

PETER'S CALL (RETROSPECTIVE)

Scripture:

Matthew 4:18-22, Mark 1:16-20, Luke 5:1-11

Materials Needed:

Worksheet

Key Verse: *Matthew 4:19 "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of me." At once they left their nets and followed Him.*

Objectives: As a result of this lesson, I want my students

To Know—When Jesus first called the disciples to follow Him, they left their nets and followed him. Later, after Jesus had been teaching from Peter's boat, he told Peter to let down his nets to catch fish. After Peter reluctantly obeyed and caught many fish, he told Jesus to depart from him because he was a sinful man; but Jesus told him not to be afraid because he would be "catching men." So Peter left everything and followed Jesus.

To Realize—A true follower of Jesus will DO whatever Jesus tells him to DO, even when it doesn't make sense and even when he doesn't feel worthy.

To Respond by—doing what Jesus wants them to do.

Setting up the Story:

Write the word "Retrospective" on the board. Does anyone know what that means? It means you are taking a look back in order to gain some perspective, or new understanding of the present. We are going to take a look back at an event that we studied with some of the first miracles Jesus did.

After Jesus fed the 5,000 and he doesn't let the crowds make him king by force, he starts a special time of mainly training His disciples—especially Peter! So we are going to take a look back to when Peter first met and followed Jesus, because it will help us understand the lessons Jesus is trying to teach Peter and His other disciples at this point.

Scripture

Telling the story:

- I. Peter Hears About Jesus for the First Time.
 - A. Andrew had heard John the Baptist identify Jesus
 - B. Andrew told Jesus they had found the Christ—Messiah.

- II. Peter Follows Jesus
 - A. Jesus is walking along the Sea of Galilee
 - B. Simon and Andrew are casting their nets.
 - C. Jesus says to follow Him and he will make them

As you tell the story:

Draw stick figures and write the headings on the worksheet as you tell the story.

Draw stick figures of Peter leaving his nets and following Jesus.

fishers of men.

- D. They immediately leave their nets and follow; along with James and John

III. Peter Follows Jesus

- A. Peter and probably Andrew are cleaning their nets

- B. Jesus is teaching the crowds

1. He saw two boats
2. The fishermen were washing their net
3. He got into Simon Peter's boat

- C. Jesus Tells Simon how to Catch Fish

1. Put out into the deep water.
2. Let down the nets for a catch.
3. "Master, we've worked hard all night...nevertheless..."
4. They catch so many, their nets begin to break.
5. "Depart from me, Lord, I am a sinful man."

Then on another day:
The crowds were pressing against him and Jesus wanted as many people to hear his message as possible. So he got into a boat and was teaching from just along the shore. The hill going down to the water's edge made a perfect amphitheater, and it would have been easy for hundreds and even thousands of people to hear Jesus teaching from the boat.

Draw stick figures of Peter in the boat letting down the net. Write the words "Depart from me, I am a sinful man."

Concluding the Story:

What had Peter realized about himself? He wasn't the one calling the shots...not even when it came to fishing! Jesus was going to be the One in charge. Peter saw that he was sinful; maybe his attitude had been arrogant. What did he tell Jesus to do? Depart from him—go away. But what did Jesus say? (Read Luke 5:10) Don't be afraid." Jesus wanted Peter to be His follower—HE was the one who was in charge. So what did Peter do? The only logical thing for a true follower of Jesus—He did what Jesus told him to do. He left **everything** and followed Jesus.

Who is calling the shots in your life? Are you telling Jesus how things should go? Or are you letting Jesus tell YOU what to do? A true follower will DO whatever Jesus tells him to DO.