

# Jesus Calls Disciples

Luke 5:1-11

# 3

Lesson



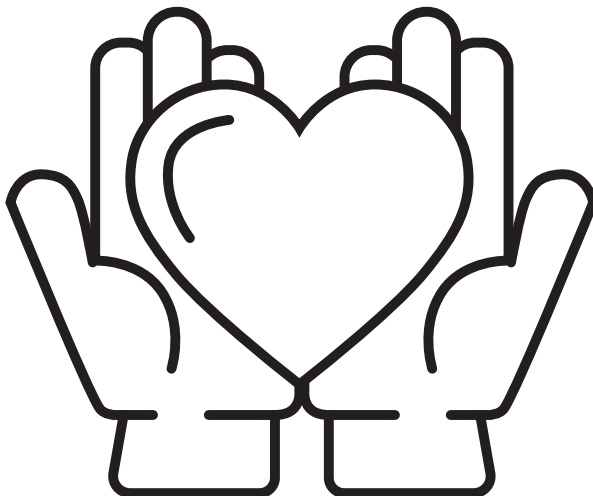
## Teacher Background

**What Happens:** Jesus is teaching a crowd and steps into a boat to better teach everyone. The boat belongs to some fishermen who have been fishing all night but haven't caught anything. After teaching, Jesus tells the fishermen to cast their nets again. When they do, they catch so many fish that their boat starts to sink! Jesus calls them to follow him and fish for people, and they leave everything to do that.

**Why It Matters:** When Jesus called the fishermen to follow him, it was a no-brainer! The opportunity Jesus was offering them was so much better than fishing! Help your kids see that following Jesus is infinitely better than anything else they could do.

**Think About:** What would be hard for you to give up to follow Jesus? Why is Jesus better than that thing?

**Pray** for kids who come to your ministry and may not know Jesus as a friend yet. Pray that they'll begin a friendship with Jesus today and feel led to follow him.



### Point

We are followers of Jesus.



### Key Verse

“But now, O Jacob, listen to the Lord who created you. O Israel, the one who formed you says, ‘Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you. I have called you by name; you are mine.’ ”

Isaiah 43:1

### QUICK TIP

Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 11:1, “You should imitate me, just as I imitate Christ.” Some translations say “follow,” instead of “imitate.” What kind of example do you set for your kids? If they followed you, would they be following Jesus? Sharing your own real-life experiences of what God has done in your life and what he's teaching you can help them have an example to follow.

# This Lesson at a Glance



## WHAT HAPPENS

## KIDS DISCOVER

## SUPPLIES

### SET THE STAGE

Share about a topic related to the lesson.

The connection between their world and the Bible.

### EXPERIENCE THE BIBLE

Collect candy and then leave it behind.

That nothing's more valuable than following Jesus.

- Bible
- individually wrapped candy (a large quantity—don't worry, kids won't be eating it)

### EXPLORE MORE

Play Follow the Leader and explore ways to follow Jesus.

What it looks like to follow Jesus in our everyday lives.

### ACTIVITY PAGES WITH A PURPOSE

Follow directions to follow Jesus.

The Bible gives us clues for following Jesus.

- "Jesus Calls Disciples" Activity Pages
- pencils

### PRAY TOGETHER

Lean on a wall and think with Jesus.

That Jesus is with us and leads us today.



## SET THE STAGE (5 MINUTES)

**SAY:** Today we're going to explore what it means that **we are followers of Jesus**. Jesus invites *everyone* to follow him! In the Bible, that included some fishermen.

**ASK:** When and where have you seen an interesting fish? This may be on a fishing trip, in an aquarium, a pet, or even food! Share your own quick story first, and then let everyone share!

**SAY:** God made a lot of different kinds of fish! God also made a lot of different people, and he invites all those people to follow him! When **we are followers of Jesus**, we can invite others to follow him, too!

Let's find out about some of the first people who followed Jesus.



## EXPERIENCE THE BIBLE (10 MINUTES)



### SUPPLIES

- Bible
- individually wrapped candy (a large quantity—don't worry, kids won't be eating it)

### EASY PREP

- Place the candy in a location kids can't access.

### GET CANDY



Open your Bible to Luke 5, and show kids the words.

**SAY:** Our fishermen were Simon Peter—that's just one guy with two names—and his friends James and John. They used nets instead of a fishing pole to try to catch a lot of fish at once. And they'd been fishing all night.

Let's imagine we're fishing...for candy! Search around the room to try to find candy!

If needed, set boundaries for where kids can search. Allow time for kids to search but not find anything. Then call everyone back together.

**ASK:** How are you feeling about the candy search?

**SAY:** Sounds like you know how the fishermen felt! They'd been out all night, lowering their nets and trying to catch fish. But they didn't catch a single one!

So they gave up. They headed back to shore and started cleaning their nets. That's when Jesus stepped into their boat so he could teach people who were standing on the shore.



Read Luke 5:3-5.

**ASK:** How would *you* feel about searching for candy again?

**SAY:** Well, Simon Peter said they'd give it a try, so let's try searching for candy again!

About 15-20 seconds into kids' search, grab your stash and dump it all over the middle of the room. Let kids go wild gathering candy and then sit down—not eating any yet.

**SAY:** Wow! You got quite a haul of candy that time! Let's see if the fishermen had that kind of success.

 Read Luke 5:6-7.

**SAY:** They did! They caught so many fish that their nets started to tear, and they needed help to bring all the fish in.

## GIVE UP CANDY

**SAY:** Now remember, these weren't guys who were just out fishing for fun. They fished for their job! A haul of fish that big was worth a lot of money. This was a great day! They could sell it all and go back out for more! Let's see what they did.

 Read Luke 5:8-11.

**SAY:** Wait! They left it all behind? Their own boat and all those valuable fish...left behind.

**ASK:** Why would they leave all that behind?

Take a few responses from the group.

**SAY:** The fishermen had found something even more valuable! ➡ **We are followers of Jesus.** They followed Jesus! They knew being a part of what Jesus was doing was more important than any amount of money.

Well, Simon and the other fishermen left their huge load of fish. Let's leave this candy and walk away, just like they left their fish when they followed Jesus.

Lead kids to a corner of the room.

**ASK:** How do you feel about leaving all that candy?

**ASK:** What kinds of things in life might we have to "walk away from" to follow Jesus?

**ASK:** Why is following Jesus even better than a net full of fish—or a handful of candy?

**SAY:** ➡ **We are followers of Jesus.** Sometimes that means we give up things we want. But it's worth it because nothing is more valuable than following Jesus!

Collect the candy and put it away. Resist the temptation to give kids a piece to celebrate—we want them to remember the emotion of giving up the candy to follow Jesus!





## FOLLOW THE LEADER

**SAY:** We're learning that ➡ **we are followers of Jesus.** Let's practice following someone!

Play Follow the Leader for two or three minutes. Every minute, choose a new Leader. The Leader might step over a chair, hop instead of walk, or wave hands in the air, and everyone else will follow as accurately as possible.

After a few minutes of play, sit with kids.

**ASK:** How did you know what to do in this game?

**ASK:** How is a game of Follow the Leader like following Jesus? How is it different?

**SAY:** In a game of Follow the Leader, you can physically see what the Leader is doing and stay right behind them, doing the same thing. The fishermen Jesus called could do the same thing—see Jesus and walk right behind him, copying what he did. But we can't see Jesus! So how do we follow Jesus when we can't see him? Let's see.



## DIG DEEPER

**SAY:** First, I want to tell you how to *start* following Jesus. If you're not sure you're a follower of Jesus yet, here's all you have to do!

Read Romans 10:9-10.

According to your faith traditions, briefly expound on what it means to believe in your heart and declare your faith.

**SAY:** Awesome! Anyone who believes in their heart that Jesus is Lord and declares their faith can say ➡ **we are followers of Jesus!** That's so exciting!

But what does that mean for how you live? In our game, if the Leader hopped, you hopped. If the Leader crawled, you crawled. How can we follow Jesus' actions when we can't see him?

Well, even though we can't *see* Jesus, we can read all about how he lived. The books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John in the Bible tell us all about Jesus' life! Let's look at a few examples of how Jesus lived and think about what it would mean to follow his example today.

## ACT IT OUT

**SAY:** In Mark 2:13-17, Jesus had dinner with people no one else liked. Show me how you could show love to someone who's not popular.

Allow time for kids to act out their answers.

**SAY:** In Matthew 14:13-21, Jesus takes just a little bit of food and makes it enough to feed a whole bunch of people! We can't multiply food like Jesus did, but we can help other people in need. Show me a way you could help someone in need.

Allow time for kids to act out their answers.

**SAY:** In John 13:1-17, Jesus washed his friends' feet to serve them. Show me a way you could serve someone.

Allow time for kids to act out their answers.

**SAY:** ➡ **We are followers of Jesus** when we show the kinds of qualities he showed! The more we read about Jesus in the Bible, the more we know how to follow him, even though we can't see him.

## ACTIVITY PAGES WITH A PURPOSE (10 MINUTES)



### SUPPLIES

- "Jesus Calls Disciples" Activity Page (1/child)
- "Jesus Calls Disciples" Coloring Page (1/child)
- pencils
- crayons

**SAY:** When Jesus invited the fishermen to follow him, they dropped everything to do it! ➡ **We are followers of Jesus**, too, so let's follow him around town.

Distribute the activity pages and pencils. Have kids follow the directions to try to get the right path.

**ASK:** What was it like trying to follow those clues and make sure you went the right way?

**ASK:** Do you think this is like or unlike the way we follow Jesus today? Tell me more.

**SAY:** We can't physically follow Jesus around town like the fishermen could.

**ASK:** What clues does the Bible give us about how to follow Jesus?

**SAY:** For the fishermen, following Jesus meant quite literally following him around. Today, it looks a little different. But the Bible tells us all about Jesus' life on earth in the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Following Jesus means looking for clues about how he lived and following his example! ➡ **We are followers of Jesus**.



## PRAY TOGETHER (5 MINUTES)



### SUPPLIES

- cellphone timer (optional)

### QUICK TIP

Two minutes of silence may seem incredibly long once you're doing it. Do it anyway! Each time you do a similar experience, kids will get better and better at holding still for this length of time.



**SAY:** Today we're learning that ➡ **we are followers of Jesus.**

Since we can't see Jesus like the fishermen in the Bible could, sometimes it's hard to focus when we're talking with Jesus. We try to pray, but we start to think about what we want for a snack, or about friends or homework. Then we remember, "Oops, I'm supposed to be praying!"

There's good news: Prayer isn't just about talking to Jesus. Prayer happens when we simply spend time with Jesus and remember Jesus is with us. Let's practice spending quiet time with Jesus right now.

Have everyone move so they can sit and lean against a wall.

**ASK:** How is leaning on this wall like leaning on Jesus when we pray?

**SAY:** Like we're leaning on a wall, we can always lean on Jesus. Jesus supports and comforts us no matter where we are.

Now let's spend time thinking about Jesus and welcoming Jesus into our thoughts. And if your thoughts start to wander? Simply talk with Jesus about whatever you're thinking. Ask him if there's something he wants to tell you about that.

Time or estimate two minutes. When time is up, close with this prayer.

**PRAY:** Dear Jesus, may we always remember that you are with us as we follow you. Thanks for spending time with us today. We love you. Amen.

# Jesus Calls Disciples

## Activity Page

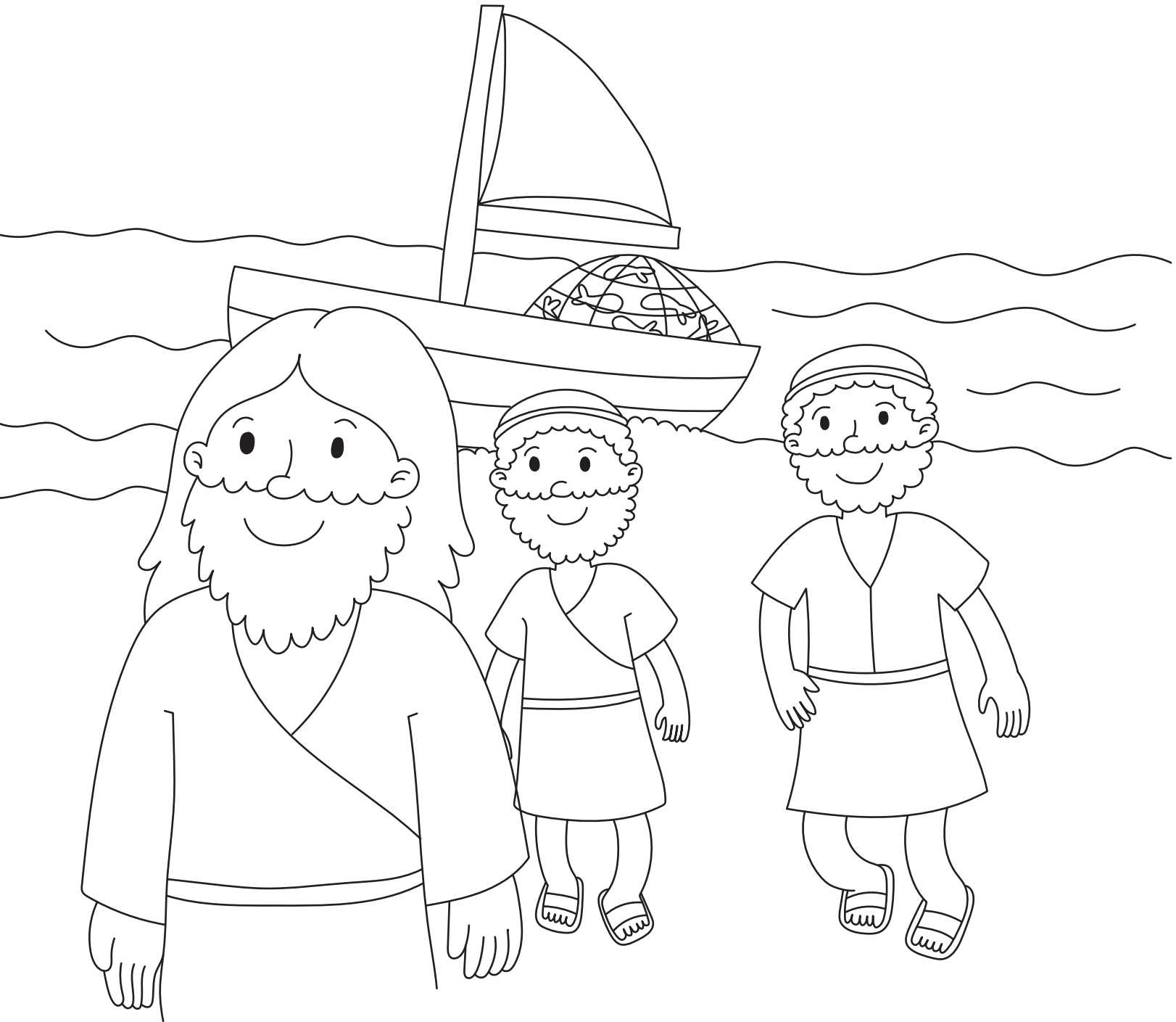
Follow the directions so you can follow Jesus through the city!



### Instructions:

- Go up from where Jesus is standing by the camels.
- Turn at the fence and go under the palm tree.
- Go around the well on the left side.
- Squeeze between the bushes and the steps.
- Head toward the cows, then turn and walk in front of the building.
- Go around the camels and back up next to the chickens.
- End between the trees and the garden.

# Jesus Calls Disciples



Luke 5:1-11: Some fishermen fished all night long but didn't catch anything. Then Jesus came along and sat in their boat to teach people who were on shore. He told the fishermen to go out farther and catch some fish. They listened, and their nets overflowed! But when Jesus asked them to follow him, they left everything behind to do it! We are followers of Jesus, too!