



Filling the Nets

Lesson Aim: To understand that witnessing a miracle can inspire others to follow Jesus.

THE WORSHIP

Who God Is: The God of Wonders

THE WORD

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

Scripture Focus: Luke 5:1-11; Matthew 28:16-20 **Key Verse:** Luke 5:11

Christ Connection: Isaiah 42:5-6

THE WAY

The Big Question: What might following Jesus look like in our life?

UNIT 1 FOCUS VERSE

"Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen." Ephesians 3:20-21

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 recognize miracles of transformation and understand God's purpose for them.
2	Filling the Nets, Luke 5:1-11; Matthew 28:16-20	Jesus filled the nets to call His followers.	To understand that witnessing a miracle can inspire others to follow Jesus.
3	Calming the Storm, Mark 4:35-41; Matthew 28:18	Jesus calmed the wind and waves.	To trust in God's power and authority during the storms of our lives.
4	Healing Jairus' Daughter, Luke 8:40-42, 49-56; Hebrews 4:16	Jesus healed a 12-year old girl.	To trust God's ability and desire to heal us physically, emotionally, and spiritually.
5	Feeding the Five Thousand, John 6:1-15	Jesus fed 5,000 people with 5 small loaves of bread and 2 fish.	To see how God includes and expects us to participate in His miracles.

LEADER'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. Use me to inspire the students to trust and follow You. Amen."

Lesson Aims are based on reflecting God's character as we participate in His actions to, for, and in the world.

Take Home Elements: The Journal Entry, Action Card, and Family Discussion Card may be sent home to encourage students to reflect on the lesson. The Journal Entry is an in-depth personal study. The Action Card is a visual reminder of the Bible story, God's action, and how we can join into that action. The Family Discussion Card gives parents and guardians a way to engage their students in what they are learning.

Leader's Tip: For larger gatherings, teach THE WELCOME, THE WORSHIP, and THE WORD in a large group setting and divide into small groups for discussion with THE WAY.



Getting started

THE WELCOME

Suggestion: Choose a game that focuses on ideas such as fish, nets, fishing boats, or following someone.

ACTIVITY OPTION 1: WHO'S THE LEADER?

Purpose: To guess who the leader is while watching the player's movements.

Supplies: None

Directions:

1. Students sit in a circle.
2. Choose one student to be the "Investigator." That person must leave the room.
3. You may lead the motions the first time or choose a student in the circle to be the Leader.
4. The Leader introduces simple arm and body movements (e.g. snapping fingers, patting head, clapping hands) that everyone follows. Keep up a consistent stream of motion, changing occasionally while the rest of the group follows along. The goal is to keep the Investigator from seeing who the Leader is.
5. Bring the Investigator back in the room and have him/her stand in the middle of the circle.
6. The Investigator stands in the middle of the circle, observes the group, and makes three guesses to try to figure out who the Leader is.
7. Choose a new Investigator and a new Leader and play as long as you like or until each person has a turn in one of the roles.

ACTIVITY OPTION 2: GONE FISHING

Purpose: To introduce the miracle of Jesus filling the nets with fish.

Supplies: Handkerchief or scarf

Directions:

1. Students stand in a circle, leaving an arm's length of space between each student.
2. Choose one student to be the Fisherman.
3. The Fisherman walks around the outside of the circle with the handkerchief in his or her hand. After walking around the circle one or two times, the Fisherman drops the handkerchief quietly behind one student (the Fish) and keeps walking. The goal is to get around the circle before the Fish discovers the handkerchief.
 - If the Fish does not notice the handkerchief and the Fisherman gets all the way around the circle and tags the Fish, the Fish becomes a Dead Fish and stands in the middle of the circle.
 - If the Fish discovers the handkerchief, he/she chases the Fisherman around the circle.
 - If the Fisherman is tagged before he/she makes it back to the spot the Fish was in, the game continues with the same Fisherman.
 - If the Fisherman makes it back to the Fish's spot before being tagged, the Fish becomes a Dead Fish, stands in the middle of the circle, and chooses the next Fisherman.
 - A Dead Fish can be revived in two ways:
 - By snatching the handkerchief from behind another Fish.
 - By being replaced by another Dead Fish.
4. Play as long as you like.



Jesus as the God of Wonders

THE WORSHIP

Note to Leader: The instructions below are suggestions only. Adapt this time of worship to suit your environment, resources, and cultural expression. Encourage students to broaden their view of corporate worship by including a variety of expressions such as group prayer, group praise, silent meditation, singing, listening to music, reading scripture, collecting an offering, drama, dance, visual arts, and/or a physical exploration of nature or neighborhoods.

Ideas for Optional Visuals: _____

Today, we worship the Jesus as the God of Wonders. Wonders are miracles. Let's take time now to praise God for all the miracles He has performed, including all the things He has created. God created the sea and all the creatures in it and throughout time, He has performed miracles on the sea that have helped others follow Him. Let's praise Him for the ways His miracles help us trust and follow Him.

Read the Unit 1 Focus Verse: Ephesians 3:20-21.



Sing worship songs and guide students to focus on God's miracles.



Read Psalm 95:5-6.



Invite students to offer sentences of praise to God by completing the following sentence:
"Lord, we worship You for _____."



Jesus fills the nets with fish

THE WORD Presentation

Note to Leader: Adapt this segment to your setting (Sunday School class, youth group, multi-age gathering, youth camp, retreat, etc.). In some settings, you may choose to have a student read the scripture aloud, and then have the leader, in his or her own words, briefly communicate the Teaching Points, the Christ Connection, and the Big Question. In other settings, a teacher, pastor, or other experienced speaker may present a lecture or extended message that includes those same elements.

Ideas for Optional Visuals:

You may choose to include an object lesson, video clip, drama, dance, song, or work of art to illustrate the teaching points.

Option 1: _____

Option 2: _____



TEACHING POINTS

Consider current culture and influences impacting your students, and adjust the teaching accordingly.

Read the suggested scripture and communicate each of the points noted.

Last time, we learned about the miracle Jesus performed at a wedding in Cana by turning water into wine. Crowds were following Jesus to hear Him teach and to see Him perform miraculous healings. They were bringing their loved ones who were sick for healing. Today's story took place on Lake Gennesaret, which is also known as the Sea of Galilee. This story is also found in Matthew 4:18–22 and Mark 1:16–20.

The leader or a student reads Luke 5:1–11.

- This miracle would have been most powerful and personal to the fishermen who had been fishing all night. Jesus' miracles then and now are not performed randomly. They are inexplicable events that are powerful and personal to the eyewitnesses.
- Peter was doubtful about catching any fish, but he obeyed Jesus. In the same way, Jesus can do miracles through us even when we have our doubts. Using people who are unsure or doubtful to accomplish great things is part of the miracle!
- Many of Jesus' miracles were in response to a problem such as the family running out of wine at the wedding or people who were in need of healing. This miracle was different. Even though the fishermen had not had a successful night of fishing, they hadn't asked Jesus for help. This miracle may best be described as a sign for His disciples of His power and authority.
- Simon Peter reacted by kneeling and confessing his sin. He believed Jesus was the Lord. He did not see himself as worthy of being in the Lord's presence, yet Jesus wanted him to follow Him.
- Verse 10 says Jesus told Simon "from now on you will fish for people." Jesus wanted Simon, the fisherman, to know that his new focus would be sharing the good news with people so they might follow Jesus.
- For Peter, James, and John, fishing was not a sport. They depended on their boats and nets to catch fish for their families to eat and to sell for profit. Seeing the fishermen leave their boats, nets, and this miracle catch to follow Jesus must have surprised and amazed their families, the crowd, and the people of Gennesaret.

THE WORD Presentation *continued*

- Jesus' miracles are purposeful. By filling the nets with fish, the fishermen came to believe in Jesus and followed Him.
- Jesus is the God of Wonders who created the universe, yet He cares about the details of our lives. He used a miracle the people would understand so that they might believe in Him.
- Jesus personally invites each of us to follow Him. Just as He did with Simon Peter, Jesus calls us each in a special way and makes certain conversations, events, and sometimes miracles happen so we might believe and follow Him.
- After hearing of Jesus' other miracles, learning from His teachings, and seeing the miracle catch of fish, Simon Peter knew Jesus was Lord. Perhaps that made it easier for the fishermen to trust and follow Jesus. In the same way, when we know that the One who is sending us out to all the nations has full authority over heaven and earth, it is easier for us to trust His plan for our lives and easier to trust that we can do what He has called us to do!
- Jesus could have had the fish miraculously appear on the beach, but He chose to send the fishermen out in their boats to catch the fish. This is a picture of how Jesus uses people to make disciples; Jesus uses us to build His kingdom.

The leader or a student reads Matthew 28:16-20.

- It is through sending everyday people to go and make disciples that Jesus chooses to help others believe and follow Him. What an honor for us to be sent by Jesus Himself.



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

In the whole story of God, what's the connection between this New Testament story and the Old Testament?

- Thousands of years before Jesus filled the nets with fish, He filled the sea with fish. Everything was created by Him and for Him. Listen to what He does as we follow Him.

The leader or a student reads aloud Isaiah 42:5-6.

- The Lord promised to lead us. When you follow Jesus, He is the one who will do great things with your life. It is not something you will do yourself. It is His plan and He will accomplish it.



THE BIG QUESTION

Introduce and elaborate on this question. Students will answer it in their discussion group.

What might following Jesus look like in your life?



THE WAY Discussion

Trusting and following



GETTING STARTED Display and review the Discussion Group Covenant below:

**We will include everyone here, treating one another with respect and kindness.
We will encourage everyone here to express their thoughts and opposing views.**

Every student shares his or her best experience or greatest challenge of the past week.



READ IT AGAIN

Read Luke 5:1-11; Matthew 28:16-20 silently or aloud.

Why might Jesus' instruction to go fishing again seem like a strange request?

Why do you think Simon Peter obeyed Jesus and let down the nets, even though it didn't make sense to him?

What did Jesus mean in verse 10 when He said they would be "fishing for people"?

These fishermen just experienced a miracle catch, but they were willing to walk away from the fish, their boats, and their jobs to follow Jesus. What did they have to believe in order to make that decision?



THE BIG QUESTION Invite students to share their answers.

What might following Jesus look like in your life?



TAKE ACTION Lead students in a discussion using the questions below.

Jesus' miracle about fish convinced the fishermen to follow Him. How might seeing a miracle give you the courage to trust Jesus and follow Him?

Have you ever seen a miracle that was especially meaningful to you, your family, or your friends?

Today's story tells us how the fishermen came to believe and follow Jesus. Would any of you like to share your own story of how you came to believe and follow Jesus?

Ask each student to complete this sentence: **God calls us to follow Jesus SO THAT others might _____.**



PRAY Share prayer requests and answered prayers.

Have students pray with partners, or have the whole group pray together.



FINAL FIVE MINUTES When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

Give each student Action Card #2 and Journal Entry #2. **Take home today's Action Card as a reminder of how we can join in what God is doing. Use the Journal Entry as your personal devotional study. Complete your Journal Entries at home and keep them together in a notebook or in your Bible.** Optional: Provide parent or guardian with Family Discussion Card #2.

GOD OF WONDERS

JOURNAL ENTRY #2

Filling the Nets

Luke 5:1-11; Matthew 28:16-20

WHAT DOES IT SAY?

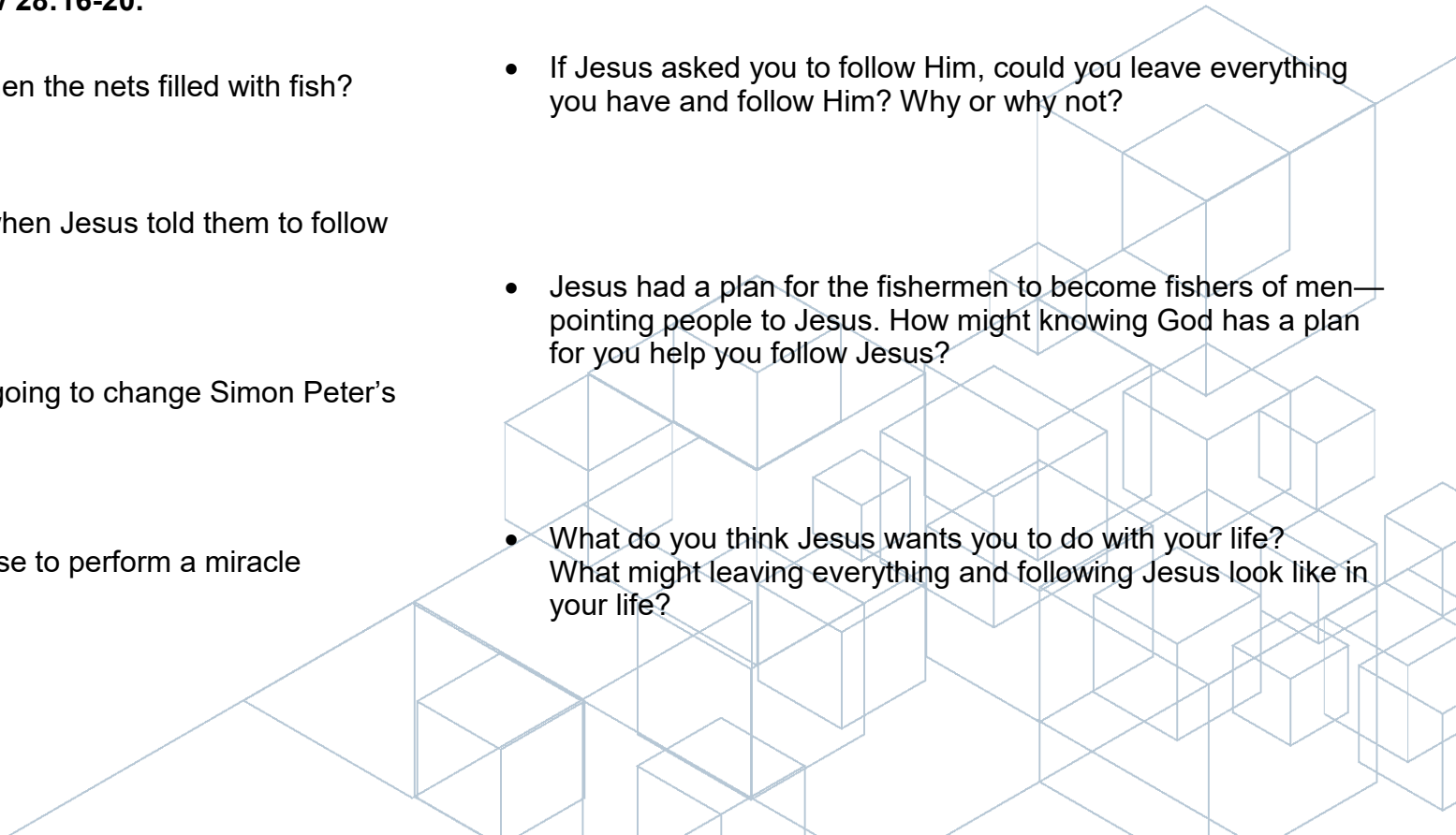
- **Pray!!!** Ask the Holy Spirit to show you what He wants you to learn from this passage.
- **Read Luke 5:1-11; Matthew 28:16-20.**
- What did Simon Peter do when the nets filled with fish?
- What did the fishermen do when Jesus told them to follow Him?
- How did Jesus say He was going to change Simon Peter's life?
- Why do you think Jesus chose to perform a miracle connected to fishing?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- How was the miraculous catch a sign of what the disciples would do in the future?

WHAT CAN I DO?

- Jesus chose a miracle about fish to convince fishermen to follow Him. This miracle was more meaningful because it was connected to something they knew. Have you ever seen a miracle that was especially meaningful for you?
- If Jesus asked you to follow Him, could you leave everything you have and follow Him? Why or why not?
- Jesus had a plan for the fishermen to become fishers of men—pointing people to Jesus. How might knowing God has a plan for you help you follow Jesus?
- What do you think Jesus wants you to do with your life? What might leaving everything and following Jesus look like in your life?



Action Card #2/GOW

FILLING THE NETS

LUKE 5:1-11; MATTHEW 28:16-20

JESUS FILLED THE NETS WITH FISH
TO CALL HIS FOLLOWERS.

WE ARE CALLED TO *FOLLOW JESUS*.

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Family Discussion #2/GOW

FILLING THE NETS

READ LUKE 5:1-11; MATTHEW 28:16-20.

WHAT DID JESUS CALL THE FISHERMEN TO DO?

WHAT MIGHT **FOLLOWING JESUS**
LOOK LIKE IN YOUR LIFE?

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