



## OVERVIEW

Youth	Campsite 1	Campsite 2	Campsite 3	Campsite 4	Campsite 5
<b>Title</b>	<b>By the Shore: Peter Follows Jesus</b>	<b>Along the Trail: Jesus Shows His Love and Forgiveness</b>	<b>Under the Stars: Peter Fails Jesus</b>	<b>Before the Dawn: Peter Denies, but Jesus Forgives</b>	<b>Around the Campfire: Peter Discovers God's Forever Forgiveness</b>
<b>References</b>	Luke 5:1–11	Luke 18:15, 16, 35–43; 19:1–10	Matthew 26:30–56; Mark 8:27–33; 14:26–50; John 13:33–38	Luke 22:54–62; 23:33–47	Mark 16:1–7; John 20:1–10; 21:1–22
<b>Focus</b>	Jesus calls people to follow Him.	Jesus showed His love and forgiveness to the people He met.	We all sin; Peter loved Jesus but failed Him.	Jesus' forgiveness covers all sins.	Forgiven, we can go on to serve God by loving and forgiving others.
<b>Bible Verse</b>	"Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matt. 4:19).	"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).	"For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, and abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You" (Ps. 86:5).	"God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8).	"Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you" (Eph. 4:32).
<b>Games</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fisherman Tag</li> <li>Fish Toss</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ups and Downs</li> <li>Raccoon Raid</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Watch Out!</li> <li>Star Hopping</li> <li>Catch a Falling Star</li> <li>Forest Frenzy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Campground Toss</li> <li>Knapsack Pack-Up</li> <li>Teamwork Volleyball</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flying Contest</li> <li>Boat Ball</li> <li>Now What?</li> </ul>
<b>Snacks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gone Fishing</li> <li>Fish on the Hook Snack Bags</li> <li>Digging for Worms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Along the Trail Mix</li> <li>Fruit Tray</li> <li>Butterfly Bags</li> <li>Make Forgiveness a Pattern</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sleepy Disciples</li> <li>Gospel Grahams</li> <li>Graham Tents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>God's Love Cookies</li> <li>God Loves You Smiles</li> <li>God's Forgiveness Melts Away Sin</li> <li>Campfires</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jump in for Jesus!</li> <li>Breakfast Snack</li> <li>Jesus' Forgiveness Wipes Away Sin</li> </ul>
<b>Crafts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Firefly Door Hanger</li> <li>Owl Windsock</li> <li>Beaded Flower Key Chain</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ceramic Backpack Bank</li> <li>Paint a Camp Sign</li> <li>Camp Moose-on-the-Loose Friends</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Color Your Own Camp Water Bottle Holder</li> <li>Camp Journal</li> <li>Bruce the Moose Ornament</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lightning Bug</li> <li>Cabin Photo Frame</li> <li>Mini Canoe</li> <li>Wooden Necklace</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Camp Memories Box</li> <li>Paracord Bracelet</li> <li>Peekaboo Tent Frame</li> <li>Slithering Snake</li> </ul>

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# YOUTH TEACHER BOOK



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# BY THE SHORE

## PETER FOLLOWS JESUS

*Luke 5:1–11*

# 1

### MEMORY VERSE

“Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men” (Matt. 4:19).

### EXTRA CREDIT VERSES

Matt. 28:19, 20; Ps. 96:3

### TOPIC

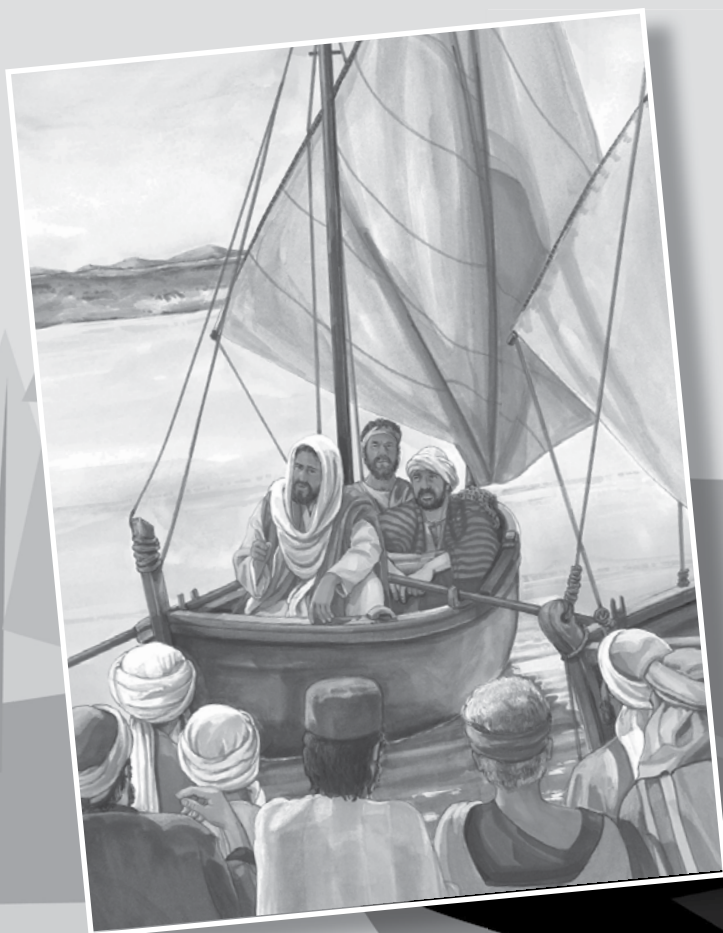
Jesus’ invitation

### THEME

Jesus calls people to follow Him.

### DESIRED STUDENT RESPONSE

Students will respond to Jesus’ invitation to come to Him for salvation and then tell others about Him.



- Greet students with enthusiasm. Get to know each student.
- Make sure you have a completed registration card (30208) for each student.
- Distribute nametags (31933) and Camp Moose on the Loose passes (31934).
- Introduce yourself and other VBS leaders.
- Open the class time with prayer.

### Teacher Tip ►

Be sure not to leave the pool unsupervised with water in it, especially if the activity area is shared with younger children.



## Option 1: Boat Building Championship

### Materials

- Baby pool; water; towels; timer; basket with prizes; aluminum foil; heavy-duty scissors; cardboard; construction paper; straws; rubber bands; craft sticks; clay or sticky tack; paper clips; paper.

*Before class:* Fill the pool with water. Place towels nearby. Cut 6" x 12" sheets of aluminum foil. Keep with you the basket of prizes and the timer. Place the sheets of foil and the remaining items on a table nearby.

**ACTIVITY:** Divide your class into groups of two or three. Using the supplies provided, students work together to engineer a boat that will float across the pool. Each group has five minutes to build its boat. After five minutes, groups sail their vessels across the classroom “lake” without using their hands but may blow on their boats or engineer a propulsion device to make them move. The first group to sail its boat across the pool wins. Give each person in the winning group a prize from the basket.

Boats used in Biblical times were very different from modern-day recreational vessels. Fishing boats on the Sea of Galilee were small, sturdy vessels 20 to 30 feet long; made of wood such as oak or cedar; and often featured a square sail. People rowed the boats with oars.

## Option 2: Sound to Go

### Materials

- Cardboard tube; two large disposable cups; smartphone.

*Before class:* Cut a slit on one side of the tube just big enough to slip a smartphone into. Cut a hole near the base of each disposable cup, just big enough for the tube to go through.

**ACTIVITY:** Play part of a song from the phone, allowing students to hear its volume. Then place the cardboard tube in the disposable cups (lying on their sides) and place the phone in the slit. Play the music again and notice the sound amplification.

If you were on a camping trip, speakers like these would allow you to listen to music louder than your phone could play it. Peter and Jesus’ other friends got to follow Jesus, to walk and talk with Him. With today’s technology, you can put the Bible on your smartphone and listen to it as you walk. In today’s lesson, we’ll

learn how Jesus used the science of sound-wave amplification to help people hear Him better.

### Option 3: Come with Me

**ACTIVITY:** Recruit four volunteers. Each volunteer makes a promotional pitch for a camping expedition: a fishing trip, a hiking trip, a water adventure trip, or a wildlife observation trip. After the volunteers have presented their pitches, have them stand in separate corners of the classroom. Invite students to choose one of the expeditions and go to the respective corner.

**ASK:** Why did you pick this camping expedition?

It's easy to follow a person on a trip we're excited about. Today we'll learn about a man who got so excited about an expedition that he gave up everything he had!

## INTRODUCTION

**ACTIVITY:** Have all students stand. As you read a list of items, ask students to remain standing if they would be willing to give up those comforts for a camping trip: air-conditioning, electricity, a bed, showers, bathrooms.

**DISCUSS:** Ask those still standing at the end why they would give up these comforts. Then ask those who first sat down why they wouldn't give these things up.

Before we're ready to sacrifice, we must be convinced that the sacrifice is worth it. Today we'll learn of a man who gave up everything to follow Someone Who was worth it.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### Materials

- Bibles; lesson 1 activity sheets from youth student books (31964); pens or camp-site pencils (32040); whiteboard; dry-erase markers.

**READ:** Ask a volunteer to read Luke 5:1 and 2.

Have you heard of Peter? He's famous in the Bible—but in Luke 5, he was coming off a really bad night at work. He and Andrew slowly rowed their boat to shore while James and John brought in the other boat. It was early morning. The four men had worked hard all night long because that was the best time for fishing on the lake of Gennesaret, also known as the Sea of Galilee. But the men's work wasn't done. Even though they hadn't caught any fish, they could not go home until they had cleaned and repaired every net.



◀ **Teacher Tip**  
Open in prayer and teach with an open Bible.

The men worked on their nets and watched the crowd that had gathered on the shore. Jesus, the carpenter of Nazareth, was teaching. Peter knew Jesus, having met Him where John the Baptist was preaching (John 1:40, 41). Peter had even watched as Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law (Luke 4:38, 39). James, John, and Andrew were also familiar with Jesus. All the men had heard His teaching, and they knew that there was something special about Him.

**READ:** Ask a volunteer to read Luke 5:3–5.

The crowd was huge and growing, crowding against Jesus. It would have been hard for anyone to hear Him. Imagine Peter's surprise when Jesus climbed into Peter's boat and asked Peter to take Him out from the shore a little way. Peter rowed out, and Jesus began to teach. Ah! Much better—the land's natural geography made good audio amplification!

Jesus finished teaching. I wonder if Peter was already beginning to run over in his mind the list of things he needed to get done that day. But Jesus looked over at Peter and said, "Head out into deep water and let down your nets to catch fish." That might not sound unusual—Jesus asking a fisherman to fish! But it was. The best time to fish was at night and in shallow water, not during the daytime in deep water. Every fisherman knew that.

**DISCUSS:** Have students turn to the student book section titled "Peter's Encounter with Jesus" and answer the first question: How did Peter respond to Jesus? **ASK:** How would you have responded? Would you have done what Jesus asked?

Worn out from a long night of fishing and coming away empty-handed, plus a morning of cleaning nets, Peter sighed. "We have worked all night with nothing to show for it," he said. "But at Your word, Jesus, we will let down the net."

Peter's words show he knew there was something different about Jesus. His response revealed a trust in and a respect for the Teacher. Therefore, strange as it would have seemed to expert fishermen, the men let their nets down into the deep water in the middle of the day.

**READ:** Ask a volunteer to read Luke 5:6 and 7.

Peter and Andrew must have been amazed as they tried to pull up the nets! The mass of fish strained the nets, snapping sections the men had just repaired. Peter and Andrew beckoned for James and John to come help them. As they emptied the fish into the two boats, the vessels began to sink under the weight.

Peter was astonished at the catch and recognized this as a supernatural act, a miracle performed by God.

**READ:** Ask a volunteer to read Luke 5:8 and 9. **RECORD:** After reading these verses, what more did you learn about Peter's response to Jesus? Have



students record their answers in the student book section “Peter’s Encounter with Jesus.”

Peter’s response reveals two key truths. First of all, Peter realized that Jesus was no ordinary man. Peter recognized that Jesus is holy. Jesus is the Son of God, perfect, without sin. Second, Peter recognized his own sin. He knew that he was not right with God. Sin means the wrong things we think, say, and do. In fact, the Bible says that all have sinned (Rom. 3:23) and that the punishment we deserve for sin is death, which means separation from God (Rom. 6:23).

**READ:** Ask a volunteer to read Luke 5:10 and 11. **ASK:** How did Jesus respond to Peter?

Jesus responded to Peter by forgiving his sin in love. That’s not all. Jesus called Peter to serve as a new kind of fisherman. Peter’s new responsibility would be to “fish” for people. That means he would follow Jesus and spread the good news—the gospel—of Jesus’ love and forgiveness to others.

**ASK:** What was Peter’s response? What did Peter willingly give up to follow Jesus? Have students discuss and then record in their student books what Peter, James, John, and Andrew willingly gave up to fully follow Christ. (*The men left their boats and the catch of a lifetime to follow Jesus.*) **DISCUSS:** Who do *you* think Jesus is? How does recognizing Who Jesus is affect your view of sin? Have students record their responses in their student books.

The catch that these men brought in that day was probably the most valuable load of fish they had ever caught. That one catch could have made them very rich and would have established these young men and their business in their community.

But they were willing to leave it all—not just their greatest catch, but also their means for financial security—to follow Jesus.



## Materials

- Bible; salvation poster (31936).

*Before class:* Pray for students who have not yet trusted in Christ for salvation. Pray for those who are saved to desire to share the Good News with others.

Just like Peter, we are all sinners, and our sin separates us from God. There is nothing we can do on our own to make things right. But God—the Creator Who made us—loves us and made a way for us to be right with Him.

**ACTIVITY:** Use the salvation poster to share the gospel. Invite students to bow their heads and close their eyes. Ask students who want to learn more



about becoming a member of God's family to look up at you. Assign workers to counsel and pray with students who respond.

If you have already made the decision to trust Jesus as your Savior, then you, too, have the same call as Peter: God wants *you* to be a fisher of people. That means He wants you to share the good news of the gospel with others around you so that they, too, can choose to follow Jesus.



## Option 1: Telling the Tale

### Materials

- Paper; pens or campsite pencils (32040).

After a long day of canoeing on a lake, it can be fun to sit around a campfire and tell stories. If Peter were sitting by a campfire with us, can you imagine what he might tell us about that day Jesus called him to come and follow Him? What do you think Peter was thinking and feeling as he saw all those fish and became keenly aware of his own sinfulness? What do you think was going through his mind as Jesus told him not to be afraid, and that from now on he would be fishing for people?

**ACTIVITY:** Divide your class into groups of two or three students. Groups write the lesson from Peter's perspective. Invite volunteers to share their stories with the class.

## Option 2: Who, Me?

### Materials

- Lesson 1 activity sheets from youth student book (31964); pens or campsite pencils (32040).

After you have trusted in Jesus as your Savior, it's important to tell others about Him. When Peter went out fishing that day, the same as he always did, little did he know that in a few hours Jesus would call him to be a "fisher of men." That day was life-changing for Peter. Jesus wanted Peter to tell others about God's love and the forgiveness that is found in Jesus. Are you "fishing" for people?

**ACTIVITY:** Students complete the "Who, Me?" activity in their student books. Ask students to answer the two questions: Are you prepared to tell others about Jesus and how He can forgive them? What are some challenges people your age must overcome to become successful "fishers of men"? Invite volunteers to share their answers to the second question. Discuss how students can overcome those challenges so they can follow Jesus and tell others about Him.





**“Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men”  
(Matt. 4:19).**

The first step in following Jesus is to trust Him as Savior. Then we need to live out the truths of God’s Word and “fish” for people by telling them the awesome truths of God’s love and forgiveness.

### Option 1: Gone Fishin’

#### Materials

- Construction paper; scissors; marker; craft fishing nets; verse poster (31966).

*Before class:* Cut fish shapes out of construction paper. Write one word of the verse on each fish. Provide a net for each team. Place a set of fish in each net.

**DISPLAY:** Display the verse poster for Matthew 4:19. **READ:** Read the verse together a few times. **ACTIVITY:** Divide the class into teams. Students on each team take turns running to their assigned net, grabbing a fish, and running with it back to the team. Teammates work together to be the first team to place the fish in the correct order.

### Option 2: Plush Moose Toss

#### Materials

- Plush moose (32050) or beanbags.

**ACTIVITY:** Students stand in a circle, facing each other. Give one student a plush moose. Students toss the moose back and forth as they quote the verse together. Add more plush moose as the students toss the moose while quoting the verse.



### Option 1: What’s Most Valuable?

#### Materials

- Lesson 1 activity sheets from youth student book (31964); pens or campsite pencils (32040).

**ACTIVITY:** Students complete the “What’s Most Valuable?” activity page. Allow several minutes for them to list ten things they have and value, then invite volunteers to share one item from their lists.



#### ◀ Teacher Tip

Hold your Bible open as you teach the verse, emphasizing that the verse is from the Bible.

In God's Word, the Bible, Jesus asks you to follow Him. He wants to be more important to you than these things are. Like Peter, you need to understand that obeying Jesus is worth far more than these things.

**ASK:** Would you be willing to change "have" at the top of your list to "gave up"?

## Option 2: Good News through Colors

### Materials

- Good News bracelet kits (3805).

*Before class:* Assemble Good News bracelets for all your students, reserving one for you to make while teaching.

**ACTIVITY:** Give each student a Good News bracelet. Assemble a Good News bracelet as you teach. Provide time for students to practice the Good News bracelet presentation.

(Place the dark bead on the bracelet.) The dark bead reminds us that we are all sinners. We all do things that are wrong. If our bracelet ended here, that would be very sad news. Fortunately, it doesn't! Romans 6:23 tells us that our sin earns death but that God's gift is eternal life through Jesus.

(Add the red bead.) When someone goes to work, that person earns a paycheck. When we sin, we earn eternal death. But God loves us and sent His Son, Jesus, Who came to earth and lived a perfect life. When Jesus died on a cross, shedding His blood, He took the punishment that our sin had earned, making it possible for us to be forgiven of our sins.

(Add the white bead.) We cannot earn God's forgiveness. Our hearts cannot be made clean by anything we do. It's only when we believe in Jesus' payment for us and receive God's free gift that we can have pure hearts before God.

(Add the green bead.) The green stands for growth. This growth happens to someone who has believed on Jesus as Savior. Believers grow as they talk to God (prayer), listen to God (Bible reading), and obey God.

(Add the yellow bead.) Heaven is waiting for those who have trusted in Jesus as their very own Savior. Do *you* know for sure that if you died today you would live forever in Heaven with God? If you don't, please make time to talk with me or another helper before you leave today. Eternal life is the most important gift you could ever receive.

If you have already received the gift of eternal life, do you live as though God has completely forgiven you? Or are you bothered by guilt, always wondering if God is punishing you for misbehaving? For sure, our sin still has consequences, but God's forgiveness is complete. You don't need to pay for your sins, because if you are a believer, Jesus already paid for them! You can use your Good News bracelet to tell other people how they can be forgiven.