

Preschool Spring
Lesson 1:
Jesus Helps His Friends Catch Fish

Objectives: Students will...

- 1) Learn that Jesus is God's Son
- 2) Discover that with the help of Jesus, His friends caught fish – **Luke 5:1-10**
- 3) Recognize that Jesus did a special thing because He is the Son of God

Accommodations: How will I accommodate individual needs of students?

- Use lots of visuals and actions to keep children's attention.
- Allow them to color a page while you read the story if they are unable to stay focused for very long
- Break up the lesson if needed by singing songs or doing an "active" game in a different order if they need to get up and move around
- Help students stay focused by going through sheets in order and helping them follow by pointing to your page where they should be focused.
- Sit beside children who are fidgety to help them stay focused.
- Learn their names – the best way to get someone back on track is to call them by name
- Remember to say "Please" and "Thank you" this is important for them to learn and see displayed in your actions as well.

Supplies: Check with coordinator to ensure supplies are ready.

All sheets and templates will be on the CD or in the Binder.

Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Pens/Pencils
- Bible (please bring your own)
- Crayons/Pencil Crayons
- Attendance Sheet
- Stickers – enough for each child to have one every lesson for 13 lessons
- Pictures about Fishing – one sheet for class cut out before class
- Jesus Helps Catch Fish Activity Sheet – one per student
- Jesus Helps Catch Fish Color Page (or visual aid) – one per student
- Draw Fish Activity Sheet – one per student

Optional Activities

- Bubble blowers and bubble jars – purchase these at store – enough to share
- Fish Stickers – One sheet per class cut out before class – see template provided
- Glue sticks to share
- Fish crackers – one box for class to share
- Paper cups – one per student
- Large grocery bag – one per class to share
- Magnetic fish poles with fish – purchase at toy section of store – one per student
- Snack – fish shaped crackers or cheese
- Napkins
- Cups with water
- Puppet to tell students the real events from the Bible

Lesson:

1) Introduction to lesson:

*Before class cut out and have ready "Pictures About Fishing" to use as visuals during students arrival.



As students enter, welcome them and help find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming. Take attendance (using attendance chart supplied). Write each child's name on the sheet provided. Let each child put a sticker beside their name for this week. Have them sit around the table.

As you wait for all students to attend, lay out the different pictures about fishing on the table and let students look through them and talk about what each picture is about and how it relates to fishing. Tell students: **Today we are going to talk about Jesus now that He is all grown up. Jesus is God's Son – He is very special and we will see that He helped His friends make a special catch of fish!**

Share with students, "My name is _____ and I will be your teacher this quarter. Here is _____ my assistant to help. This month we will learn that Jesus is God's Son – Jesus is very special! Let's sing some songs about Jesus.

Jesus is the Son of God

Tune: London Bridge

Jesus is the Son of God, Son of God, Son of God.
Jesus is the Son of God. Thank you God for Jesus!

Jesus helped His friends catch fish,
Friends catch fish, friends catch fish.
Jesus helped His friends catch fish,
Thank you God for Jesus.

Fished All Night and Caught No Fishes Song

Tune: 1 little, 2 little, 3 little lady bugs

Fished all night and caught no fishes. (3x)
Out on the deep blue sea.

Then came Jesus teaching from the boat. (3x)
Out on the deep blue sea.

Cast your nets and you'll catch fishes. (3x)
Out on the deep blue sea.

Then their nets were filled with fishes. (3x)
Out on the deep blue sea.

How many of you have gone fishing before? Raise your hands if you have. Let students respond.

We are going to study today that Jesus helped his friends catch fish! Jesus is special – He is God's Son!

2) Jesus Helps Catch Fish Account and Color Page

10 minutes

*Optional: Use Color page as visual aid to show students the account of Jesus helping his friends catch fish.

*Optional: Print fish sticker template before class and cut out three fish for each student. Gather crayons and glue sticks to share.

*Optional: Have a puppet to help tell the story!



Have your Bible open and read **Luke 5:1-10** from the paraphrased version below – there are actions to go with it.

Let's all listen very carefully while I read a special story about Jesus from the Bible – God's Word!

Some friends of Jesus had been fishing all night on the sea. Over and over they would throw their nets into the water, then bring them up, but their nets were empty. They couldn't catch any fish! (Show students how to throw a net into the pretend water, then pull it in and lift with empty hands. Look very sad.)
Finally the fishermen got tired. They decided to stop fishing and bring their boats back to shore. (Ask students to act as though they are tired – yawn, stretch, and rub sleepy eyes.)

As the fishermen were washing their nets, they saw their friend Jesus. (Shade your eyes with your hand as though you see Jesus in the distance.)

Jesus sat down in Peter's boat. Jesus asked Peter to move his boat away from the shore. Then Jesus talked to the people who had gathered on the shore and told them wonderful things about God. When Jesus was finished talking to the people. He told Peter to row back out to the deep water and fish some more. (Encourage students to pretend to row their boats; then throw out their nets again.)

When Peter did this, the net became so full of fish, he had to ask his friends, James and John, to come and help him! Everyone was amazed at what had happened. The fishermen were so happy to see so many fish – thanks to Jesus!

Jesus can do wonderful things because He is God's Son!

Let's show how the fishermen looked when they fished all night and didn't catch any fish. (Show sad faces, angry faces, empty hands.)

Now, let's show the fishermen felt when they decided to stop fishing. (Tired faces, yawns, rubbing eyes.)

Wait! I see Jesus! Let's show how we feel when we see Jesus coming! (Wave, be excited, show happy faces.) **Jesus will help His friends. Let's show how Jesus helped!** (Pull in heavy nets of fish while showing a big happy face.)

Show the picture of the net the fishermen are bringing in. Have the students tell or point to the wonderful thing Jesus did because He is the Son of God! Ask them what is missing from the net? Fish!

Hand out one color page to each student along with crayons and let them color the picture of the fishermen with their big catch of fish. Say: **These men don't have any fish in their nets. When Jesus went out in the boat with the men He helped them catch lots and lots of fish! Jesus could do this because He is the Son of God...let's draw or put some fish on the net** (if using stickers, glue them now). Hand out three sticker fish, if doing, to each student and allow them to glue them on the net with glue sticks to share.

Talk about the story and ask them what they remember as they color.

Sing:

Fished All Night and Caught No Fishes Song

Tune: 1 little, 2 little, 3 little lady bugs

Fished all night and caught no fishes. (3x)
Out on the deep blue sea.

Then came Jesus teaching from the boat. (3x)
Out on the deep blue sea.

Cast your nets and you'll catch fishes. (3x)
Out on the deep blue sea.

Then their nets were filled with fishes. (3x)
Out on the deep blue sea.

Jesus is the Son of God

Tune: London Bridge

Jesus is the Son of God, Son of God, Son of God.
Jesus is the Son of God. Thank you God for Jesus!

Jesus helped His friends catch fish,
Friends catch fish, friends catch fish.
Jesus helped His friends catch fish,
Thank you God for Jesus.

3) Catching Fish Action Game

5 minutes

Line the students up in a row so that they can all see you and have enough space to move their hands and feet without hitting anyone beside them.

Say to the students: **We are going to play a game. The fishermen had to listen to Jesus when He asked them to. They obeyed and so should we. I am going to say "Fishermen and then an action word." I want you to follow and do what I say. Just like Jesus' fishermen friends were to follow Jesus and what He said to them. Ready? Everyone quiet and listen.....good job**

Fishermen – touch your hands together

Fishermen – touch your feet.

Fishermen – say "Thank You God."

Fishermen – row your boats

Fishermen – gather the fish

Fishermen – show your smiling faces

Fishermen – jump up and down

Fishermen – turn around

Fishermen – sit down!

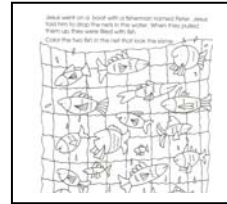
Thank class for playing and then have them sit at the table for the next activity.

4) Jesus Helps Catch Fish Activity Sheet

10 minutes

Hand out one sheet to each child and read the instructions aloud while you hand out crayons. Help them to find the two fish that look the same and color them. If time and if students are enjoying the activity, allow them to color the other fish as well.

Discuss that Jesus helped the fishermen catch the fish because Jesus is the Son of God!



5) Optional: Bubbles, Bubbles Everywhere Game

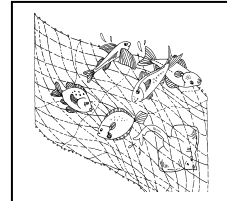
5 minutes

Ask all the students to lay on the floor as if they were swimming, they can “swim” on their backs or their tummies like fish. While they are pretending to swim, take a bubble blower and blow bubbles over the students so they can see them fall on them while they pretend to swim. Remind them by saying, **“Jesus helped the fishermen catch lots of fish – fish live in the water and make lots of bubbles. Let’s pretend we are fish!”** When finished have the children sit back at the table and move onto the next activity.

6) Draw Fish Activity Sheet

10-15 minutes

Hand out one drawing sheet to student with crayons, read the directions and have them draw in some fish on the net. Talk about how Jesus helped the fishermen catch so many fish because He is the Son of God. Ask students to help clean up crayons before moving onto the next activity.



7) Optional: Go Fishing Snack Game

5-10 minutes

*Before class purchase fish crackers and place in a clean large grocery bag. Gather paper cups to have ready as well.

While students are seated at the table, hand out one paper cup to each student and ask them to hold it carefully. Say: **We are going to play a game like we are Jesus friends sitting in the boat trying to catch fish. Before Jesus came, the fishermen tried to fish by placing the net in the water. Take your cups and try to scoop up some fish.....No fish! Let’s all row back to shore!** Pretend to row back to shore while holding cups.

Look, there is Jesus – He is God’s Son, He will help because He is kind and loving and wonderful. Jesus says try to catch fish – let’s all try again one at a time while I bring a special bag for you to put your nets into. Go to each student with the sack full of cracker fish. Let each student scoop some fish into their net/cup.

Look at all the fish Jesus helped us catch! Jesus can do this because He is God’s Son! Let’s enjoy our fish crackers while we think about the wonderful thing we learned about Jesus today – He helps His Friends! He helps us too!

8) Optional: Magnetic Fish Game

5-10 minutes

Tell the kids, **"Let's all sit on the floor in a circle. I am going to hand out one fishing pole to each of you. You must take very special care of your fishing pole. You can't swing it or shake it in a way that might hurt others. You must keep it safely in front of you. Once we all have our poles. I will put some fish in the middle of our circle. Try and see if you can carefully, gently catch a fish just like Jesus helped the fishermen!** Help students catch fish with the poles. You may need to direct their string towards a fish and ensure that students do not fight over the same fish. Make sure there is enough for all, or have students go one at a time if necessary.

9) Sing

Choose songs from the Songs section of the binder.

10) Optional - Snack Fish Crackers of Cheese in shape of fish

5 minutes

See activity above "Go fish snack game" if you have fish crackers. If not, hand out one piece of cheese to each student in the shape of a fish along with a glass of water. Remind them that these snacks are part of God's wonderful creation for us to enjoy and they are good, God is wonderful and so is Jesus - God's Son! After snack have kids clean up. Then move on to the remaining activities.

11) Close in prayer

Tell students that **we are going to pray, to pray we need to put down everything and fold our hands and bow our heads like this** (show students). **This way we can hear and listen to the prayer and when we sit quietly and focus on God – it makes God happy! We learn this in God's Word the Bible and we need to obey God.**

First: Ask if there are prayer requests that kids want to share. Make a list. Then give the list to the assistant or read yourself.

Second: Remind students to fold hands and bow heads then pray:

Thank You God for Jesus Your Son. Thank You God that Jesus helps us as He helped the fishermen. Thank you God for our families, our friends, our pets and our church family too. Thank God as well that we can know that we are safe and in good hands because Jesus is our friend. Thank you God for your Son Jesus who loves us and thank you God for everyone here today and those who could not be here because they were sick or away. We pray you will bring us all back to Sunday school next week safely. In Jesus name, Amen.

12) Remind students

To take home any sheets or crafts. Thank them for coming and ask them to help clean up before they leave.

13) Greet Parents at door

Ensure all students go to parents or if some students remain kindly ask them to go to their parents.

Thank you for serving Christ in this way!