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Lesson Overview

In today's lesson, we're going to learn how Jesus went about choosing his closest friends. When Jesus started his ministry, he knew he was going to need some help spreading the word about who he was and what he came to do. Now, you would think that Jesus would choose the smartest and most powerful people to be his friends but that's not who he approached. He went after the regular guys; fisherman who were just hard working, nice people. And, when Jesus approached these guys, he invited them to follow him so he could teach them a new skill. They were already good at catching fish but Jesus was going to teach them how to fish for people. I'm sure this was confusing to them at first. What does it mean to fish for people? Well, Jesus was going to teach them how to share Jesus with others. Remember, Jesus came with a mission-to die for our sins so we could be in relationship with God. So, Jesus was inviting these guys, who we know as his disciples, to share about Jesus with others. Did you know that we have this same mission? He wants us to to tell our friends all about what Jesus has done for them.

Big Idea

Faithful followers of Jesus can change the world.

Key Question

How can we help to change the world?

Memory Verse

Matthew 4:19 "Jesus called out to them, "Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!."

Classroom Agenda

1. (5 min) **Let kids start working on Activity Page #1.**
2. (5 min) **WARM UP: What qualities do you look for in a friend? What qualities make for a bad friend?.** (Tip: We want kind and helpful friends, not mean friends who are selfish and leave us out. Jesus picked good friends)
3. (5 min) **PREVIEW: Write out the Big Idea, Memory Verse, and Key Question on a whiteboard.** Have the kids copy it down on Activity Page #1 (if applicable).
4. (20 min) **LARGE GROUP: Gather for songs and videos with other kids.** Then return to class to finish this guide.
5. (2 min) **RECAP: Read the Lesson Overview (see above).**
6. (3 min) **KQ: Answer the Key Question.** (Answer: **By sharing Jesus with others.** (Jesus is the most important person we can ever know. He died for our sins so that we could have a relationship with God which means we get to live in heaven with him some day. Sharing Jesus means other people can be saved, too. Not only that, when we live for Jesus, we want to be like Jesus. That means we're nice, helpful, forgiving and always tell the truth. The more people act like Jesus, the world will be a better place!))
 - **Bonus Questions:** Who do we need to share with others? How can we change the world? **4-5th** How can you show the love of Jesus to others without even having to speak?
7. (5 min) **EXPLORE: Read Psalm 96:1-3. Who are we supposed to praise? How often should we praise and what should we tell others?** (Answer: The Lord is just another name for Jesus. We should praise Jesus every day and all the time because he is awesome! We should tell everyone we know that he loves them so much that he died to pay for their sins.)
8. (10 min) **PLAY: Choose a group activity from Activity Page #2.**
9. (5 min) **CLOSE: Share prayer requests and pray as a class.** Encourage kids to use the Family Guide at home with their parents - and remind them to go online to pursueGODkids.org to find this week's lesson video.

Teacher instructions: Choose an activity for your classroom.

OPTION 1: FISH FOR PEOPLE CRAFT

Instructions:

- Give each kid a Fish template (page 5).
- Have kids cut out each fish and allow them to color and decorate.
- Then, have the kids stack the fish together, verse/statement sides facing out and have them hole punch around the outside edges of the fish.
- Then, give each kid some yarn that they will weave through the holes to “sew” the fish together. Have them tie a knot in the strings or just tape the ends down when they’re done so the yarn stays in place.
- As they work, read the story of Jesus and the disciples from Matthew 4:18-22. Remind the kids that just like Jesus gave the disciples a special mission, we have a special mission, too. We need to tell others about Jesus.

Supplies needed: Fish template (pg. 5, 1 set per kid), Scissors, Crayons, Hole punches, Yarn, Tape

OPTION 2: FISHING GAME

Instructions:

- Before class, make a fishing pole out of a stick with a long piece of string tied to it and the other end of the string tied to a clothes pin. Also, create a wall with a table or desk that kids will cast their pole over to catch a fish.
- To start the game, give each kid a Fish (page 6) and have them write the name of someone in their life who needs to hear about Jesus.
- Once everyone has filled out their fish, gather them and place them on the ground behind your “wall”. Allow kids to take turns being behind the wall clipping a fish on the line.
- Have the other kids line up single file in front of the “wall”. Allow each kid a turn of casting their line over the wall to catch a fish. Each time, have that kid pull off the fish they caught and tape it up on the whiteboard. Continue until all the fish are caught and taped on the whiteboard.
- Then, as a class, talk about how they can share Jesus with the friend they wrote down and then pray for the kids to have opportunities to share Jesus with them.

Supplies needed: Fishing pole (including string and clothes pin), Fish template (pg. 6, pre cut, 1 per kid), Pens/Pencils, Tape

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LIFE OF JESUS

Jesus Picks His Disciples

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Every kid dreams about what they'll be when they grow up. But whatever you become, you can change the world.

Key Points:

- Jesus picked _____ people to follow him. Matthew 4:18
- Jesus gave his followers a _____ right away. Matthew 4:19-20
- Jesus made 12 _____ guys his main disciples. Mark 3:13-14
- _____ followers of Jesus are the ones who change the world.

Memory Verse:

Matthew 4:19 Jesus called out to them, "Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!"

Talk About It

1. *What's your favorite part of the video? What's one thing you learned from it?*
2. *What qualities do you look for in a friend? What qualities make for a bad friend?*
3. *Who did Jesus pick to be his first followers? Why do you think he chose regular people instead of the super important people?*
4. *What did Jesus tell the disciples he would help them to do? What do you think it means to fish for people?*
5. *Read Psalm 96:1-3. Who are we supposed to praise? How often should we praise and what should we tell others?*
6. *How will you apply this lesson to your life this week?*

Instructions: Color the picture.

FAITHFUL FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CAN CHANGE THE WORLD

Key Question

How can we help to change the world?

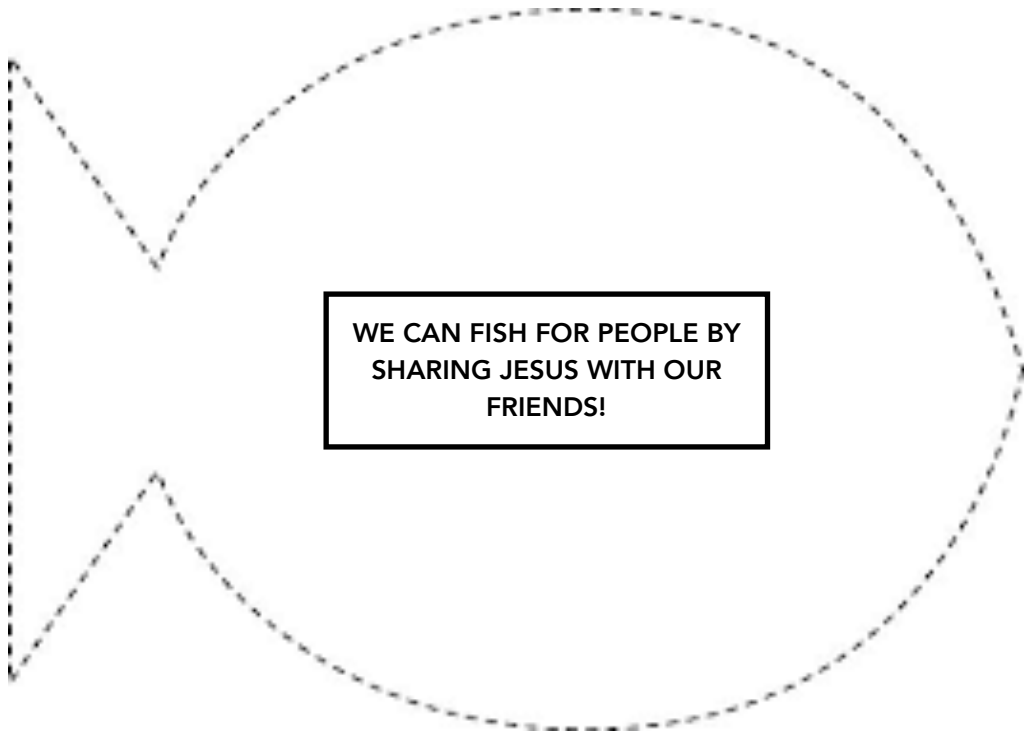
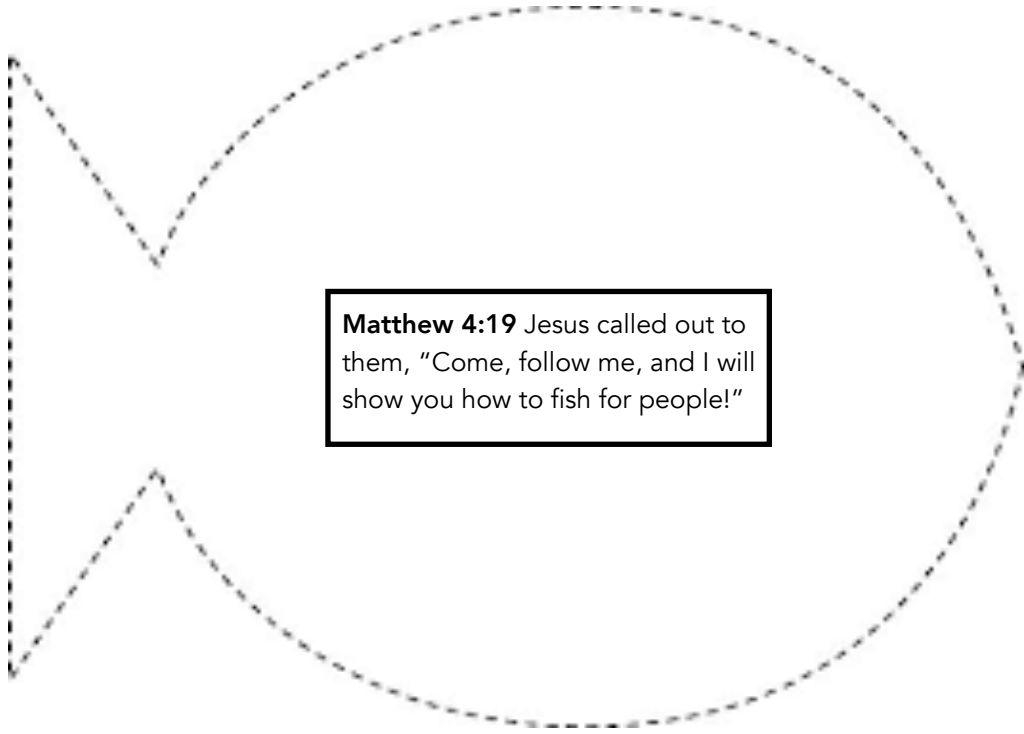
Memory Verse

Matthew 4:19 "Jesus called out to them, "Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!"



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LIFE OF JESUS

Jesus Picks His Disciples

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