember, the goal of using tokens is to reinforce positive behaviors, encourage active participation, and create a fun and rewarding experience for all kids attending VBS.** Thank you for your commitment to making VBS a memorable and impactful event!



Jesus Invites Us to Follow Him

Today's Bible Story

Jesus calls His
disciples. Luke 5:1-11

Bottom Line

Jesus invites us to
follow Him.

Key Question

Who is Jesus?

Theme

CALLED

Preparing for the Day

Set up the room:

- Arrange for crews to sit in small circles on the floor or at tables so kids can see the leader clearly. Keep walking paths open for movement activities.
- Place crayons at seats, but pass out Coloring Sheets later to avoid early distraction.
- Dim lights slightly and have the lantern ready for the opening moment.
- Set out blue "water" cloth and have one empty net and one full net per crew ready for quick switching.
- Prepare Big Catch Net crafts. Netting should already be attached to paper.
- Keep extra wipes nearby for sticky hands.

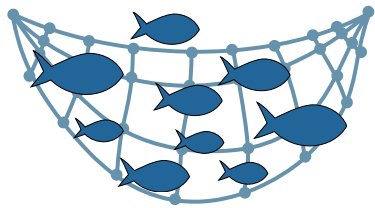
Tips for leaders:

- Repeat the Bottom Line often: **Jesus invites us to follow Him.**
- Use big motions and short phrases to keep attention.
- Use call and repeat to refocus the group. Example cues:
 - **Leader:** Kingdom Quest! **Kids:** Seek the King!
 - **Leader:** Who do we follow? **Kids:** King Jesus!
- Use a simple position cue when you need quiet:
 - *Quest position, eyes here* (kids get still and look).
- Praise quickly and specifically: *I like the way you are sitting so still.*
- Keep instructions short. One step at a time.
- Give clear, short choices: *Do you want a blue crayon or a red crayon?*
- Use movement: Have kids stand for answers, use hand motions, repeat key words and phrases.
- Use Crew Leaders and Assistant Leaders.
 - Give clear instructions to the other leaders in the room, too! They won't know how to help unless you tell them.

Take Home Sheets:

- Each child receives a daily Coloring Sheet.
- On the back is a short parent prompt.
- Encourage kids to show their sheet at home and tell the story: Jesus invites us to follow Him.
- If they bring it back, they receive a sticker.





What You Need

- dimmable lantern or flashlight
- Optional soft background wind or ocean sound
- Day 1 Bottom Line Poster (1/station)



Welcome (1-2 minutes)

Welcome, friends I'm [name], your Crew Guide today. Take a few moments to introduce kids to small group and set expectations. Let kids decide on a name for your group.

This week we are on a Kingdom Quest. We will follow Jesus and learn how He calls us, saves us, makes us new, and sends us. Today's Bottom Line is: **Jesus invites us to follow Him!** Repeat it with me: **Jesus invites us to follow Him!**

Opening Activity (1-3 minutes)

Before the Light

How You Prepare

- Enlist an assistant to volunteer to control the lights of the room.
- Set a dimmable lantern close to where you will be leading.
- Attach the Bottom Line Poster to the wall where kids can see. Each day, you will add one until all 4 are on the wall.

What You Do

- Dim the room lights before kids arrive.
- Start with the lantern/flashlight very dim, as you speak, it will grow brighter, emphasizing how Jesus lights our way.

What You Say

Before we start today's story, I want everyone to look right here. Turn the lantern on, but keep it low and dim.

Have you ever tried to make something or draw something and you just couldn't do it right? Or have you tried a new sport or trick and you kept falling or messing up? You might feel sad or tired.

Now imagine someone you trust like your mom, friends, teacher, or coach asks you to try one more time. That can feel a little scary.

Pause and brighten the light just a little.

We might feel really frustrated and want to give up, but we get to choose to trust the person helping us.

Brighten light a little more.

Sometimes we have to keep trying, even when we feel upset or unsure.

What You Need

- Small fishing net, blue cloth or table cloth 2/crew/rotation
- mini fish (plush or squishies) 1/kid

When Jesus asks us to follow Him, He knows the path. Jesus helps us see the way.

Brighten the light to full brightness

Today we are learning about when Peter trusted Jesus and followed the light.

Today we are learning that **Jesus invites us to follow Him**. Point to today's Bottom Line Poster. That's our Bottom Line today. When Jesus tells us to follow, He knows the path and is leading us. Great work, "group name!"

Bible Story Review (3–5 minutes)

How You Prepare

- Lay blue cloth out as the "water."
- Prepare one empty net per crew.
- Prepare one net per crew filled with fish.
- Place fish where leaders can quickly dump them into nets.
- Wear fisherman hat for fun if desired.

What You Do

- Gather kids close to the "water."
- Give each crew an empty net.
- Retell the story using big motions and short sentences.
- Let kids act out fishing.
- Decide your plan for swapping empty nets for full ones or if assistants will dump fish on kids.

What You Say

Before we hear our story, let's do our Kingdom Quest Chant. Stand up with me!

Use big, simple motions and enthusiasm to add more engagement to this chant:

Jesus invites us to follow His light! (*marching motion*)

On a quest to do what's right! (*hands over eyes searching to a thumbs up*)

Step by step, I trust and obey! (*arms crossing over heart*)

That Jesus Christ is the Way! (*kids crouch down and jump up while pointing up to the sky*)

In our story today, Peter and his friends were fishermen. They had fished all night.



Start to rub your eyes and yawn dramatically.

They were tired. Show me your tired face.

Pause and demonstrate as you look around at their faces.

How many fish did they catch? Look inside your nets.

Let kids look inside their empty nets. Allow kids to answer.
Hold up empty net.

Zero! No fish!

Jesus came to them and said, "Try again."

Peter was tired. But he listened. He tried again.

Everyone throw your net into the water!

Kids pretend to toss nets.

Now pull it back in. Pull! Pull! Pull!

Have leaders around the room ready to hand out the nets full of fish.
Or, have them dump the fish dramatically on each crew.

Look! Fish! So many fish!

Let them react.

The boats were so full of fish they almost sank!

Lean to one side playfully like you're on a sinking boat.
Call kids attention back if they got too excited with the fish.

Peter was amazed. Show me your surprised face.

Pause.

Then Jesus said two very important words: "Follow Me."

Step forward.

Peter left his boat. He chose to follow Jesus.

Point to Bottom Line poster.

Jesus invites us to follow Him.

Have kids repeat.



If Jesus says, "Follow Me," what can we do?

(Help them answer: Follow Him. Listen. Obey.)

Have kids repeat those three actions together with you multiple times.

Peter trusted Jesus and chose to follow Him. And we can follow Jesus too!

Prayer & Reflection (2-3 minutes)

What You Say

Friends, let's get our bodies ready to talk to God.

Sit criss-cross on the floor. Hands in your lap. Eyes looking up here.

Let's make our bodies still and our voices quiet.

Pause and model stillness.

Take a deep breath with me. In through your nose... and out through your mouth.

Repeat once more.

We're going to say a prayer together as we think about how Jesus invites us to follow Him.

Everyone put your hands over your heart and close your eyes. Now, repeat after me:

God loves me and takes care of me. Kids repeat.

Jesus loves me and I can trust Him. Kids repeat.

Okay, now open your eyes. This time, you're going to put your hands out in front of you like you're receiving a gift. Close your eyes and repeat after me.

Jesus knows the way, even when I'm scared or confused. Kids repeat.

I can choose to follow Him. Kids repeat.



Jesus invites every one of us. No matter who you are, where you came from, or what you've done, God made you on purpose. He loves you so much.



In today's story, when the fishermen felt tired and had nothing, Jesus invited them to trust Him. And when they followed Him, something amazing happened.

Jesus invites us too. He shows us the way. All we have to do is follow and obey Him.

Clasp your hands together and close your eyes one more time as I say a pray for you now.

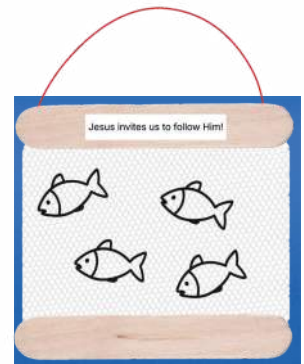
Jesus, thank You for inviting us to follow You. Thank You for loving us and caring for us. Help these kids trust You, listen to You, and follow You every day. Help them know they are loved, brave, and never alone. Amen.

Craft (10-15 minutes)

Fishers of Men

How You Prepare

- Cut blue cardstock in half
- Cut craft netting into 7inx5in sections
- Cut string into 10in pieces
- Pre-glue the netting and craft sticks onto the cardstock
- Create an example to show kids



What You Do

- Kids will create a "net full of fish" on their cardstock to remind them of today's Bible story.
- Give each child the prepared blue cardstock with netting and 2 craft glued on it. Give out sticks, fish, stickers, and a Bottom Line label.
- Let kids color and decorate their fish using markers and stickers.
- Attach the fish onto the netting using glue or tape.
- Add the Bottom Line label to the top or bottom of the page.
- Have leaders help kids attach the string as a handle to the top of their nets using tape.

What You Say

In our story today, Peter and his friends caught no fish all night. Zero. Hold up empty hands.

Then Jesus said, "Try again." And when they listened... what happened?

Pause.

What You Need

- Bottom Line Label 1/kid
- One piece of craft netting per child, about 5x5 inches
- Fish template (4-5 fish/kid)
- Blue cardstock 1/kid
- Crayons or markers
- Glue sticks
- Stickers (water/ocean themed)

Leader Tip:

Crew Leaders are your best assistants! Give them specific instructions so they know how to help the kids.

So many fish! Their nets were full!

Hold up example craft.

Today we are making our own big catch net to remember that Jesus invites us to follow Him.

As they work:

Peter was tired. But he listened to Jesus.

When we follow Jesus, we can trust Him.

When finished:

Hold up your net. Look at all those fish. Jesus invites us to follow Him.

Kingdom Quest Take Home Sheet

Give each child a Kingdom Quest Take Home Sheet and encourage them to show their parents and bring back the bottom part for a sticker tomorrow!