

Using Your Net

LOWER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

Theme: Stewardship and evangelism

Scripture: Luke 5:11

Memory Verse: Luke 5:11 - 'So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.'

The Children's Sermon

What does it mean to be fishers of men? How can you catch men? Let me see how many I can catch. (Call on child) Did you know that Jesus loves you? I caught you! (Call on another child) Did you know that we have Sunday school at our church for all ages? I caught you! (Call on third child) Did you know our church has a _____ program? I caught you too!

How did I catch all these people? God has given us a wonderful net, our church. We can invite people to worship service, Sunday school, and other activities that our church has. But just like this net, it takes a lot of people to help haul in the catch. Our church needs people to help keep our "net" strong. We need volunteers to help run the programs, people who pray for our church, our leaders, and our programs. We need those who tithe and give financially to the church to pay for all the wonderful programs. You can see it takes many kinds of fishermen to keep our net strong so we can haul in lots of "fish." Just like the disciples, Jesus has made us "Fishers of Men."

Now, let's imagine what it means to be Fishers of Men in a way that's easy to understand. Think about going fishing. What do you need? You need a fishing rod, bait,

and a net, right? Being Fishers of Men is a bit like that, but instead of catching fish, we are sharing God's love with others. Our "fishing rod" can be our words, telling others about Jesus. Our "bait" is our actions, showing kindness and love, just like Jesus did. And our "net?" That's our church and community, where we bring people together to learn more about God.

Being Fishers of Men doesn't mean we actually catch people like fish. It means we help people learn about Jesus and how much He loves them. We can do this in so many ways. Maybe it's inviting a friend to church or telling a story about Jesus to someone who feels sad. Every time we share love, we are being Fishers of Men.

But remember, Fishers of Men work together. Just like when you see fishermen in a boat, they help each other. They share the work. In our church, we can all help too. Some of us might be really good at talking and can tell others about Jesus. Some of us might be really good at making people feel welcome or making crafts that we can share. Every little thing we do helps spread God's love.

And guess what? Being Fishers of Men is for everyone. It doesn't matter if you're big or small, young or old. We all have something special we can do to help others learn about Jesus. It's like being on a big team, and Jesus is our coach. He teaches us the best ways to share His love and bring people together.

Sometimes, being Fishers of Men might seem a bit scary. What if someone doesn't want to listen? What if they say no? That's okay. Remember, even the best fishermen don't catch a fish every time. The important thing is that we try, and we keep showing love and kindness, just like Jesus did.

And you know, the more we practice being Fishers of Men, the better we get at it. It's like learning to ride a bike or getting better at a video game. The more we do it, the easier it becomes. We start to see all the different ways we can help others and share God's love.

So, let's think about what we can do this week to be Fishers of Men. Maybe it's making a card for someone who is feeling lonely or inviting a friend to come with you to church next Sunday. Maybe it's helping out at home without being asked or saying a kind word to someone who needs it. Every little bit helps, and every act of kindness is like casting our net wide to show more people about Jesus's love.

Being Fishers of Men is a big adventure, and it's something we can all do together. We're part of a big team, and Jesus is leading the way. He's showing us how to share love, how to be kind, and how to bring people together. And when we all work together, we can do amazing things. We can make our church and our world a brighter, happier place, full of love and kindness.

So, let's go out there and be the best Fishers of Men we can be. Let's spread joy, share love, and show everyone how wonderful it is to know Jesus. And remember, no matter how small you might feel, you have a big part to play in this adventure. Every one of us is important, and together, we can make a huge difference.

Thank you for listening today, and let's all be excited about being Fishers of Men. Let's see how many people we can share Jesus's love with this week. Remember, we're all in this together, and with Jesus's help, we can bring lots of "fish" into our wonderful net. Let's go fishing!

Bible Memory Verse

Luke 5:11 - 'So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.'

You Will Need:

- Fishing nets or large pieces of blue fabric
- Paper fish (enough for each child)
- Markers or crayons
- Sticky tape

Get Ready:

- Cut out paper fish and write different ways we can follow Jesus today on each fish (e.g., sharing, praying, listening).
- Spread the blue fabric or nets on the floor to represent the sea.

Do This:

1. Have the children sit around the 'sea' and discuss what it means to follow Jesus and how we can be good stewards of His word.
2. Ask each child to pick a fish from the sea and read the action on it. Discuss how this action helps spread Jesus' love and message.
3. Encourage the children to create their own fish by drawing and writing another way to follow Jesus or share His message. They can then tape their fish to the net, symbolizing their commitment to being fishers of men and stewards of the Gospel.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- A small toy boat or paper boats
- Several fish-shaped cutouts from construction paper
- A large "net" made from yarn or a piece of fabric
- Blue fabric or paper to represent water
- Marker pens

Get Ready:

1. Place the blue fabric or paper on the floor to represent the sea.
2. Scatter the fish-shaped cutouts around the "sea."
3. Place the toy boat or paper boats at one edge of the "sea."
4. Lay the net nearby.

Do this:

1. ****Story Time****: Start by telling the story from Luke 5:1-11, focusing on how Simon Peter, James, and John left everything to follow Jesus. Explain how they were fishermen and how they caught a huge number of fish after listening to Jesus. Highlight that after this miracle, they left everything to follow Him, showing us how we can also be "fishers of men" by sharing Jesus' love with others.
2. ****Interactive Play****: Let the children take turns being fishermen. They can "sail" the boat across the "sea," then use the net to gather the fish. As they play, remind them that just like the disciples caught fish, we can help gather people for Jesus by being kind and telling them about God's love.
3. ****Fishers of Men Craft****: Using the marker pens, have the children write on the fish-shaped cutouts ways they can be "fishers of men" (e.g., being kind to others,

inviting friends to church, helping someone in need). Encourage them to think of specific actions they can take in their daily lives.

4. **Closing Circle**: Gather the children in a circle with their fish cutouts and share what they wrote. Pray together, asking God to help each of them be good stewards of His love by sharing it with others, just like the disciples did.

Snack Activity: Fishing for Followers Snack

You'll Need:

- Blue Jell-O
- Gummy fish
- Clear plastic cups
- Spoons

Get Ready: Prepare the blue Jell-O according to the package instructions and let it set in clear plastic cups until it's firm.

Do this:

1. Once the Jell-O has set, let each child push a few gummy fish into their cup of blue Jell-O. The blue Jell-O represents the water, and the gummy fish represent the fish in the story of Luke 5:11.
2. While the children are placing their fish in the Jell-O, explain how Jesus called His disciples to be 'fishers of men,' which means He wants us to help bring others to know Him. Just like the disciples left everything to follow Jesus, we can also share His love with others.
3. Encourage the children to eat their snack as you discuss the importance of sharing and caring for others. Explain that being good stewards means using what we have to

help spread God's word, just like the disciples used their boats and nets to fish, we can use our words and actions to show Jesus' love.

Game Activity: Fishers of Fun

You'll Need:

- Sidewalk chalk
- Small stones or beanbags
- A large open space (like a driveway or a sidewalk)

Get Ready: Use the sidewalk chalk to draw a large hopscotch grid on the ground. Instead of numbers, write the words 'Listen,' 'Follow,' 'Help,' 'Share,' and 'Invite' in the squares, in that order. These words represent our journey to becoming good stewards and sharing God's love, just like the disciples did in Luke 5:11.

Do this:

1. Each player takes a turn tossing their stone or beanbag onto the first square ('Listen'). Before they hop through the grid, they must say one way they can listen to God or others (e.g., 'I can listen by praying' or 'I can listen to my friends when they are sad.').
2. As players hop through the grid, they must follow the path without stepping on the lines or missing any squares. When they reach a new word, they pause and share a way they can do that action in their lives (e.g., 'I can help by cleaning my room without being asked' or 'I can invite my friend to Sunday School.').
3. After reaching the end, the player picks up their stone or beanbag on the way back and passes the turn to the next player. The game continues until everyone has had multiple turns and had the chance to think about how they can be good stewards and share God's love, just like the fishermen who left everything to follow Jesus.

Craft Activity: Fishing for Friends

You'll Need:

- Blue construction paper
- Fish cutouts from colorful paper
- Markers or crayons
- Yarn or string
- Tape
- Wooden dowels or sticks

Get Ready: Cut out several fish shapes from the colorful paper. On each fish, write different ways we can share God's love and be good stewards, like 'sharing', 'helping others', or 'telling about Jesus'. Prepare a 'pond' by laying the blue construction paper on a table or the floor.

Do this:

1. Attach a piece of yarn or string to the end of a wooden dowel to make a fishing rod. Use tape to attach a small piece of paper clip or a magnet (if available) as the 'hook'.
2. Spread the fish around the 'pond'. If using paper clips, you can attach magnets to the fish instead of paper clips.
3. Let the children 'fish' for the fish by dangling their rods over the 'pond'. Once they catch a fish, have them read aloud the stewardship or evangelism activity on the fish. Discuss how each action can help spread God's love, similar to how the disciples left everything to follow Jesus and become fishers of men (Luke 5:11).

Prayer Activity: Fishing for Prayers

You'll Need:

- Construction paper (various colors)
- Markers or crayons
- A small 'fishing pond' (a blue cloth or paper on the floor will do)

Get Ready: Cut out fish shapes from the construction paper. On each fish, write different aspects of stewardship and evangelism based on Luke 5:11, such as 'sharing', 'caring for others', 'telling friends about Jesus', 'helping at home', 'praying for others', etc.

Do this:

1. Spread the fish around the 'fishing pond.' Give each child a turn to 'fish' by picking a fish from the pond.
2. Once they pick a fish, read aloud the aspect written on it. Lead the children in a short prayer related to that aspect. For example, if the fish says 'sharing', pray for God to help them be good sharers.
3. Encourage the children to think of one way they can show stewardship or share the good news of Jesus with someone this week, inspired by their fish. End with a group prayer asking God to help them remember and act on their commitment.