FOLLOWING JESUS VBS · DAY 1 · GRADES 4-6

Student Lesson

Jesus Calls Me: Follow Me! | Jesus Calls the Fishermen (Luke 5:1-11; Matthew 4:18-22; John 1:43-51)

Bible reading: Luke 5:1-11; Matthew 4:18-22; John 1:43-51

Jesus Calls the Fishermen

The Sea of Galilee (also called the Lake of Gennesaret) was full of fishing boats. Fishermen worked at night, threw large nets into the water, and in the morning washed and mended their nets. It was hard, ordinary work.

One morning a crowd pressed around Jesus to hear the word of God (Luke 5:1). Jesus stepped into Simon Peter's boat, asked him to push out a little, and taught from the boat like it was a pulpit on the water.

Then Jesus gave Peter a strange command: "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch" (Luke 5:4). Peter was the expert fisherman. He had worked all night and caught nothing. Still he answered, "nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net" (Luke 5:5). That is faith: doing what Jesus says because He said it.

The catch was so large that the nets began to break and two boats nearly sank. Peter suddenly saw who Jesus really was. He fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!" (Luke 5:8). Jesus did not send him away. He said, "Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men" (Luke 5:10).

Matthew tells us Jesus said, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19). Peter and Andrew left their nets immediately. James and John left the boat and their father Zebedee (Matthew 4:20-22). Luke says they "forsook all and followed Him" (Luke 5:11).

Jesus did not pick the most famous or impressive men. He called ordinary people who were willing to trust Him. He also called Philip, who brought Nathanael with the words "Come and see" (John 1:43-46), and Matthew the tax collector (Luke 5:27-28). Jesus knows your name, and He is calling you to follow Him too.

> Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."
> **Matthew 4:19 (NKJV)**

Four points to remember

- Jesus calls ordinary people, like fishermen, to follow Him (Matthew 4:18-22).
- Following Jesus means trusting Him even when we do not understand (Luke 5:5).
- Jesus knows each of us by name (John 1:47-48; John 10:27).
- Following Jesus means leaving behind anything that keeps us from Him (Luke 5:11).

Think it through

1. Peter was the expert fisherman. Why do you think he obeyed Jesus anyway?
2. Why did Peter say, “Depart from me”? What did he realize about Jesus?
3. What did the fishermen leave behind? What might Jesus ask you to leave behind?
4. Philip told Nathanael, “Come and see.” Who could you invite to come and see Jesus?

Following Jesus this week: I will follow Jesus by