

**Focus:** Fishing for Follower of Jesus

**Materials:**

- Prayer Altar: Cross, Candle, Chasuble on stand (priest’s vestment) and Altar Cloth
- CD: Bible Songs for Kids – Vol 2
- Gospel: The Children’s Bible in 365 Stories
- Blue Tape, paper fish, fishing poles and optional music CD
- Book: 100 Bible Stories and 100 Bible Songs

**Gathering** (children find/sit on a carpet square)

*Say: Good Morning everyone, my name is \_\_\_\_\_. Last week we talked about John the Baptist doing what God asked him to do and tell others about Jesus. This week Jesus gathers his disciples (followers or students) and we learn about how their lives changed after they met Jesus. Our life changes too, when we learn more about Jesu*

**Opening Prayer**

Together we make the Sign of the Cross (do in reverse so children can mirror).

*Say: Now let’s put our hands together and bow our heads.*

*Let us pray.*

*Dear Jesus, you call us to follow you. Help us to share in your life and work. In Jesus Christ we pray.*

*Amen.*

**Song/Movement**

*Get On Board Little Children*, track: 4, from Bible Songs for Kids - Vol 2

Play music, encourage children to stretch or move to the music (clapping, stamp feet march in place to the beat), turn to each other and shake hands, saying hello, etc. Have children sit on their carpet squares when finished.

*The gospel train is comin’  
 The wheels go ‘round and ‘round  
 Everyone is happy  
 This train is heaven bound*

*Get on board little children  
 Get on board little children  
 Get on board little children  
 There’s room for many a-more*

*I hear that train a-comin’  
 Comin’ down the track  
 I’ll be getting on it  
 And I won’t be lookin’ back*

*Get on board little children  
 Get on board little children  
 Get on board little children*

*There’s room for many a-more*

*You won’t need a penny  
 To ride this glorious train  
 Just give your heart to Jesus  
 And ride away with Him*

*Get on board little children  
 Get on board little children  
 Get on board little children  
 There’s room for many a-more*

*Get on board little children  
 Get on board little children  
 Get on board little children  
 There’s room for many a-more  
 There’s room for many a-more...*

### Memory Verse

Say: *Now let's take a moment together to learn a verse from the bible.*

*I will make you fishers of men.*

Have the children repeat the verse after you a couple of times.

Say: *Jesus told his disciples (followers) that he would make them fishers of men. Jesus didn't mean that they would stand on the side of the road and cast a fishing line or throw a net and gather people up without their agreement. Jesus is telling his disciples that he will teach them about God and then they will be able to go and tell everyone about God's love and then everyone would want to know and experience God's love and they would become new followers of Jesus. We are called to tell others about God's love and all that Jesus has taught us.*

### Gospel Story

Say: *Today we are reading from the Gospel of Matthew.*

Have children make sign of the cross on their forehead, mouth and heart saying. *"Lord, open my mind, my lips and my heart so that I may learn it, speak it and love it."*

**Read:** The Children's Bible in 365 Stories, pp. pg. 290 (Story 253), *Follow Me!*

After the reading say: *The Gospel of the Lord*

Children respond: *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*

### Discussion Starters:

- *Where does Jesus find the fishermen?*
- *How does Jesus call his first followers?*
- *What does Jesus go on to do?*
- *How did Jesus love and serve others?*
- *What are Jesus' followers called to do?*
- *How can you love and serve others?*

### Reflection on Reading:

*When Jesus told Andrew and Peter they would catch people for God instead of catching fish, they were confused. Being caught by God is like getting a great big hug. It means feeling the love and care and all that is good about God. Jesus asks Andrew and Peter to help others discover God's great love for them.*

*Do you think it would be hard to leave all your friends and family and your house and school to go and follow Jesus to places you've never been before? That's just what the disciples did. They trusted Jesus and felt safe with him. They knew he was good and they could learn about God's goodness from him. They didn't quite understand what Jesus was asking of them, but they trusted him and that was enough.*

*When we trust Jesus and follow his teachings we can do things we didn't think we could. Jesus might not lead us to faraway places to teach others about God's love, but he is always with us as we show love and care for others.*

## Gospel Activity

### Activity 1:

#### **Fishing for Followers of Jesus**

- Before class begins, use the blue tape to outline a "lake", spread out the paper fish all over it. When the Gospel discussion is over, let the children use the fishing poles to fish. When they catch a fish have them say a way they can follow Jesus using the word on the fish. (Share, Help, Tell, Care, Love, Pray)
- Fishermen have to be prepared. They have to make sure they have the right tools and that they not broken. What can you do to be prepared to follow Jesus? Pray/talk to Jesus. Come to church. Listen to stories about Jesus. Look for people who need help-a classmate that forgot his snack, a friend who is getting picked on by others, a parent that is cleaning or doing laundry...etc...
- You might want to play some fun music while they are playing. Integrity's Worship Kids, track 10, "Shout to the Lord".

### Activity 2:

In the Gospel today John the Baptist told others about Jesus. We should also tell others about Jesus; especially about Jesus' love.

Read the book 100 Bible Stories 100 Bible Songs, pages 136-137, Jesus Loves You. Then play CD 2, Track 16 (For God So Loved the World)

God loves everyone and wants everyone to know Jesus loves them. What can we do to show others Jesus' love?

Complete the weekly bulletin as a group-let the children color them if there is extra time

## Closing Prayer

(Children respond: "I Believe!")

- Ask: *Do you believe in God, who calls us to care for each other?*  
*Do you believe in Jesus, who shows us the way to care for one another?*  
*Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who gives us the courage to follow Jesus?*

## Sending Forth

*Say: This week we can look for ways to trust Jesus to help you show love and care for others. By treating others with kindness we are showing God's love to them. Find ways to help your parents that you don't usually do, you can clear the plates from the table, you can feed the dog or cat, clean up your toys. Look for special ways to do things for others, hold a door for the person behind you, let someone go in front of you in line, little things can make people feel special.*

## Lining Up/Closing Song

Play "All Things Bright and Beautiful" track 16 from Bible Songs for Kids - Vol 2 while children put away any materials and lineup. Hand out weekly bulletins. Remind them it is important that they return to their family quietly so that we may all listen and pray together in church.