Children's Bible Study: Jesus Calls Us to Be Fishers of Men



BIBLE STUDY • DEVOTION • CROSS REFERENCES • PRAYER

Main Scripture: Matthew 4:18–22

Key Verse: Matthew 4:19 (KJV)

“And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

Age Group: Children ages 5–12

Main Lesson: Jesus calls us to follow Him and share His love with others so they can learn about Him, too.

Bible Truth: We do not need to be grown-ups, preachers, or Bible teachers to help others learn about Jesus. We can be fishers of men wherever we go!

1. Opening the Lesson: What Is a Fisher of Men?



Ask the children:

- Have you ever been fishing?
- What do you need when you go fishing?
- What do you think Jesus meant when He said, “I will make you fishers of men”?
- How can we help someone learn about Jesus?

Explain to the children:

When Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon Peter and Andrew, fishing. Fishing was their job. They knew how to use nets to catch fish.

Jesus called out to them and said, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

Jesus was not asking them to catch people with fishing nets! He was calling them to tell people about God's love and invite them to follow Him.

Just as fishermen work to catch fish, Jesus wanted His disciples to reach people with the good news of salvation.

Remember: Being a fisher of men means helping people learn about Jesus through our words, actions, kindness, and love.

2. Read the Bible Story

Read Matthew 4:18–22.



As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, He saw Peter and Andrew casting their nets into the water.

Jesus called them to follow Him. Immediately, they left their nets and followed Jesus.

A little farther along, Jesus saw James and John with their father, preparing their fishing nets. Jesus called them, too, and they followed Him.

These men became some of Jesus' disciples. They learned from Him, traveled with Him, and helped spread the good news about God's kingdom.

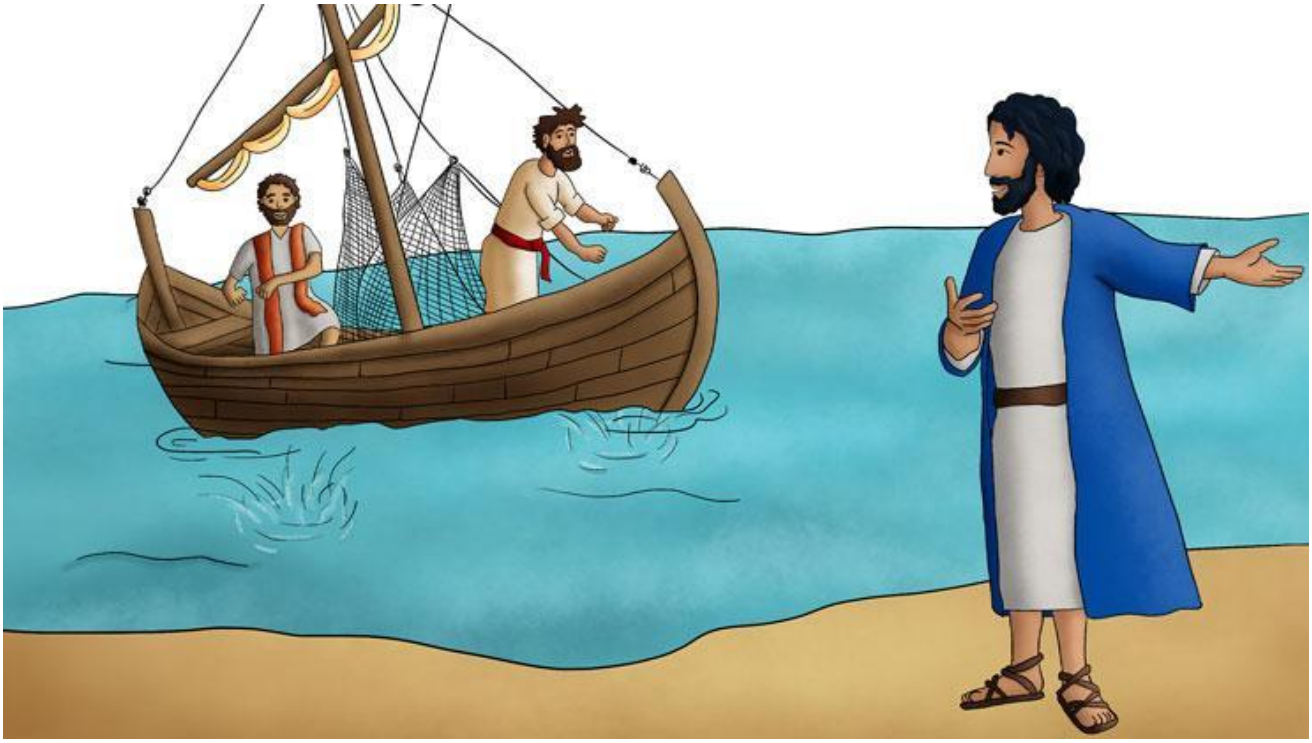
Jesus still calls people to follow Him today. He wants children, teenagers, and adults to know Him and share His love with others.

Three important lessons from the story

1. Jesus calls us to follow Him. We follow Jesus by trusting Him, learning His Word, praying, and obeying Him.
2. Jesus gives us a mission. He wants us to help others hear the good news about Him.
3. We can begin right where we are. We can share Jesus at home, at school, at church, and with our friends.

3. Cross References: Other Bible Verses About Fishing for People

These Scriptures help us understand what Jesus meant and how we can live out His calling.



1. Matthew 4:19 — Jesus Calls Us

“Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” (KJV)

Meaning: Jesus wants us to follow Him and help others learn about Him.

Ask: What is one way you can follow Jesus today?

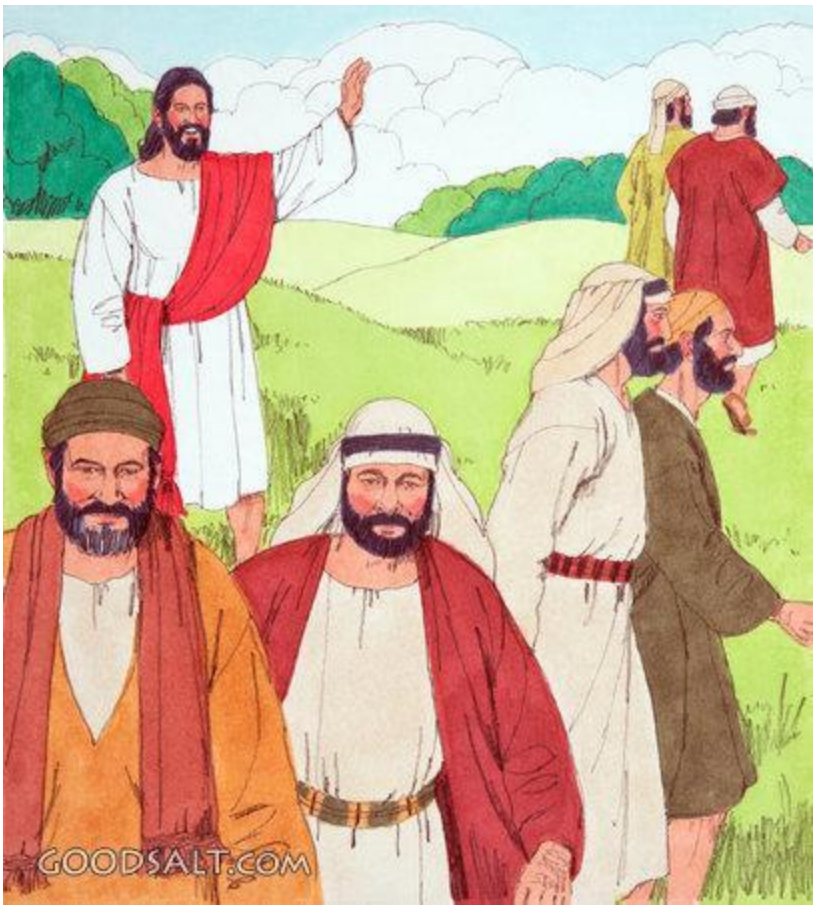


2. Luke 5:1–11 — Jesus Calls Peter

Jesus told Peter to let down his nets, and Peter caught so many fish that the nets began to break.

Meaning: Peter learned that he could trust Jesus, even when he did not understand everything Jesus asked him to do.

Ask: Can you trust Jesus when something seems difficult?



3. Mark 1:16–20 — Follow Jesus

Jesus called Simon, Andrew, James, and John to follow Him.

Meaning: Following Jesus means making Him the leader of our lives.

Ask: What are some ways we can show Jesus that we love Him?



4. Acts 8:26–35 — Philip Shares the Good News

Philip explained God's Word to a man who needed help understanding it.

Meaning: We can share what we know about Jesus and help people understand God's Word.

Ask: Who could you tell about Jesus?



5. Matthew 5:14–16 — Let Your Light Shine

Jesus teaches that His followers are the light of the world.

Meaning: When we are kind, honest, helpful, and loving, our actions can point others toward God.

Ask: How can you let your light shine at school or at home?



6. Mark 16:15 — Tell the Good News

Jesus tells His followers to go into the world and preach the gospel.

Meaning: The good news is that Jesus loves us, died for our sins, and rose again.

Ask: What good news about Jesus can you share with someone?



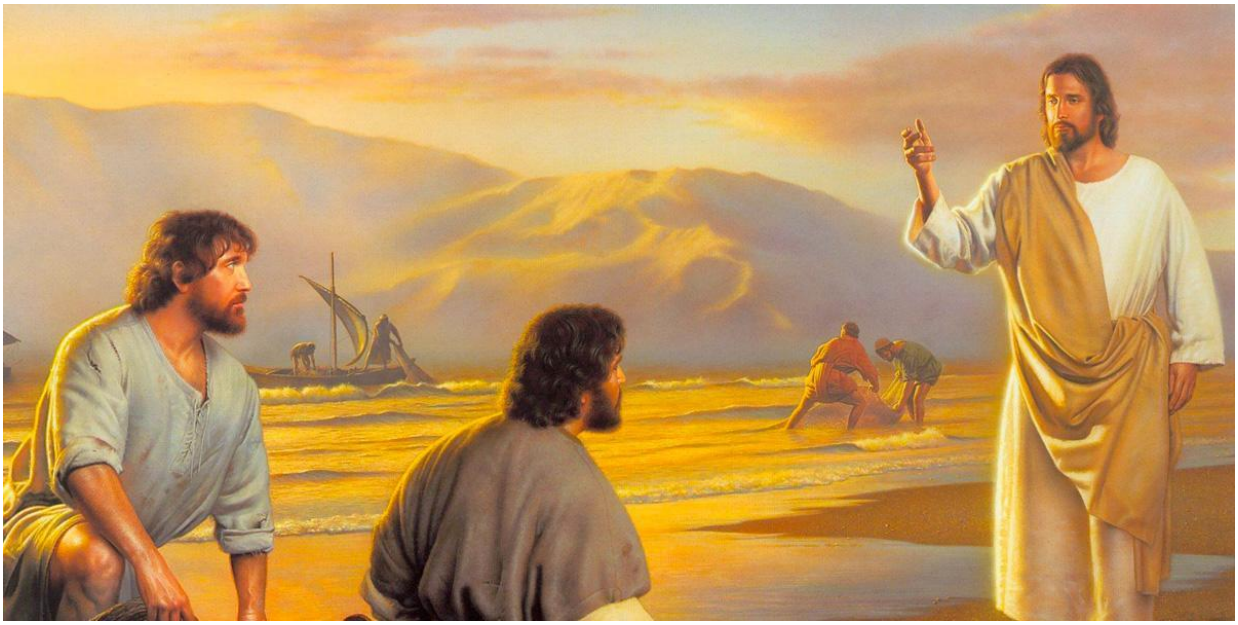
7. 1 Peter 3:15 — Be Ready to Explain Your Hope

Peter teaches Christians to be ready to explain the hope they have in Christ, with gentleness and respect.

Meaning: We can tell others why we love Jesus without arguing, teasing, or forcing anyone to believe.

Ask: If a friend asks why you believe in Jesus, what could you say?

4. Children's Devotion: Drop Your Nets and Follow Jesus



Have you ever been excited about something and wanted to tell everyone about it? Maybe you received a wonderful gift, went on a fun vacation, or learned something amazing.

When something good happens, we naturally want to share it!

The greatest news we can share is the good news about Jesus.

When Jesus called Peter and Andrew, He invited them to leave their fishing nets and follow Him. Their lives changed because they answered His call. They became part of His work of telling people about God's love.

Jesus wants us to follow Him, too. We may not travel from town to town like the disciples did, but we can still be fishers of men every day.

We can be fishers of men when we:

- Tell a friend that Jesus loves them.
- Invite someone to Sunday school or church.
- Pray for someone who is hurting.
- Help a classmate who feels left out.
- Forgive someone who has been unkind.
- Share a Bible verse that encourages someone.
- Tell others how Jesus helps us and gives us hope.

We must remember that being a fisher of men is not about forcing people to believe or making fun of those who believe differently. It is about sharing the truth of Jesus with love, patience, kindness, and respect.

Sometimes, people may not want to listen. That is okay. We can continue to love them and pray for them. We cannot change someone's heart by force, but we can faithfully share God's love and trust Him to work.

A special truth for children: You are never too young to let Jesus use your life. You do not have to know every Bible verse or have every answer. You can start by loving Jesus and showing His love to the people around you.

Think About It

Imagine that you are at school and notice a child sitting alone. Everyone else is playing, but that child looks sad.

You could ignore the child, or you could walk over, say hello, and invite them to join you.

When you show kindness, you are demonstrating the love of Jesus. If the opportunity comes, you might even tell that child that Jesus loves them, too.

You may never know how much a small act of kindness can mean to someone.

Today's challenge: Ask Jesus to show you one person you can encourage, help, or tell about His love this week.

5. Discussion Questions

Use these questions to review the lesson with the children.

1. Who were Peter and Andrew?
2. What did Jesus say to them in Matthew 4:19?
3. What does it mean to be a fisher of men?
4. Do you have to be a grown-up to tell others about Jesus?
5. Name three ways you can show someone the love of Jesus.
6. Why should we be kind and respectful when we share our faith?
7. What can we do if someone does not want to hear about Jesus?
8. Who is one person you can pray for this week?

Teacher's note: Encourage children to answer in their own words. Remind them that sharing their faith can be as simple as inviting someone to church, offering encouragement, or explaining why Jesus is important to them.

6. Take-Home Challenge: My Fishing for Men Mission

This week, I will be a fisher of men by:

I will pray for someone who needs encouragement.

Bible reference: Philippians 4:6

I will show kindness to someone who feels left out.

Bible reference: Ephesians 4:32

I will tell someone that Jesus loves them.

Bible reference: John 3:16

I will invite someone to Sunday school or church.

Bible reference: Hebrews 10:24–25

I will share something I have learned from the Bible.

Bible reference: Psalm 119:105

0 of 5 missions completed

Copy my mission list

7. Closing Prayer

Dear Jesus,

Thank You for loving me and calling me to follow You. Thank You for the example of Peter and Andrew, who left their nets and followed You.

Please help me become a fisher of men. Give me courage to tell others about Your love and wisdom to know when and how to share the good news. Help me be kind to people who are lonely, patient with those who need help, and loving toward everyone I meet.

Help me remember that I do not have to be a grown-up to serve You. Use my words, my actions, and my life to help others see how wonderful You are. Help me share Your love without arguing or forcing anyone, and teach me to trust You with the results.

Thank You for dying for my sins and rising again so I can have eternal life through You. Help me follow You every day. I pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

8. Final Lesson Review

Teacher asks: What did Jesus call His disciples to be?

Children answer: Fishers of men!

Teacher asks: What does a fisher of men do?

Children answer: Shares the love of Jesus and tells others the good news!

Teacher asks: Who can be a fisher of men?

Children answer: Anyone who follows Jesus, including children!

Closing thought: Jesus called ordinary fishermen to do an extraordinary work. He can use ordinary children like us, too. We can share His love one person, one kind act, and one conversation at a time.

Final Scripture to remember: Matthew 4:19 — “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” (KJV)