

SKY

Learning Obedience
Series 1—Lesson 6

StoryTime



Come Peter, Let's Go Fishin'

Primary 3–7

Bible Text:
Luke 5:1–11

Lesson Aim:

To follow God's instructions completely, not just partially. We can trust that if God asks us to do something, we can expect good results. Anything we do should be our best effort, not a half-hearted one.

Memory Verse:

"Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him"
(Psalm 37:5).

Words to Learn:

- Commit
- Master

Always Close in Prayer

The Teacher's Bible Study

Jesus used the miracle of catching fish to display His supernatural power over nature and to catch Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John in His "net" and make them disciples. Luke is the only one of the Gospel writers to use "Lake of Gennesaret" when describing the Sea of Galilee. He is also the only writer that refers to Jesus as "Master."

The brothers Andrew and Simon were fishermen along with two other brothers, James and John, in Capernaum. They were all partners. Andrew was also a follower of John the Baptist. One day as Jesus walked by, Andrew overheard John say, "Look, the Lamb of God!" Andrew and another disciple followed Jesus and asked Him where He was staying. He told them and they went with Him and spent the day.

Andrew then hurried to his brother Simon and told him that they had found the Messiah! Andrew took him to meet Jesus. It was at this meeting that Jesus gave Simon the name of *Peter* (John 1:42).

When John wrote about this meeting he translated the Aramaic *Kephas* into the Greek *Petros* (both meaning *rock*), which indicates that it was not a proper name but a descriptive title. Perhaps Peter was a big, solid, steady man. Similarly, Jesus gave James and his brother John the name *Boanerges*, which means "sons of thunder" (Mark 3:17). Jesus evaluated the personality and character of these men quickly, and with humor.

Our lesson deals with the event that changed the lives of Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John forever. It was the day they went fishing with Jesus.

Let's Go Fishing

The fishermen had come in from a night of fishing. They had caught nothing and were standing at the water's edge, washing and cleaning their nets of debris, when Jesus asked if He could use one of the boats to stand in and preach to the crowd that was pressing around him. The people would be able to hear Him better. The fishermen were happy to oblige Him.

Afterwards, Jesus said, "Put out into deep water, and let down the *nets*

for a catch.” Simon obliged the request, not really expecting results. It was done as a polite gesture done with only *one* boat, and *one* net.

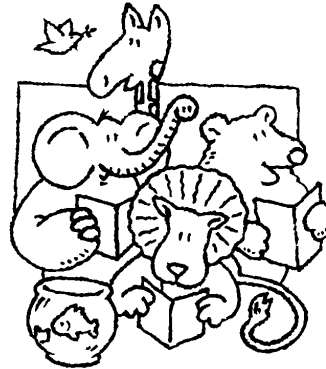
They cast the net and bedlam began. The single net began to break because of the weight of the fish and Simon called for help quickly. When the fish were emptied out of the net, the single boat was in danger of sinking also! Finally, after much work, the calm was restored.

Peter and the others were astonished. They had seen a miracle! They were *already acquainted* with Jesus, but now their eyes were opened and they *believed* that this man wasn’t just a spiritual man or extremely good teacher—He was truly holy! This insight led Peter to fall on his knees before Jesus, and confess that he was a sinner. Jesus reassured them and said, “Don’t be afraid; from now on you will catch men.”

Peter’s life and the lives of those that witnessed this miracle would never be the same. What had started out as a small gesture ended in life-altering conversions. They left their homes and jobs to follow Jesus and give full, life-time service.

God asks us to trust Him and obey His instructions. Half-hearted actions will never express strong commitment and trust. God requires our whole heart, not just a piece. □

Simple as 1,2,3...



Additional Reading for Teacher Study

Matthew 6:19-34

Luke 16:13

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Are You Listening?

After you read or tell the story you may ask the following questions:

1. What was Jesus doing the morning Peter, Andrew, James, and John were washing their nets?—*PREACHING*
2. Had the fishermen caught any fish during the night?—*NO*
3. Did Peter refuse Jesus when He asked him to go fishing again?—*NO*
4. Did Peter and the other men expect to catch anything?—*NO*
5. *True or False:* Peter first took only one boat and one net—*YES*
6. *True or False:* Peter didn’t need any help to get the fish into the boat—*FALSE*
7. *True or False:* The fisherman became “fishers of men”—*TRUE*

Word Definitions

These definitions were taken from *Webster’s New World Dictionary*:

- **Commit**—to make a promise to do something
- **Master**—an esteemed religious leader

SKY Story Time

Come Peter, Let's Go Fishin'

Everywhere Jesus went, a large crowd would gather. This day was no different than previous days as Jesus stood by the Lake of Gennesaret. As Jesus stood on the shore with people crowding around Him, He saw two empty boats at anchor near the shore. They rocked gently in the water off the shore.

Four fishermen—Peter, Andrew, James and John—were standing nearby in the water along the shore washing their nets. The four fishermen had worked hard all night and did not catch a single fish. They were very tired and discouraged. The men planned to go home and rest after they washed and hung the nets up to dry.

While they worked, the men watched the crowd grow larger as Jesus taught the people. The men knew Jesus, and had heard of the many people He had healed. They knew He was a man of God. They just didn't realize He was the prophesied Holy One of God.

Jesus asked if he could stand in one of their boats to speak to the people.

They were happy to let Jesus use one of the boats.

Peter, Let's Go Fishin'

After Jesus was through speaking, He turned to Simon Peter and said, "Launch out into

the deep and let down your NETS for a catch."

Peter looked at his brother Andrew, but answered respectfully, "MASTER, we have toiled all night and caught nothing. But, because YOU ask me I will let down the net." It was a gesture he was willing to do out of respect for Jesus. But he was only going to take ONE boat out and let down ONE net. They did not expect to catch any fish.

When they got to deep water Simon and Andrew slipped the net off the side of the boat down into the water. The net spread out and began to gather fish. Peter started pulling the net back into the boat, and as he began to pull he realized he couldn't do it by himself. His arms felt like they were about to be pulled off his body! The net was so full of fish that it was breaking in places and letting fish swim away! Andrew rushed to help Peter with the net.

Peter yelled to his partners to "Hurry! Come help me! The net is beginning to break!" James and John hurried to help Peter and Andrew. There were so many fish that the boat was about to sink. The men had to divide the fish between the TWO boats!

Everyone was astonished by this amazing event. They were awed and humbled by the authori-

ty they recognized in Jesus. While Peter did know Jesus, he now deeply understood what his own eyes had just seen.

It dawned on Peter that this was not just a righteous man—this was an incredible man. This truly was the Holy One of Israel!

The men must have been speechless. Peter fell to his knees in front of Jesus and said, “Go away from me Lord; I am a sinful man!” Peter knew he was too small to be important compared to this amazing man, Jesus.

It is a wonderful thing to see the grace and humility of Jesus. He didn’t reproach and criticize them because of their partial obedience. He knew they had done so in ignorance. They had learned an important lesson that would change their lives forever.

He calmly told them, “Don’t be afraid; from now on you will catch men.”

The fishermen brought their boats to the land and followed Jesus. They followed Him throughout His ministry on this earth and followed Him until the end of their own lives.

They spread the net of the good news about the kingdom of God, and this good news enfolds people into the net until this day.

Let’s Talk About It

Peter, James, and John were experienced fishermen. They knew that the best time to fish was at night in shallow waters. Yet they had fished all night and caught nothing. Now Jesus tells

Peter to go out to the deep water and put down his nets. Did Peter completely obey? No, he only took out one boat and put down one net. When the fish filled the boats, do you think they were glad they had obeyed Jesus? Although, at the time, Jesus’ request seemed unreasonable, the reward was great.

Do you think these men later caught more people in the nets of God’s good news than they did on this special day?

The End

Crafty Idea

Lay a piece of paper in front of you. Fold it in half horizontally to make a rectangle. With the fold at the top, bend down the two outer corners of the rectangle, until the points meet. The paper should be in the shape of a triangle, with a slim rectangular base.

Fold one side of the bottom edge up along the base of the triangle shape. Turn the boat over. Repeat on the other side.

Fold the top two inches of the triangle down and tuck under one side. Then, pull the sides apart gently at the sides to make the boat.

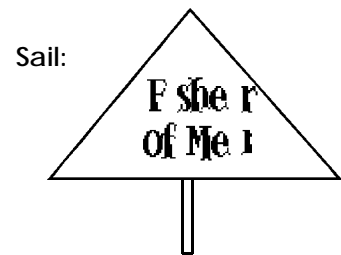
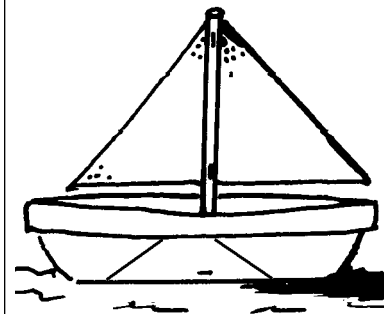
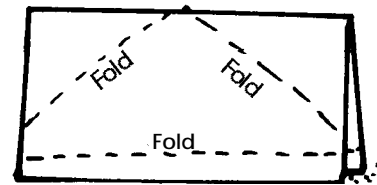
Let your students decorate the boat with crayons or markers.

Insert a straw in the center of boat and staple.

Cut out a triangular shaped sail, and have the student write on it “Fishers of men.” Staple the sail to the straw “mast” at the top and bottom of the sail. □

Crafty Ideas

Let’s Go Fishing!



Sail:

Materials To Use:

- Sets of 8 1/2 x 11 paper.
- Crayons or markers
- straw — one for each boat
- staples