



Filling the Nets

Lesson Aim: To see how Jesus' miracles were intended to help individuals and groups trust and follow Him.

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The God of Wonders

THE WORD

Bible Story: Luke 5:1-11

What He has done: Jesus filled the nets to call His followers.

Key Verse: Luke 5:11

THE WAY

Christ Connection: Colossians 1:16-17

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible...
 all things were created by Him and for Him.

He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together." Colossians 1:16-17

Unit 1: Jesus as the God of Wonders			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
1	Jesus' First Miracle, John 2:3-11	Jesus turned water into wine at the wedding in Cana.	To know Jesus did miracles to reveal His glory and bring people to put their faith in Him.
2	Filling the Nets, Luke 5:1-11	Jesus filled the nets to call His followers.	To see how Jesus' miracles were intended to help individuals and groups trust and follow Him.
3	Calming the Storm, Mark 4:35-41	Jesus calmed the wind and waves.	To trust Jesus can calm the storms in our lives and to obey Him as the wind and the waves did.
4	Healing Jairus' Daughter, Luke 8:40-42, 49-56	Jesus healed a 12-year-old girl.	To trust God's choice in healing us right away, along the way, or someday.
5	Feeding the Five Thousand, John 6:3-13	Jesus fed five thousand people with five small loaves and two small fish.	To see how God calls and includes us in His plan to distribute provisions and resources.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Psalm 78:1-7. Please join us in praying "Thank You, Lord, for filling the nets and calling the fishermen. As their teachers, use us in class to help the children trust and follow You. Amen."



**THE WORSHIP
THE WORD &
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Meet & Greet	None
		Game: Fill the Nets	Two large containers, non-helium balloons, marker, floor tape or two bed sheets
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse Song: "For by Him" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "I Praise You" "Praise the Lord, O My Soul" "To Him Who Sits on the Throne" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "All Things Bright and Beautiful" "How Great Thou Art" Additional Song Collection Suggestions: Shout Praises! Kids Gospel Songs 4 Worship KIDS - Awesome God
		Worship Scripture Reading: Psalm 95:5-6	Bible
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Lesson 2 Bonzai Brothers script or storybook
THE WORD	Up to 10	Read the Word: Luke 5:1-11	Map—Sea of Galilee & Israel, Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster, highlighters
THE WAY	Up to 25	Discussion	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster, highlighters
		Christ Connection: Colossians 1:16-17	
		Golden Bowl	
	Final 5	Final Five Minutes	Treasure Treat—Photograph of the Sea of Galilee, Daily Way, paper, pencils, crayons or markers, Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse Song "For by Him," CD player
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Snack: Fish Food	Fish-shaped crackers
	Up to 10	Game: Fish in the Net	None
	Up to 10	Craft: Sandy Fish Plates	Paper plates, colored sand, white glue, plastic spoons, markers and crayons, cotton swabs or sponge bits, netting or tulle
	Up to 5	Bible Memory Verse Activity: The Wave	Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse poster or Bible
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Musical Chairs	Chairs, Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse Song "For by Him," CD player
	Up to 5	Bible Timeline Review	Timeline

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.
Meet & Greet Question: How big was the biggest fish you have ever seen?

GAME: FILL THE NETS

Purpose: Children sit in two boats and help each other fill nets with fish as the fishermen did when Jesus provided the miraculous catch.

Supplies: Two large containers (laundry basket, large box or trash can), non-helium balloons, marker, floor tape or two bed sheets

Prepare: Create outlines of two boats with floor tape or two bed sheets. Inflate many balloons; enough to fill both containers. Use the marker to draw fish eyes and fish lips on each balloon to create a fish. Place the balloon fish on the ground between the two boat outlines. Place a container as a net to catch fish approximately 2 feet from the edge of each boat.

Optional: Decorate the container with netting to more resemble an actual fisherman's net.

Have you ever been fishing? Many people love to go fishing. Some people go fishing for fun and other people go fishing because it is their job to catch fish as food. Fishing was a hard job in Bible times. The fishermen had to spend many hours on wooden boats in the middle of the lake throwing their large nets over the side. They would drag and pull in the nets to catch as many fish as possible. Let's pretend we are fishing. Let's see how many fish your fishing crew can work together to catch in your team's net!

Directions:

1. Divide children into two fishing crews. Each crew sits in its own boat.
2. On your signal, each crew works together to fill their net with balloon fish.
3. All balloon fish should be bounced, one at a time, to every crew partner in the boats before it can be tossed into the crew's net.
4. The game ends when all of the fish are in the nets.
5. The goal is to be the crew with most fish in their team's net.

Did you know some of Jesus' disciples were fishermen? It was their job to catch fish. One day, Jesus did an amazing miracle that helped them catch fish. Then, Jesus asked them to follow Him and be "catchers of men" instead of catchers of fish. Let's find out about Jesus' miracle and how we can fish for people, too!



Jesus as the God of Wonders

THE WORSHIP

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play music as children move to the designated area.



Read Worship Scripture: Psalm 95:5-6.



Sing Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse Song, "For by Him." You may also choose to sing songs that focus on the God of Wonders.

Today, we worship Jesus as the God of Wonders. Wonders are miracles. Let's take time now to praise Him for all the miracles He has performed, including all of the things He has created. One of the things He has created is the sea and all the creatures in it. Throughout time, He has performed miracles on the sea that have helped others follow Him. As our Bible Memory Verse says, they were created by Him and for Him!

Let's praise Him for the way His miracles help us trust Him and follow Him. The offerings we give to the church help people follow Jesus. Sing: "Follow Me" as the offering is collected.



Perform Bonzai Brothers script or read storybook: God of Wonders Unit 1, Lesson 2.



Jesus fills the nets with fish

THE WORD

Teacher Tip: As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write his or her name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word; knowing God is my goal."

Last time, we learned about Jesus' first miracle. Who remembers what miracle Jesus performed at the wedding? (He changed the water into wine.) Jesus did his first miracle to show He is God. Today, we will hear about a miracle Jesus performed in the Sea of Galilee. If a map is available, point to the Sea of Galilee located in Israel.

This miracle took place on the shore of Lake Gennesaret, which is also known as the Sea of Galilee. One of the fishermen was named Simon Peter. Let's check out what happened in this miracle.



Let's play Find It First! Bring out your Bible; keep it right in front of you. Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals the Bible Story Scripture reference: Luke 5:1-11. **Let's see who can Find It First. Ready? Set? Go!** Children race to find it first. The winner helps others find it. **Let's highlight our Key Verse: Luke 5:11.**

Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts and minds to His Word today. Who would like to pray that for us? Child prays aloud. Be seated.

Listen carefully as we read how Jesus filled the nets with fish. Read Luke 5:1-11.



We can trust and follow Jesus

THE WAY

Why did the people crowd around Jesus? (To hear Him teach about God's Word.) **Jesus sat down in Simon Peter's boat so that the crowd on shore could hear and see Him better.**

Why did Simon Peter and the other fishermen think there would be no fish that day? (They had fished all night and caught nothing.) **Why did Simon Peter agree to put his net out one more time?** (Jesus told him to.) **Peter obeyed Jesus even though he didn't think there were any fish. Is there something the Bible says to do that doesn't seem to make sense to you?** (Children respond.) **If so, how can Simon Peter's example help you obey God?** (Children respond.)

Why do you think Jesus chose a miracle about fish to convince fishermen to follow Him? (Children respond.) **The fishermen were experts on fishing. They knew it would be impossible to fill their nets after they had caught no fish all night long. When they saw the nets filled with fish, they knew this was a true miracle from God. Have you ever seen a miracle that was special for your family or friends?** (Children respond.) **If so, how did it help you trust God?** (Children respond.)

What did Simon Peter do and say to Jesus when the nets filled with fish? (He fell down and said, "Go away from me Lord. I am a sinful man.") **How did falling down before Jesus and admitting he was a sinner show Simon Peter believed Jesus was God?** (He treated Jesus like God by worshiping and admitting his sins to Jesus.)

What did Jesus say when Simon Peter did this? ("Do not be afraid. Follow Me.") **What did the fishermen do when Jesus told them to follow Him?** (They left everything and followed Jesus.) **If Jesus asked you to follow Him, could you leave everything you have and follow Him?** (Children respond.) **How might seeing a miracle give you the courage to trust Jesus and follow Him as the fishermen did?** (Children respond.)

Fishermen bring fish into their nets. What do you think Jesus meant when He said they would "catch men?" (Instead of bringing fish into their nets, they would be bringing people to Jesus.)



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

Thousands of years before Jesus filled the nets with fish, He filled the sea with fish. That was a miracle, too. Jesus was with God in the beginning. One of the many reasons He created the fish was for His use in the miracle that helped the fishermen trust and follow Him. Everything was created by Him and for Him. Listen as we read about that.



FIND IT FIRST > Everyone, place your Bible closed on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: Colossians 1:16-17. **Let's see who can Find It First! Ready? Set? Go! Find it and highlight it.** Read Colossians 1:16-17.

Jesus created the fish and then used fish to fill the fishing nets, so the fishermen would see the miracle and trust Jesus enough to follow Him.

THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

GOLDEN BOWL

Teacher Tip: Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

Revelation 5:8 says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I will lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then, we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.

Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You ____, ____, ____. Read names in Golden Bowl.

Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

TREASURE TREAT: Today, your Treasure Treat is a photograph of the place where Jesus did this miracle. It's called the Sea of Galilee or Lake Gennesaret. Show it to your family and tell them about the nets full of fish. Keep this photograph in a special place. We'll be discovering many other miracles that happened on or near the Sea of Galilee.

DAILY WAY CHALLENGE: Did anyone bring in a completed Daily Way from last time? Praise or reward those who return a Daily Way. Distribute Lesson 2 Daily Way 5-day Bible study. **Complete this week's Daily Way at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible. Join the Daily Way Challenge by returning your completed Daily Way.**

Teacher Tip: Collect Daily Ways in a basket or other container and periodically reward children as a group for completing the challenge.

OFFERING OF ART: Until it is time to be dismissed, let's make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of the fishermen with their nets full of fish. The Offering of Art can be finished at home or given as an offering for the teacher to display.

PRAYER REQUESTS: As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG: Play the Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse Song, "For by Him," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SNACK: FISH FOOD

Purpose: Children will eat a snack while discussing Jesus' fish-catching miracle.

Snack Suggestion: Fish-shaped crackers

What miracle did Jesus do in today's story? (He caused the fishermen to catch lots of fish even though they had not caught fish all night.) **Can you imagine how Peter, James and John felt after they caught all of those fish? Let's eat a fish snack and talk about what it would have been like to see Jesus perform this miracle.**

Directions:

1. Serve the snack and drink.
2. Child prays to thank God for the snack.
3. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: **"What would you have done if you had seen Jesus cause the fishermen to catch all those fish?"**

GAME: FISH IN THE NET

Purpose: For children to work together to catch "fish" as they consider how they can work with Jesus to capture people's desire for a Savior.

Supplies: None

Let's play a fishing game! Pretend Jesus just told Peter, James and John to go catch fish. How many fish can they catch during Jesus' miracle?

Directions:

1. Choose three children to be Peter, James and John. All other children are Fish.
2. Peter, James and John hold hands to become a net. Together, they chase and "catch" the Fish by tagging (lightly touching) them.
3. When "caught," the Fish joins the net and helps catch remaining Fish by holding holds hands with Peter, James and John and other caught fish. Peter, James or John must remain at each end of the net. Only Peter, James and John can tag Fish, but the entire net can be used to corner any remaining fish.
4. Play again as time allows; children take turns as Peter, James and John.

Jesus helped Peter, James and John fill their nets with fish! What did Peter do when he saw all of the fish Jesus caused them to catch? (Worshipped Jesus and admitted he was a sinner.) **Peter, James and John were amazed by Jesus' miracle. When Jesus asked, they left everything to follow Him. What did He say they would get to do?** (Be catchers of men.) **That means they would get to help more people get to know Jesus.**

GOT TIME? *continued...*

CRAFT: SANDY FISH PLATES

Purpose: Children will decorate a plate with a sand art picture of the fish in the disciples' nets.

Supplies: Paper plates, colored sand, white glue, plastic spoons, markers and crayons, cotton swabs or sponge bits, netting or tulle

Prepare: Cut netting into pieces the size of the paper plates. Display: **What a Catch! Luke 5:1-11.** To make colored sand, place sand in a bowl. Fill bowl with water until sand is just covered. Add a generous amount of desired food coloring. Stir. Let sand sit until desired color is reached. Drain excess water and place sand on paper towels to dry.

Optional: Before class, draw or copy the underwater scene onto the plate.

What miracle did Jesus do for Peter, James and John? (Caused them to catch a heavy load of fish.) **Jesus called them to follow Him. What did Jesus tell Peter, James and John they could catch if they followed Him?** (People.) **We can follow Jesus, too! We can catch people's attention for Jesus by telling them about His miracles. Let's make plates to remember how Jesus filled the nets. You may display your plate to tell people about this miracle.**

Directions:

1. Write the following title at the top of the paper plate: **What A Catch! Luke 5:1-11.**
2. Draw an underwater fish scene with a pencil or markers.
3. Use crayons or markers to color any part of the picture you do not plan to cover with sand.
4. Choose your first sand color. Use a cotton swab to coat the desired area with glue.
5. Sprinkle colored sand onto the glue using the spoon.
6. Shake off the extra sand onto a separate paper plate. It can be reused if colors are not mixed.
7. Repeat with the other colors of sand.
8. Glue (or tape) the netting over your picture. Lay the plate flat until dry.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible...
all things were created by Him and for Him.

He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together." Colossians 1:16-17

GAME: THE WAVE

Purpose: Children memorize the Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse poster or Bible

Jesus was with God in the very beginning. Together, they created everything in heaven and on the earth. As we say our Bible Memory Verse together, think about something amazing you have seen. Remember, God created everything and He created you, too!

Directions:

1. Assign one phrase from Colossians 1:16-17 to each child or group.
2. As helper directs, each child/group quickly stands, says assigned phrase while raising both hands up to the sky, then down to thighs and sits down.
3. Repeat three times going faster each time.

GAME: MUSICAL CHAIRS

Purpose: Children memorize and discuss the Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Chairs, Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse Song "For by Him," CD player, Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse poster or Bible

Prepare: Set chairs (one for every child) back-to-back in a row.

Teacher Tip: In this version of musical chairs, no chairs are removed. All children remain in the game. Encourage quick listening and affirm those who are the first to hear the music stop and be seated.

Did you know Jesus created you? That's what the Bible says. Jesus was with God in the beginning and all things were created by Him and for Him. That's what our Bible Memory Verse is all about. Let's say it together to learn more about Jesus. Read Colossians 1:16-17 from the Bible or recite from the Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse poster.

Directions:

1. Play or sing the Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse Song: "For by Him."
2. Children sing the song and walk around the chairs in a line.
3. Stop the music. Children find the nearest chair and sit immediately.
4. Play again. Each time you play, stop the song in a different spot and ask the children to finish singing the next few words or phrase.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW

God of Wonders Part One studies the miracles of Jesus, which took place during His public ministry (Circa 30-33 A.D.). This list is not chronological, as the Bible does not give a definitive order of the miracles. Review recent Bible stories to see the continuing story of who God is and what He has done.

Changing Water into Wine (Circa 30-33 A.D.) Jesus performed the first miracle of His public ministry at a wedding in Cana. **What was it?** (Jesus changed the water into wine.) **Who asked for Jesus' help?** (His mother, Mary.) **Who assisted Jesus in this miracle?** (The servants.)

Filling the Nets (Circa 30-33 A.D.) The fishermen fished all night but caught no fish. **What happened when Peter obeyed Jesus by putting the nets out one more time?** (They filled with fish.) **What did the fishermen do when Jesus told them to follow Him?** (They left everything and followed Jesus.)

How to create a Bible Timeline for the Miracles of Jesus:

1. Print each footprint on sturdy paper.
2. Choose a wall or other visible location to display the timeline.
3. Before each lesson, add the footprint for that lesson to the Bible Timeline using the list below. Children can follow in Jesus' footsteps as they review past lessons.
4. To review, ask the corresponding questions as you point to the associated footprint.

The Miracles of Jesus: (Circa 30-33 A.D.) Changing Water into Wine > Filling the Nets > Calming the Storm > Healing Jairus' Daughter > Feeding the Five Thousand > Healing the Centurion's Servant > Healing the Paralyzed Man > Healing the Sick Woman > Healing the Deaf and Mute Man > Healing the Ten Men > Banishing an Evil Spirit > Saving the Official's Son > Walking on Water > Giving Sight to the Man Born Blind > Raising Lazarus > Riding into Jerusalem > The Miracle of Easter > Appearing to the Disciples > Appearing to Thomas > Appearing on the Shore > Ascending into Heaven