

*Get Ready!*

## Jesus Begins His Ministry

By: Linda Carlblom



### Text

Luke 5:1-11

### Key Quest Verse

“Come, follow me and I will make you fishers of men” (Matthew 4:19).

### Bible Background

The beautiful area of Galilee in the northern section of the Holy Land was the home of Jesus. He lived in the city of Nazareth with Mary, His mother, and Joseph, who was well-known as a carpenter.

When Jesus was thirty years of age, He was baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan River and began His public ministry in Galilee. The city of Capernaum on the northern shores of the Sea of Galilee, became the major center of His wonderful work.

From the time He was a newborn baby, recently born in Bethlehem, through the years of His boyhood, and as a young adult, Jesus had a normal human development. Jesus experienced a fourfold growth. Luke, the beloved physician, tells in his Gospel: “Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man” (Luke 2:52).

Note the four areas in which Jesus grew. They include: mental, physical, spiritual, and social aspects of growth. What a wonderful pattern for us today! Jesus possesses true humanity. He is not only the Son of God, He is also the Son of Man.

*Get Ready!***Lesson Quest**

**What I want my students to:**

- Know:** We are Jesus' disciples.
- Feel:** Special to be called to be a disciple.
- Do:** Tell others about Jesus.

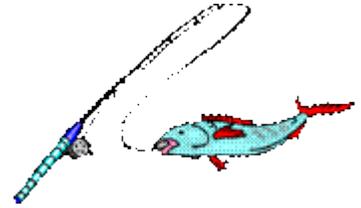
**Leader's Devotion**

We often think of being “called” to do something as being almost a supernatural experience that other people have. Seldom do we stop to realize that we’re all called to do something. Some are called to be pastors, parents, teachers, intercessors or encouragers. But, we’re all called to be disciples of Jesus. That calling may be manifested in a thousand different ways, but following Christ and His teachings are the very essence of Christianity.

In what ways are you as a Christian called to serve? Are you doing it to the best of your ability and with your whole heart? God has uniquely gifted you to fulfill your calling in a way no one else can. So, don’t lose heart if things don’t always go as you think they should. Just stay true to what God has called you to do and leave the results to Him.

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Get Set!



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Option A

**FISHING WITH JESUS**

**Materials:** A fishing pole (with hook removed for safety's sake)

**Procedure:** Have you ever been fishing? Did you catch a fish? How long did it take? How did (would) you feel when you fished a long time and didn't catch a fish?

**Story Tie-In:** Our Bible Story tells about some men who were fishermen and couldn't catch any fish! Let's see what they did.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

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Option B

**NET WORTH**

**Materials:** A variety of nets: hair net, butterfly net, fish (aquarium) net, mosquito net

**Procedure:** I brought a lot of different kinds of nets with me today. Let's see if you can tell me what each one is used for. Show each one and let children guess its use.

**Story Tie-In:** In our Bible Story you'll hear about another kind of net. Listen and see if you can figure out what it was used for.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY



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**Get Set!**

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**Bible Story**

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**Teacher Tip:** Provide markers for students to highlight portions of the story in their Bibles.

**Jesus was walking along the Sea of Galilee and people were crowding around Him, so they could hear Him teach. At the edge of the water Jesus saw two boats and some fishermen who were washing their fishing nets. One of the fishermen was Simon, who they called Peter. Jesus got into Peter’s boat and asked him to row Him out into the water a little way so the crowd wouldn’t be so close to Him.**

**When Jesus finished teaching the people from the boat, He told Peter, “Put your fishing net down into the deep water to catch some fish.”**

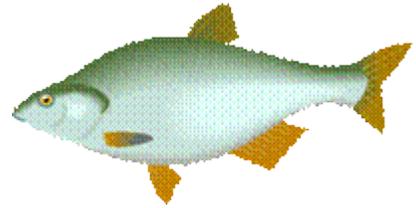
**Peter said, “Jesus, we’ve been fishing all night and haven’t caught anything! But okay. I’ll give it a try.”**

**So, Peter put his net down, down, down into the deep water. (Bend down as if you’re lowering a net.) What do you think happened? (Let children guess.) They caught so many fish their nets began to break! They signaled their partners, James and John in the other boat, to come and help them. There were so many fish they filled both boats and they began to sink! Peter, James and John couldn’t believe it!**

**Then Jesus said, “From now on, if you follow me, I will make you fishers of men.” What do you think Jesus meant by that? Yes. He meant that they would tell people about Jesus instead of fishing for fish.**

**What do you think Peter, James and John did next? (Let children guess.) They left everything and followed Jesus. These men became Jesus’ first disciples or helpers. They loved Jesus and wanted to learn from Him. We can be Jesus’ disciples, too, if we follow Him.**

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**Go!**

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**Hair Net Fishing****WATER TABLE**

**Materials:** A tub of water, small plastic fish, people, or any small plastic objects that can float, one hair net per child, lots of coins

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**Quest Connection**

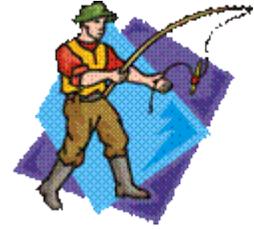
**Peter, James, and John fished using nets. Let's see what we can catch when we fish with our nets.**

**Procedure:** Give each child a hair net. Show them how to lower their net into the water and bring it up with a plastic object(s) in it. Let them each have a turn. Ask, **How much do you think one of our little nets could hold?** Fill net as full as possible. **Did it break? How about if we filled it with coins?** Fill hair net with coins. **Imagine if all these coins were real fish. That's how many fish filled the disciples' net. There were so many their nets broke!**

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**Close**

**How do you think the disciples were able to catch so many fish when they hadn't caught any earlier that day? God made it happen so the disciples could see how powerful He is. It was a miracle! That miracle made them want to follow Jesus.**

**Go!****Fisherman****GUEST QUEST****Materials:** None**Quest Connection**

**The disciples in our Bible Story were fishermen. It was their job to catch fish and sell them.**

**Procedure:** Invite someone from your congregation who likes to fish to come and share their hobby. Have them bring their fishing rod, tackle box, any special clothes they wear, bait, etc. to show the kids. Let children ask the fisherman questions, or ask him some of the following:

1. Why do you like to fish?
2. How old were you when you first went fishing?
3. What bait works the best?
4. Is it easy to catch fish?
5. Are you quiet or noisy when you fish?
6. Do you walk into the water, ride in a boat, or sit by the water to fish?
7. What do you do with the fish you catch?
8. Do you ever fish for men?

**Teacher Tip:** If you are going to interview the guest, provide him with the questions ahead of time so he can be prepared to answer them.

**Close**

**Jesus said we could be fishers of men if we follow Him. That's a very important job!**

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**Go!**

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**I Will Make You Fishers of Men****MUSIC**

**Materials:** Tape or CD with song on it (optional)

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**Quest Connection**

Let's sing this song about Jesus' disciples, who were fishermen in this story.

**Procedure:** Sing the following song

I will make you fishers of men,  
Fishers of men, fishers of men  
I will make you fishers of men  
If you follow me.  
If you follow me, if you follow me.  
I will make you fishers of men  
If you follow me.

Hear Christ calling, "Come unto me!"  
"Come unto me! Come unto me!"  
Hear Christ calling, "Come unto me!"  
I will give you rest."  
"I will give you rest, I will give you rest."  
Hear Christ calling, "Come unto me!"  
I will give you rest."

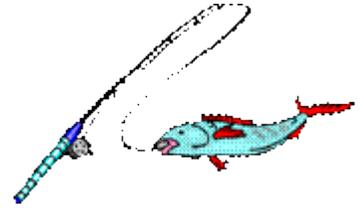
**Teacher Tip:** If you aren't comfortable singing, have someone in your church who is, sing this song (and perhaps others) onto a cassette tape for you to use with your class.

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**Close**

Prayer: **Thank You God, for calling us to be Your disciples, just as You did the fishermen. Help us to tell others about You. Amen.**

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**Go!****Fishing****GAME**

**Materials:** A fishing pole with a magnet at the end, or a wooden dowel with a string attached to the end and a magnet at the end of the string, paper fish and paper people with a paper clip on each one (See Teacher Resources), a vinyl tablecloth “pond.”

**Quest Connection**

**Jesus’ first disciples were fishermen. What did Jesus say they would fish for if they followed Him? Right. They would be fishers of men. Let’s pretend to be fishermen and catch some fish. But when you hear Jesus call, “Come, follow me!” let’s become fishers of men.**

**Procedure:** Put only the fish out on the tablecloth pond. Let each child take a turn fishing. Then have children join you in calling out, “Come, follow me!” Put only the people out on the pond and let children fish for men.

**Close**

**What did Jesus mean when He said He’d make us fishers of men? Right. We need to tell others about Jesus. How can we do that? (By showing love, sharing, bringing friends to church, being kind.) We can all be fishers of men just like Jesus’ disciples.**

**Go!****Nets Full of Fish****SNACK**

**Materials:** Goldfish crackers, fabric netting, ribbon, small strip of paper

**Quest Connection**

**Let's make a snack we can eat and another one that we can share with someone else.**

**Procedure: Before class:** Cut fabric netting into five-inch squares. Type the Key Quest Verse on small strips of paper and punch a hole in the left side of the paper. Slip it on a nine-inch length of ribbon.

**During class:** Have children wash their hands. Set a bowl of goldfish crackers in the middle of the table. Give each child a five-inch square of fabric netting. Let children each put a handful of goldfish in the middle of their netting. Show them how to bring the corners of the netting up together to make a bag. Tie netting with the ribbon so the Key Quest Verse shows. Instruct the children to give this snack to someone as a way to tell them about Jesus. Make another snack to eat.

**Close**

**Prayer: Thank You God, for this snack. Help us to share Your love with others. Amen.**

**Go!****Follow the Leader****GAME****Materials:** None**Quest Connection**

Jesus told the disciples He would make them fishers of men if they would do something. What did He tell them to do? (Follow me.) Let's play a game that helps us learn to follow God.

**Procedure:** I will be the leader first. You do whatever I do. Ready?

Suggested actions: Fold hands and close eyes like you're praying  
Open hands up like a book (Bible) and pretend to read  
Cup your hand around your ear to listen (to God or parents)  
Pretend to pick things up off the floor (helping)  
Pretend to walk, open door, sit and sing (as if going to church)

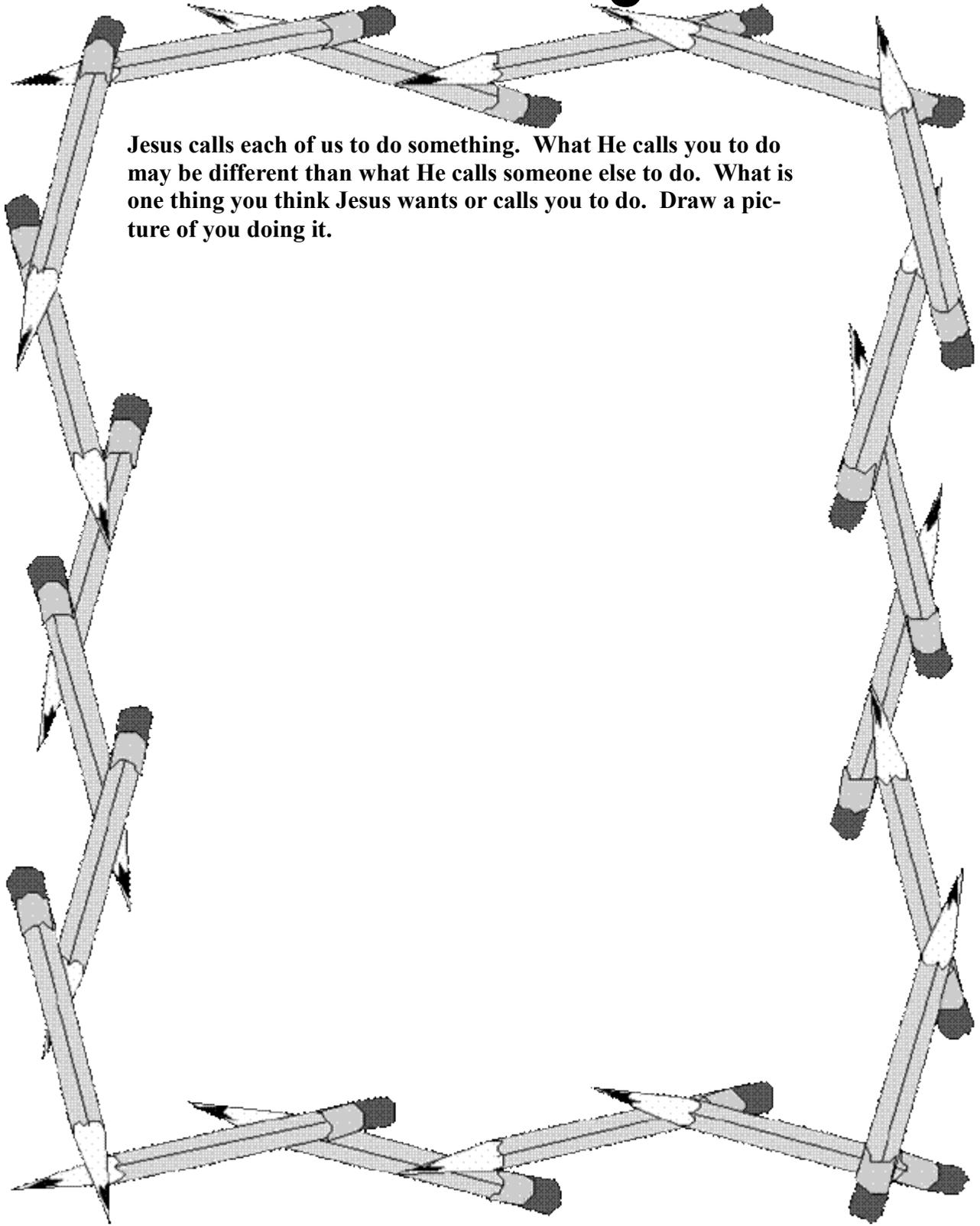
**Close**

It feels good to follow Jesus. Praying, reading our Bibles, obeying God and our parents, helping, and going to church are some of the ways we can follow Him.

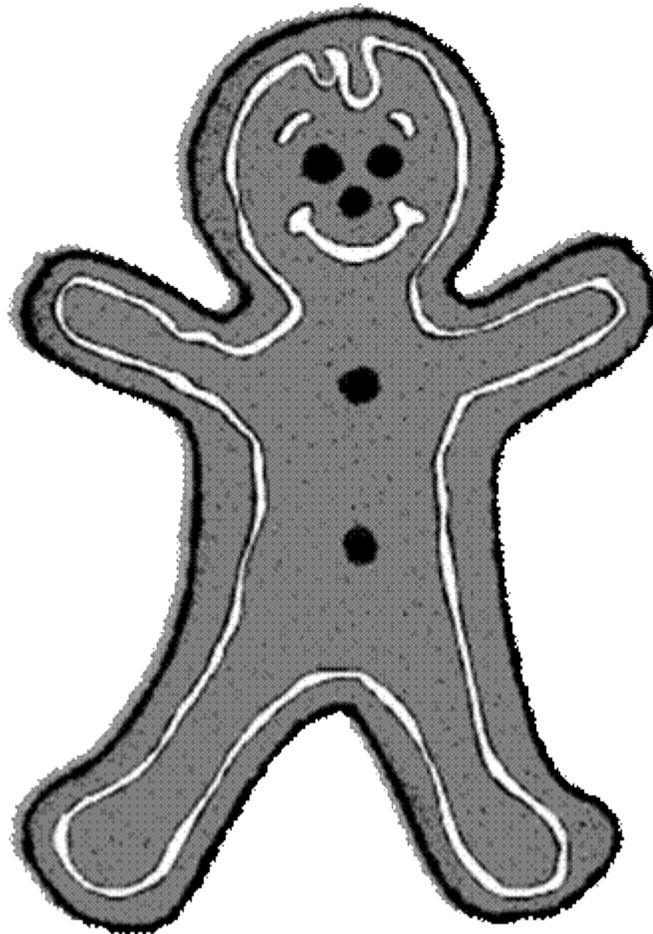
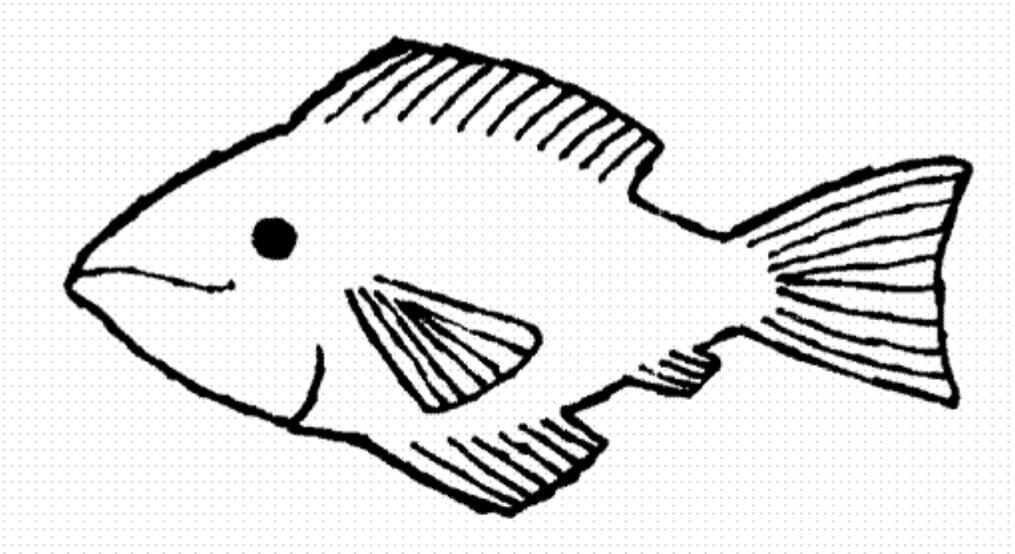


# Journal Page

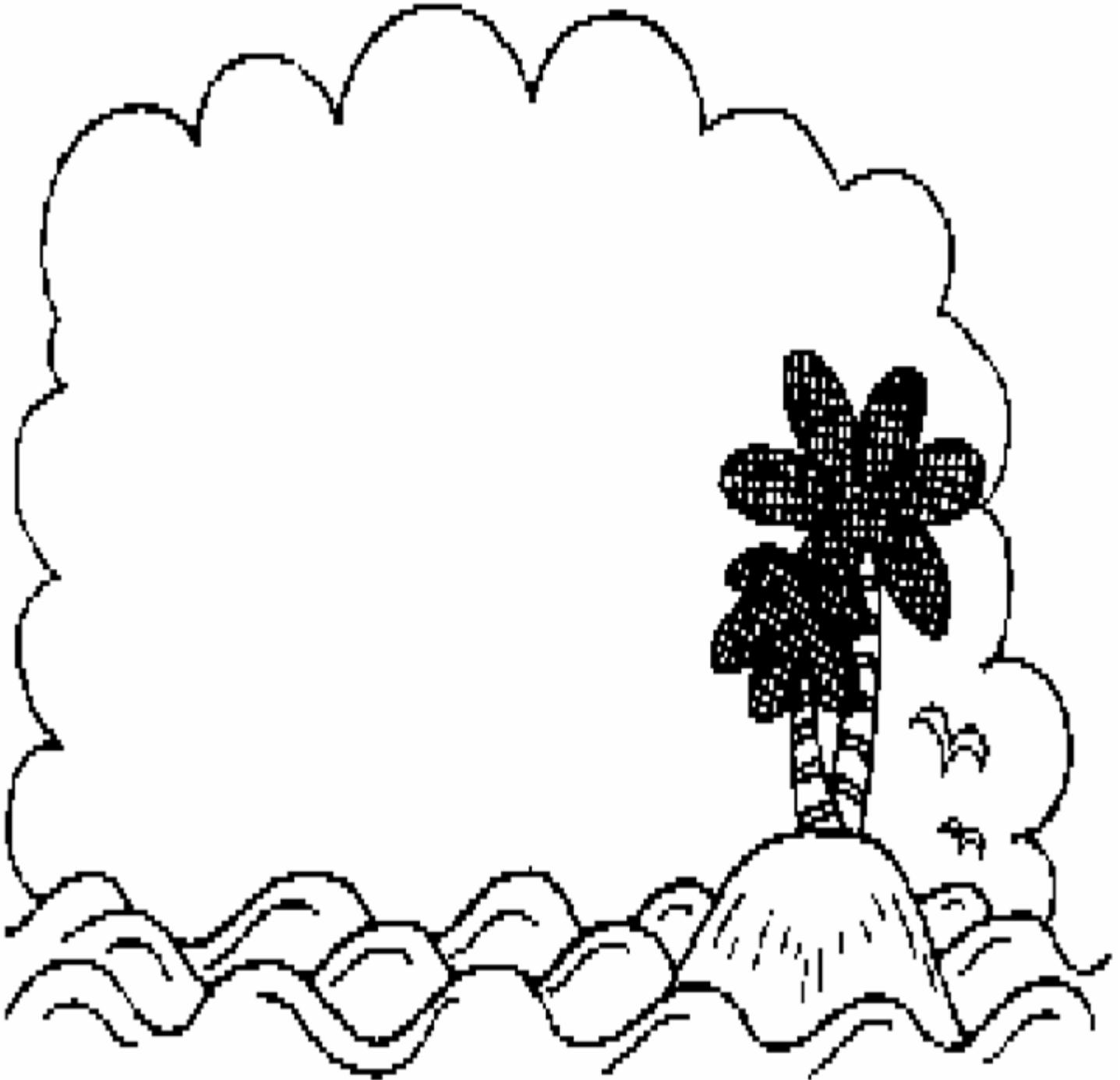
Jesus calls each of us to do something. What He calls you to do may be different than what He calls someone else to do. What is one thing you think Jesus wants or calls you to do. Draw a picture of you doing it.



Resource Page

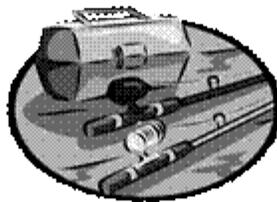
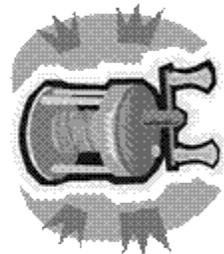
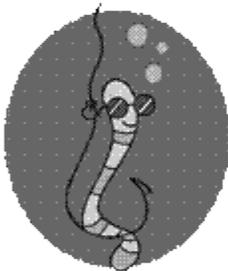
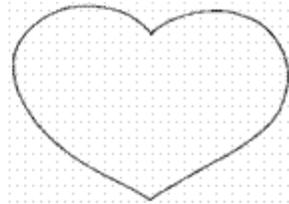
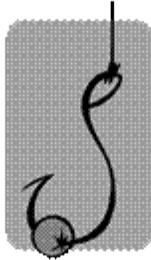


Draw a picture of you and Jesus fishing together.

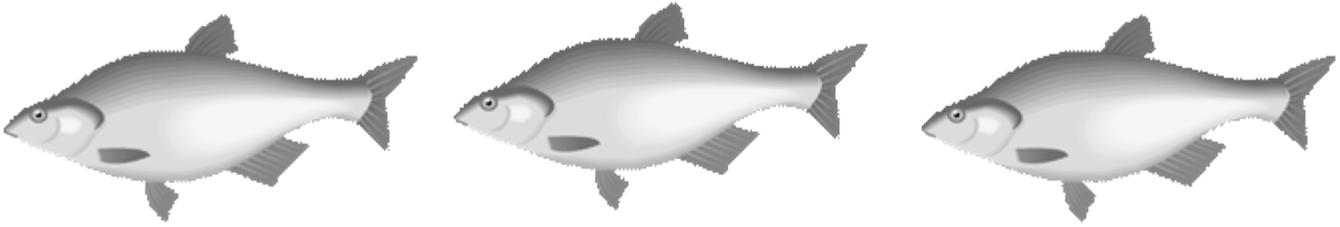


“Come, follow me and I will make you fishers of men”  
(Matthew 4:19).

Circle **O** the things you need to be a fishers of men. Put an **X** on the things you need to catch fish.

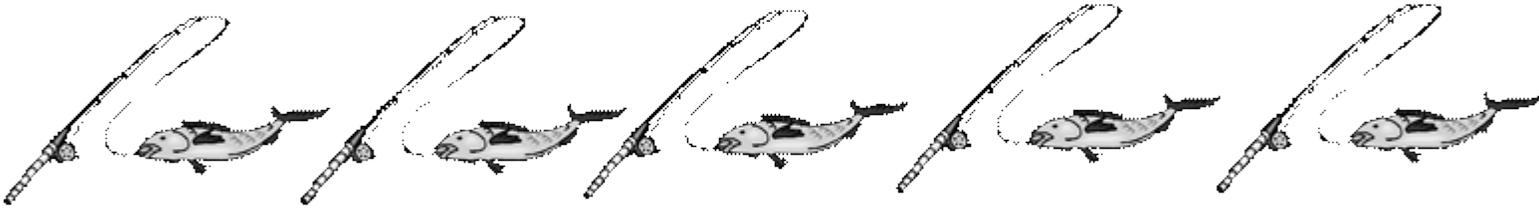


**How many fish do you see below? Write the number in the blank.**



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**How many fishing poles do you see below? Write the number in the blank.**



\_\_\_\_\_

**How many boats do you see below? Write the number in the blank.**



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