

*Get Ready!***Fishing With Peter**
By: Kara Huffer**Text****Luke 5:1-11 (NIV)****Key Quest Verse**

“I can do everything through Him who gives me strength.” Philippians 4:13 (NIV)

“Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but have the light of life.” John 8:12 (NIV)

Bible Background

At the lake of Gennesaret, Jesus was preaching the Word of God. He saw two boats along the water’s edge, and got into one of the boats, which belonged to Simon Peter. Inside of the boat, Jesus then began to continue His teachings. When Jesus had finished speaking, He said to Simon, “put out into deep water and let down the nets for a catch.”

At first Simon was reluctant, because he had failed to catch anything all day. However Simon agreed only because Jesus, his master, said so. When the disciples let down their nets, they caught the most fish they had ever caught. The two boats were completely filled.

Simon Peter, at his knees, felt he did not deserve this and said to Jesus “go away from me Lord; I am a sinful man!” Jesus replied however, “don’t be afraid; from now on you will catch men.” They left everything that was theirs and followed Christ.

Get Ready!



Lesson Quest

What I want my students to:

Know: Anything can be done with the help of Jesus

Feel: Strong and protected with Jesus

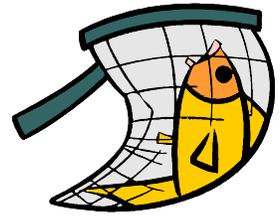
Do: Trust in Jesus throughout their daily lives

Leader's Devotion

As we grow older and start taking authority positions, such as teachers, we may have a feeling of independence. This is good; however, no matter what our age we always need to remember that we are dependent servants of Christ and children of God. Jesus tells us that “If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me.” (Luke 9:23).

I am a college student, facing transitional phases, at this adult turning point of my life. I always wonder what “I” should accomplish or what “I” should become. Well, the truth, is that “I” can’t do it, because I have no strength without Christ. I have to deny all of me, live through Jesus and trust in the Lord’s plans for me.

Thank God for letting His Son live inside of us, so we can be strong and encourage others to do the same.

Get Set!

Option A**Row Your Boat**
Option A

Materials: Classroom chairs, sheets, paper towel rolls.

Procedure: Before class, arrange the chairs into two vertical lines, representing a boat. You can place bed sheets, preferably blue, on the ground for water. The students will sit in the boat as they enter the classroom. If you would like, have your students lift the sheets up and down to create the feeling of waves. For enhancement, let the students row the boat. You can take two finished paper towel rolls and tape them together, which is prepared before hand. Now the students are ready to hear the Bible story.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Option B**Play Catch!**
Option B

Materials: A small object you can toss: (soft) balls, stuffed animals, etc.

Procedure: As students enter the room, you will tell them to stand in a circle. Then ask the class, “**Does anyone want to play catch?**” Then you will start off by tossing your object to another student, initiating a game of catch. Once most or all of your students, depending on your size, have had a chance to catch the object. “**Today we are going to learn how Peter, a follower of Jesus, had the strength to catch fish!**” Students can now sit where they are, still creating a circle. At this moment, if students do not have a Bible, begin to pass them around the circle. You can sit in the middle as they now listen to the Bible story.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Get Set!

Bible Story

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

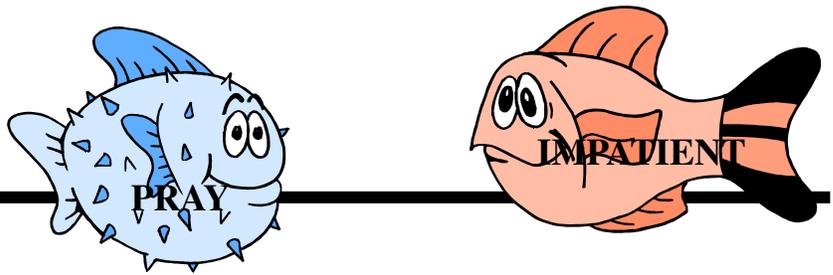
Jesus decided to share the Word of God to the people by sitting in a boat at a lake by the name of Gennesaret. The boat had belonged to a follower of Jesus named Simon Peter, who had trouble catching fish all day. When Jesus had finished speaking to the people He told Simon Peter to “Put out into deep water and let down the nets for a catch.” Jesus wanted Simon Peter to keep trying even though he did not catch a single fish.

Simon Peter was scared and felt that he did not have the strength to try fishing again, but since he always followed Jesus, he agreed to try again. When Simon Peter and the other followers of Jesus got into their boats and began to fish again, they caught the most fish they had ever caught. Since they had so many fish in the boat, it almost began to sink!

At his knees, Simon Peter, felt he did not deserve all the fish he caught. Also, he thought he did not deserve Jesus, because he thought he was a sinful man. Jesus told him he was wrong and that he should not be afraid anymore, because He would always be by Simon Peter’s side. All of the people then, began to follow Jesus.

Go!

Follow Jesus



DRAMA

Materials: Sheet, pre-cut fish made from construction paper or cardstock, duck or masking tape, dark marker, bowl.

Quest Connection

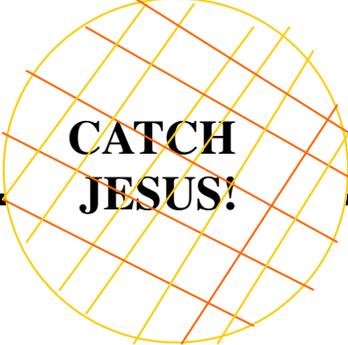
We can have the strength to do anything in our lives if we have our minds focused on Jesus and ask Him to help us. How can we keep focus on Jesus? **Pray, read our Bibles, etc.** If we keep doing things in our life that follow Jesus, we will always be strong.

Procedure: Hang the sheet by taping each opposite end to the wall. The middle portion of sheet hangs down, creating the image of a net. Before class, make pre-cut fish out of construction paper. Then write Christ-like actions on half of the fish and non-Christ like actions on the other half. For instance on one fish you would write “ Pray” and on another you would write “Impatient.” Place these fish into a bowl or basket of some sort. Then you will ask **“Can I have a volunteer come up and draw a fish from the basket.” Whatever action is on the fish, act it out without words. The rest of the class must guess the action, and if that action follows Jesus.** If the action does, let your volunteer put that fish in the net. Bad actions will be placed aside. **We want to only catch good actions, so we can follow Jesus and be strong like we learned from Peter today.**

Teacher Tip: If you have some shy students let them come up together and act it out, they won’t feel intimidated that way.

Close

We want to fill our lives with actions that are what Jesus would like us to do. That way, we will have the strength to face any problem we might run into. When Jesus is our leader, we can survive anything. Let’s pray that we always put Jesus first in our lives.

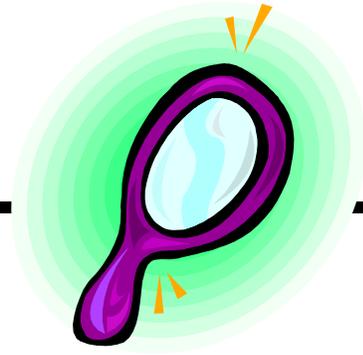
Go!**Jesus Catcher****CATCH
JESUS!****ARTS AND CRAFTS****Materials:** Paper plates, yarn, markers, scissors**Quest Connection**

The only way we will be able to catch anything in our lives is through Jesus. This catcher will remind us to stick with Jesus during all parts of our lives.

Procedure: Prior to class, cut out the inside of paper plates so you are left with the outside circular rim. Place several colors of yarn on the table and some markers. On the rim, they can write “Catch Jesus” with their markers. **The students can take their scissors and cut slits in the rim that are about an inch apart. Now they can take their yarn and weave it through their slits, creating a net. It is best to start at the top, and then go to the bottom, making your way to the sides. This way it appears like a net.** Allow enough yarn to remain at the top of your catcher, so they can hang it up if they choose. For more fun, you can bring charms or beads to add to your yarn.

Close

We can think of our Jesus Catcher like the nets in our story today. Peter used his net to catch fish, only with the help of Jesus. As we look at our Jesus Catcher’s, we can remember that we can be strong even in situations where we are scared, because Jesus will help us.

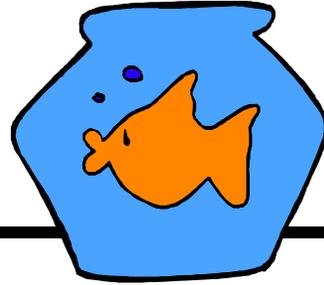
Go!**Mirror Image****GAME****Materials:** None**Quest Connection**

It is important for us to know that we cannot follow our best friend, TV stars, or anyone else. We must know that the only true leader we can follow is Jesus.

Procedure: An open area is needed for this activity. In your classroom, you can push your tables and chairs aside, or you can find a grassy area. First, tell your class to each find a partner and stand face to face. If one student is alone, a group of three is okay. Between partners, they can designate a leader and a follower. The leaders can do any motion with their hands, arms, legs, feet, or head. It is the follower's job to copy every motion as they keep up with the leader. Once they get the hang of it, move on to the next step. Now make groups of four. One student will be the leader, and this time the three followers will copy the one leader of the group. When they get the idea, gather the whole class into a circle. Now, I need only one volunteer to come be our leader. Have this student stand in the middle. The rest of us must do everything that the leader chooses to do. After they have had fun with that, they can sit where they are in the circle.

Close

For those who were followers, was it hard to keep up and copy the leader? Yes. That is because you never knew what your partner was going to do. That's why it is not safe to follow our friends or anyone else, because we never know where they will lead us. If we put Jesus as our leader, like Peter did, we will always know that we are in the right direction. The Bible promises that Jesus' teachings are true; that is why we can put our trust in him.

Go!**Cookin' with Jesus****FOOD Be Aware of Food Allergies!**

Materials: Pretzel sticks, goldfish crackers, peanut butter, (plastic) knives and paper plates. Cream Cheese can be substituted for the peanut butter!

Quest Connection

By creating this snack, the students will feel like Peter as he caught his fish. This is a good feeling, because Peter overcame his problem and became closer to Jesus at the same time.

Procedure: Give each student a paper plate and some pretzel sticks. You want them to create a net. Make three rows with the pretzel sticks going up and down. Then, lay rows that go across. Once they have a net, spread a bit of peanut butter over the pretzels. **Try to target the areas where the vertical and horizontal lines meet; it will stay together easier.** Now we need some fish to catch. **You can begin passing out some goldfish to the class.** The students can now place the goldfish crackers onto the peanut butter. **Their snack is ready to enjoy! If you would like, you can also make a boat with the pretzels. Simply place your sticks horizontally, and add any other creative touches you would like.**

Close

Our snack today stands for all the fish that Peter was able to catch. What made Peter change his mind about fishing? He trusted in Jesus, because He has always been his master. Even if you are scared to do something, Jesus will always be there to give you strength. We can do anything, if we choose to follow Jesus!

Go!**Strength in Believing****GUEST QUEST**

Materials: Ask a spiritually mature member from your church to come to your class to share how Christ has given them strength to overcome a huge problem in their life.

Or, ask a member who has battled with a disease to come and share how they were able to fight the struggle through Christ.

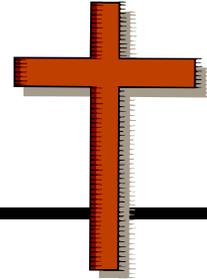
Quest Connection

It is good when children can hear personal stories from adults that they are familiar with from the church, because they will realize that what they are learning has actually made an impact on someone's life and can affect them as well.

Procedure: Ask your guest to share with the class their testimony. Allow time for students to ask questions.

Close

Even though we can have horrible things happen in our lives, we must remember that nothing is too big for Jesus. The next time we have a problem and we begin to feel weak, let's trust in Jesus to give us strength.

Go!**Catch the Cross****BULLETIN BOARD**

Materials: Small boxes: such as tea bag boxes, match box, etc. Construction paper, scissors, markers, tacks, and bulletin board

Quest Connection

This project will create the image of fishing, but when the students look at the bulletin board, they will not just see fishing. They will be reminded of a struggle, which can be solved with the help of Jesus. Now, they will see something that they can overcome!

Procedure: Before your lesson, create pre-made boats. You can do this by taking a small tea bag box, the inside of a match box container, or any other thin, box-like container. If there is a top on your choice of box, cut that off, so it resembles a boat. Then, take brown construction paper and tape or glue it to the outside of your box. Your first item for the bulletin board is now done. Next create fish that will be big enough to write words on and fit inside the box. Allow each student to have at least three. If you wish, your students can cut out the fish from a trace that you have made. Lastly, provide one cross, cut from construction paper for each student. On the fish, the class will write a problem or something that they feel is impossible, and then place it inside their boat. Some examples could be taking a test or obeying my parents. Then, on the cross they will write ways that they can ask Jesus to give them strength. Some possibilities are: praying, reading my Bible or doing what Jesus would do. Once they have completed that, you can staple or tack the backside of the boat to the bulletin board. If they wish, they can write their names on them too. When their crosses are done, tack them above the boats. Now they have caught their problems inside their boats, and know how to solve them by asking Jesus for help. You can also write one of your memory verses on the board such as Philippians 4:13, “I can do everything through him who gives me strength” (NIV).

Close

When we are at home this week and are reminded of the problems that we placed inside of our boats, let’s remember the ways we can solve them by keeping Jesus with us in our lives. Let’s end with prayer and ask God to keep His son living inside of us, so we will be able to handle anything that may come our way.

Fill in the number on the hook to put the fish in the correct order

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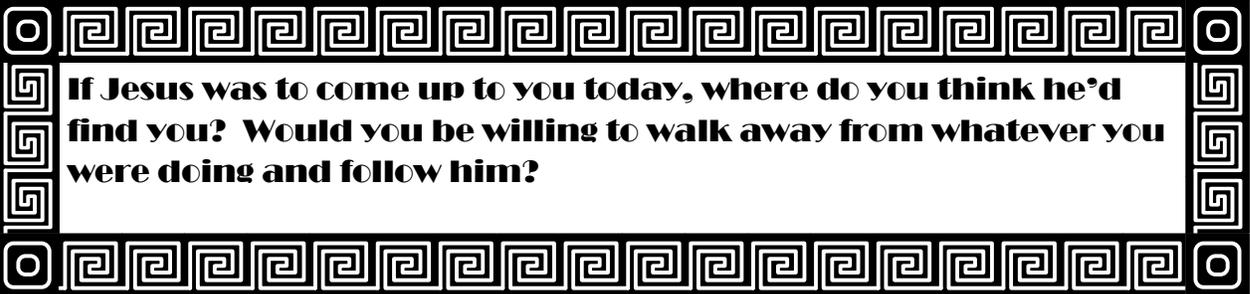
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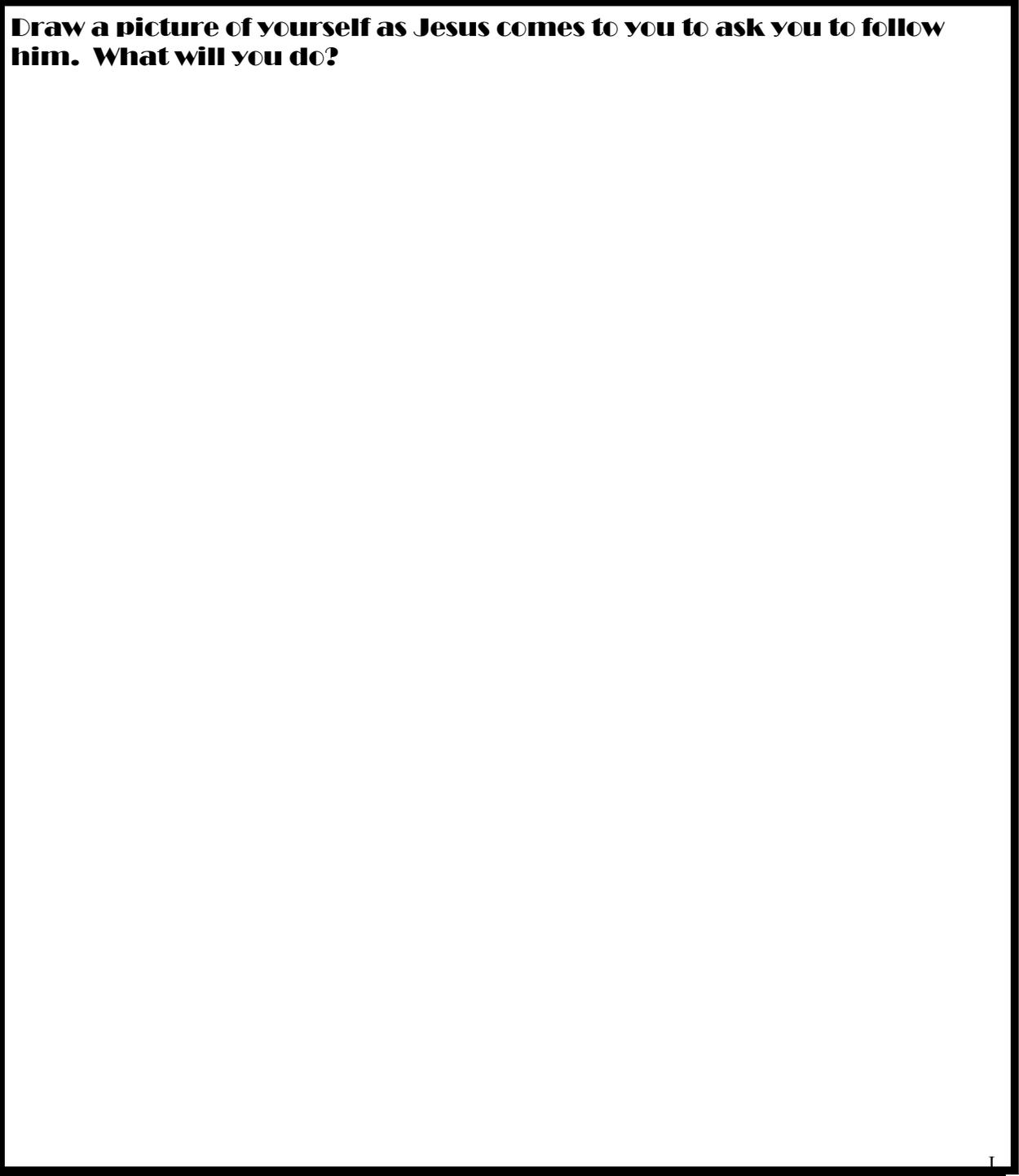
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“Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but have the light of life.” John 8:12 (NIV)



If Jesus was to come up to you today, where do you think he'd find you? Would you be willing to walk away from whatever you were doing and follow him?

Draw a picture of yourself as Jesus comes to you to ask you to follow him. What will you do?



Fishing With Peter

F W H O E V E R F O L L D O W
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BOAT

JESUS

NETS

FOLLOW

PETER

DISCIPLES

WORD

DARKNESS

CATCH

FISH

FULL

How many fish do you count? _____

