

5 Days of this Week's Lessons: *"Drop everything and FOLLOW JESUS"*

Jesus chooses us to follow Him.

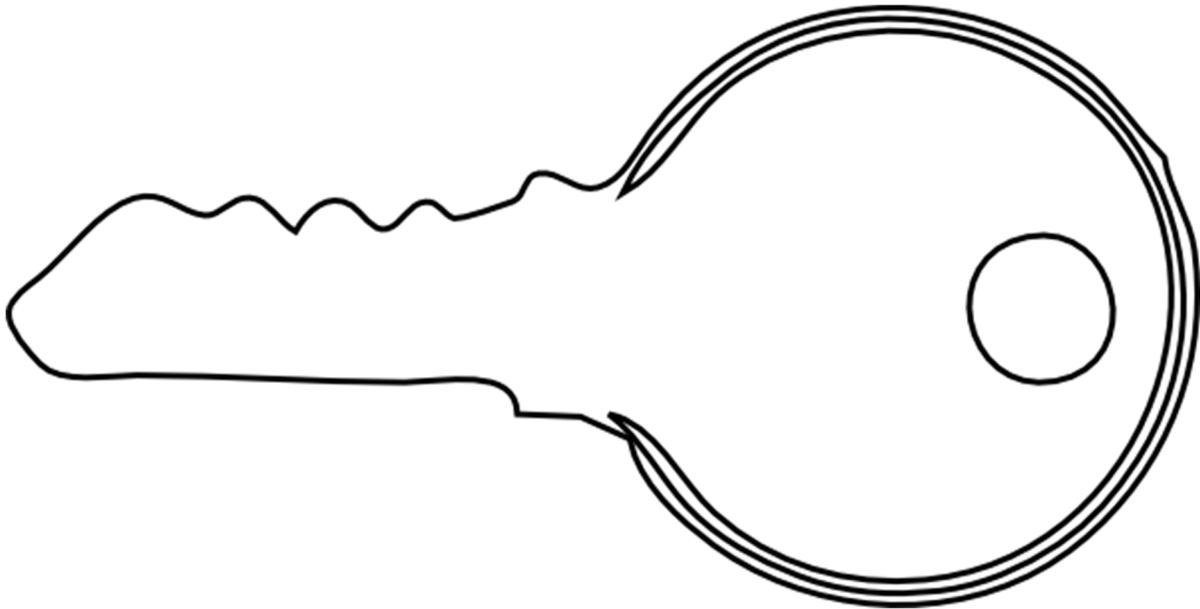
1-24-21

DAY 1 – Key Focus this week is FOLLOWING JESUS

Lesson focus: You are invited to follow Jesus. How did His disciples do it? How do WE do it?

ACTIVITY:

- A. **Print, trace, or cut out this key for each person or one as a family.** Write **FOLLOW** on it. Ask what your family thinks **FOLLOW** means. Have them give examples of times they have followed. *(It means to be guided by or obey.)* Color it. Hang it where the family can see it, and where they can add more keys in the weeks ahead. (3 more)



Read this week's memory verse: *"Come, follow me, "Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." (Mark 1:17 NIV)*

- Discuss what that verse could mean.
- Take turns acting it out and saying it as Jesus would say it.
- Say it LOUDLY. Say it softly. Sing it! Whisper it? Clap the syllables as you say it!

CLOSING: Open Prayer Time: Ask your children **what or who they want to pray for TODAY.** Then pray. **"Jesus...."**

DAY 2 - Family Bible Lesson-

Remember that the “key” word is FOLLOW. It means to be guided by or obey.

Bible Lesson (Mark 1:16-20) Drop Everything and Follow Jesus!

(partially from Ministry-to children.com)

Opening Game Activity – Drop Everything – Most Important Matching Game (5-7 min)

Supplies – index cards, writing utensils

Give each child **4 index cards and something to write with**. On each card, have them **write or draw one item/pet/person they would bring with them if they had to flee their home, and write their own name on the card.**

Collect all of the cards, mix them together, and lay them out face down on the table. Play a matching game to see what everyone thought was important, and what the most popular items are. **A match consists of choosing two cards with the same item, or choosing two cards written by the same person.** (Keep in mind that you may end up with unmatchable cards near the end. Once you reach that point, just turn over each additional card to see what is written.)

Lesson to read together– “Drop Everything”

It’s interesting to see what everyone thought was important, isn’t it?

And I thought it was hard choosing just 4 items. I mean, 4 items! Am I the only one, or did you want to pick more too?

What do you think I should choose? What about all of my family? And what about pictures to remember all of our adventures? What about my wallet with all of my money? Would I need to bring food? Clean clothes? My phone? A blanket? A flashlight...

It’s so hard to think of leaving so many things behind. Part of me feels sad, because I would miss everything. And another part of me feels scared. What if I needed something that I left? What if it got really cold and I didn’t have anything to keep me warm?

Thankfully, we don’t have to make those choices right now, but in today’s Bible story there are some people who left EVERYTHING behind to follow Jesus. I mean EVERYTHING. And speaking of EVERYTHING – every time you hear “EVERYTHING” I need you to make a surprised or shocked face. Let’s see if you can listen well enough to catch them all. Ready?

Right after Jesus was baptized He began his ministry, and He chose some men to come with Him as He traveled and preached. There were 12 of them, and **we know those men as the 12 disciples or the 12 apostles.**

You might think these guys were special somehow; like maybe they had EVERYTHING in the Bible memorized, or they spent more time praying than sleeping, but the truth is, **they were just regular guys just like us.** They sinned just like we do, they weren’t

perfect, and they didn't do anything to deserve traveling with Jesus and becoming one of His disciples. But they did do one thing that made them kind of special; they dropped EVERYTHING.

Read aloud with your child, or have them read MARK 1:16-20

¹⁶ As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." ¹⁸ At once they left their nets and followed him.

¹⁹ When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. ²⁰ Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

The first two men Jesus called were actually brothers, **Simon and Andrew**. **Simon and Andrew** were fishermen, so they spent their days out on the Sea of Galilee together casting nets and catching fish. Fishing was very important in two ways. 1. **It provided them with food to eat.** I'm sure they sometimes wished they could eat something else for dinner, but at least they wouldn't starve. 2. **It provided them with money.** Any fish they didn't eat they could sell at a market. Then they would have money to buy food, clothes, fishing supplies, and EVERYTHING else that might pop up. So for Simon and Andrew fishing was EVERYTHING. It took up all their time and provided them with EVERYTHING they needed to survive. But remember what I said? They dropped EVERYTHING.

Jesus saw them casting their nets and called out to them, ***"Come, follow me, and I will send you out to fish for people." (Mark 1:17 NIV)***

And they did. They left their nets, their fish, their home, their friends, their money. **Simon and Andrew dropped EVERYTHING to follow after Jesus.**

But that's not all. Just a little while later Jesus saw another group of fishermen out in a boat. There were brothers named **James and John** fishing with their father. Jesus called out to the brothers, and immediately they left, leaving EVERYTHING behind, including their father. **James and John dropped EVERYTHING to follow after Jesus.** I can't imagine what it must have felt like for them, leaving EVERYTHING and everyone they ever knew, including their dad, to follow a stranger.

We are blessed that we don't have to **drop EVERYTHING in order to follow Jesus**. We still have homes, toys, money, and refrigerators filled with food. **The call to follow Jesus is certainly a call to give our whole lives to his direction – that's a universal principle.** For the disciples in this passage that meant leaving their jobs as fishermen and joining Jesus' traveling ministry.

Instead of dropping EVERYTHING, God asks us to drop some things. Can you think of anything God might want us to get rid of? Maybe disobeying your parents, or saying ugly things about someone. And if you are super busy God might want you to drop something so you can spend more time reading your Bible, or praying, or going to church.

ACTIVITY This week I want you to try doing one special thing for God. Maybe you could draw a picture of the Bible story to share instead of watching TV, Or maybe you can please God by being a helper to your parents, neighbor, a stranger, or teacher. It might not seem like it's big or important, but when you show love and help others, to God it is EVERYTHING.

CLOSING PRAYER: Jesus, help us to do special things tomorrow to show your love to others. Amen

DAY 3 - Story Video time on "Fishing for Men" (plus an Activity)

CHOICES: Below are 2 optional links to tell about the Bible story

(DIRECTIONS: *Highlight the whole web address of one of the videos below, right-click on it, COPY, open your internet (Explorer, etc), right-click on the address blank, PASTE, then open it on your computer screen and run it.*

Children's Simple Puppet story for children: <https://youtu.be/F120aeswBx0>

*Adult lesson: <https://youtu.be/RJnhgtzG3Zc>



Supplies: Paper plate, Goldfish crackers, Crayons or markers, glue

Read again Mark 1:16-20 or talk about the video story.

Create a picture of the story . *(I wouldn't show them this because it isn't like the Bible story. But it gives you an idea of how to do the plate.)*

They can draw a net and glue the fish on it. They can draw a boat with Jesus and Peter in it.

Have them write "I can be a FISHER OF MEN"

How? I can tell others about Jesus.

CLOSING PRAYER: "Dear Jesus, teach me to be a FISHER OF MEN. Give me the words to tell others about You and Your loving forgiveness so they will want to know You. Amen"

Day 4 –Sing-Along Time FISHERS OF MEN

MUSIC CHOICES (DIRECTIONS: *Highlight the whole web address of one of the videos below, right-click on it, COPY, open your internet (Explorer, etc), right-click on the address blank, PASTE, then open it on your computer screen and run it.*

Song #1: “I WILL MAKE YOU FISHERS OF MEN” <https://youtu.be/1v5u83Yz7mg>

Song #2 “RED FISH...FISHERS OF MEN” <https://youtu.be/Q-vSXAf6G9M>

Remember that you can have these songs playing in the background when children are playing, working, or they can sing it in the car, at bedtime, or in the morning! Dance to these songs with the people in the videos.

CLOSING PRAYER SONG: Sing together:

“Jesus Loves Me this I know, for the Bible tells me so. Little ones to Him belong, they are weak, but He is strong. Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.”

DAY 5 BONUS FUN on FISHERS OF MEN - Pick what you want!

***When done with Day 5, pray the Lord's Prayer with them.** It is a prayer said across family generations as a reminder God's at work in all our lives.)*

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

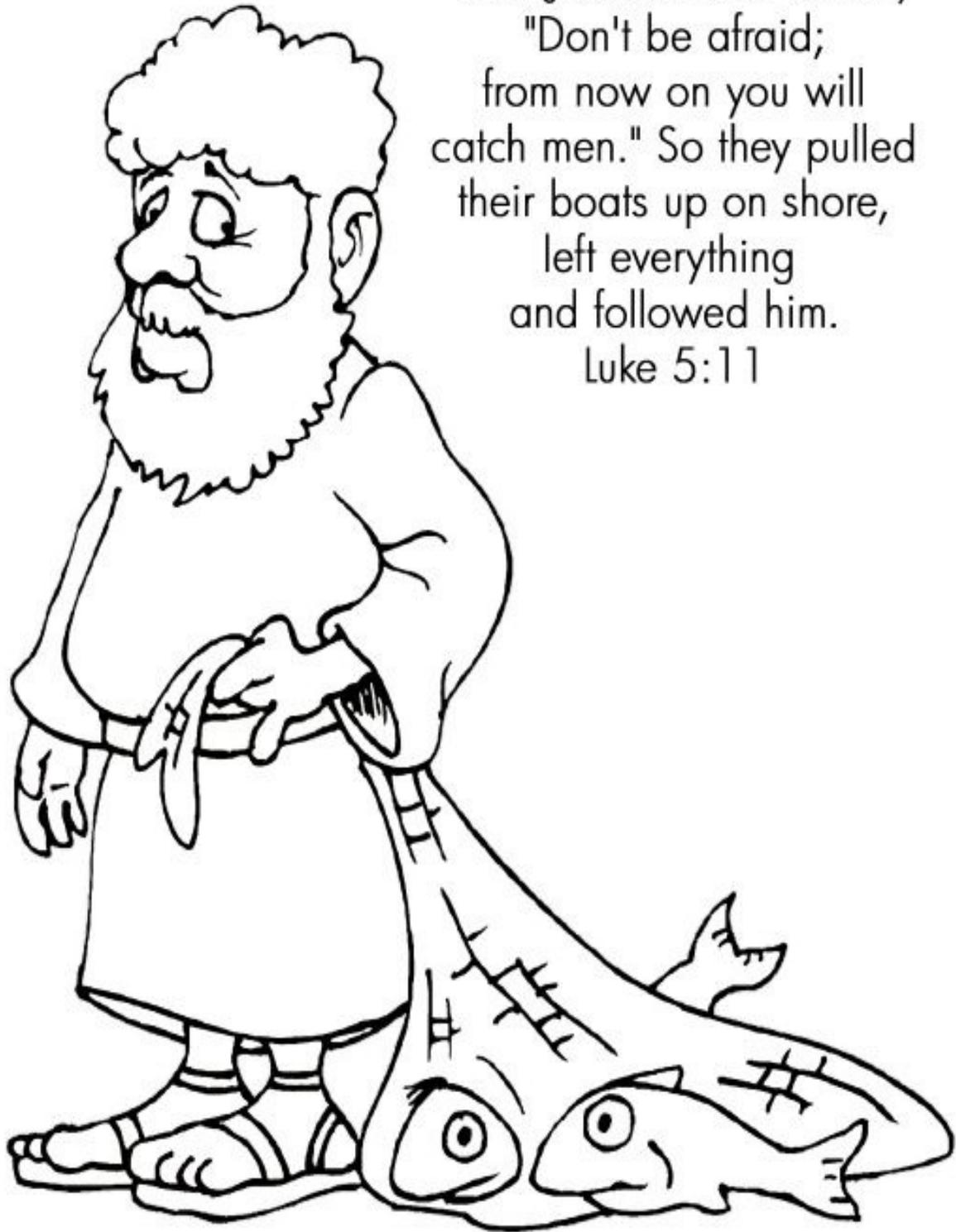
What do we say each week? Our God is INCREDIBLE, and He LOVES, LOVES, LOVES YOU and ME! (Who does?) God!!!

- **VIDEO LEARNING:** Want to LEARN THE BOOKS OF THE Bible? Go to...

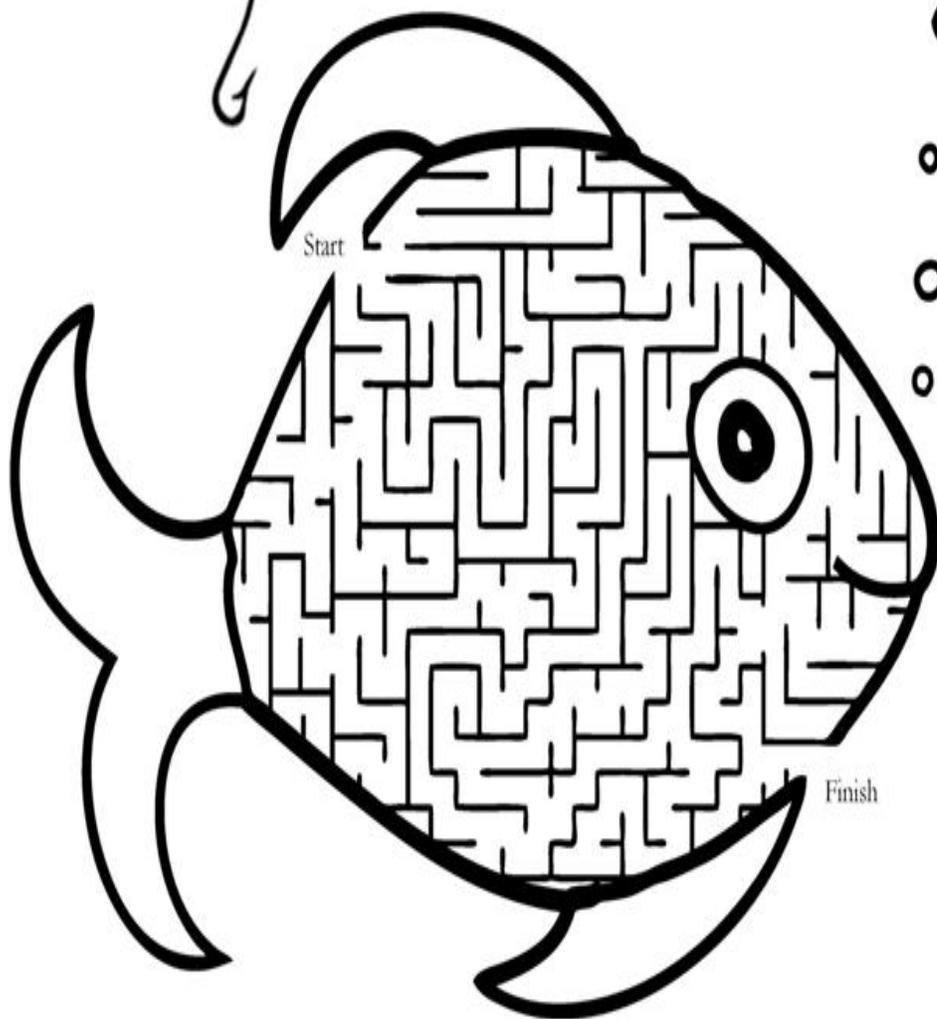
<https://youtu.be/ixMvFdeo-F0>

- **PRINT AND USE...** (Next 2 pages)

Then Jesus said to Simon,
"Don't be afraid;
from now on you will
catch men." So they pulled
their boats up on shore,
left everything
and followed him.
Luke 5:11



FISHERS of MEN



And Jesus said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.” **Mark 1:17**

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