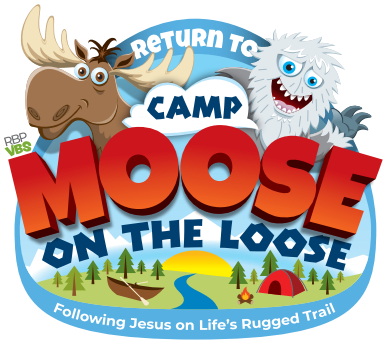


PRIMARY: Ages 6–9 or first, second, and third grades

PRIMARY OVERVIEW

PRIMARY	Lesson 1	Lesson 2	Lesson 3	Lesson 4	Lesson 5
TITLES	**FISHING TRIP: Peter Leaves His Fish to Follow Jesus**	**STORMY WATERS: Jesus Answers Peter's Cry for Help**	**STARRY NIGHT: Peter Fails, but Jesus Still Loves Him**	**BEACHSIDE BREAKFAST: Jesus Gives Peter a Fresh Start**	**SEARCH AND RESCUE: God Answers the Church's Prayers**
TRAIL TROUBLES	Doubt	Fear and anxiety	Failure	Discouragement	Isolation
BIBLE TEXTS	Luke 5:1–11	Matthew 14:22–33; Mark 6:45–52; John 6:15–21	Luke 22:54–62; 23:33–47; 24:5, 6	Mark 16:1–7; John 20:1–10; 21:1–22	Acts 5:26–42; 12:1–19
THEMES	Seeing Jesus' greatness, we must fully trust and follow Him.	Seeing Jesus' deity, we must keep our eyes on Him, not our storms.	Seeing Jesus' love, we must turn to Him when we fail.	Seeing Jesus' forgiveness, we can serve Him again.	Following Jesus, we should boldly share His love together!
MEMORY VERSES	"Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19). *THEME VERSE*	"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God" (Philippians 4:6).	"Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak" (Mark 14:38).	"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).	"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another" (John 13:34).
TEACHING TIE-INS	Fishing: Jesus calls us to follow Him. 	Boating: Jesus keeps fear from sinking us. 	Stargazing: Jesus' love outshines the stars. 	Breakfast: Jesus helps us start over. 	Church: Let's follow Jesus together! 
GAMES	• Big Catch • Follow the Leader—Just Like Peter! • Fisherman Tag • Fish Toss	• Base Boat • Help Peter • Walking with Water Relay • "Beary" Big Banquet	• Flashlight Baton Relay • Try Again Toss • Don't Quit Yeti • Forgiveness Volleyball	• Flying in the Forest • Cross the Creek • Now What? • Star Stepping • Boat Ball	• Catch a Shooting Star • Wilderness Scavenger Hunt • Knapsack Pack
SNACKS	• Gone Fishing • Fish on the Hook • Digging for Worms • Power Snack	• "Pita's" Boat • Boat on Water • Boating Mix • Sinking Cookie	• God's Love Cookies • Fruit Smiles • Melting Away • Pretzel Campfires	• Jump in for Jesus! • Breakfast Snack • Gospel Grahams • Breakfast on a Stick	• Jesus Wipes Away Sin • Granola to Go • Mini Fruit Pizzas • Dusty Trail Popcorn
CRAFTS	• Fish On! • 3D Campsite • Fish Friend • Tackle Box • String o' Fish	• Bruce Antlers • S'more Fun • Beary Fun Mask • Mini Canoe • Mini Kite	• Forest Memory Box • Pup Tent • Firefly • Jesus Loves Me • Bruce the Moose Ornament	• Campfire Treat Craft • Forest Buddy Craft Bags • Cozy Campfire • Cloud Watching Binoculars • Wooden Necklace	• Foam Photo Tent • Lace-Up Lantern • Camp Moose on the Loose Friends • Campfire Hands

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PRIMARY TEACHER BOOK



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FISHING TRIP

PETER LEAVES HIS FISH TO FOLLOW JESUS

LUKE 5:1–11

THEME

Seeing Jesus' greatness, we must fully trust and follow Him.

TRAIL TROUBLE

Doubt

TAKEAWAY

Jesus is greater than everything. Choose to trust and follow Him!

MEMORY VERSE

Matthew 4:19 (See the page on the left.)

- **Greet students with enthusiasm and a smile. Get to know each student.**
- **Make sure you have a completed registration card (30208) for each student.**
- **Distribute nametags (34533) and camp passes (34534).**
- **Open the class time with prayer.**



These activity options are designed to start kids thinking about the Biblical principle that will be covered in the day's lesson. Choose the activities that are best for your class.

Option 1: Ice Fishing

Materials

- Large ice cubes; bowls filled with water; string; wooden stir sticks; salt.

Before class: *Set up multiple stations—one for each group of two or three students. Each station should have a bowl of water, a few ice cubes, and some salt. Tie a piece of string to the end of each stir stick.*

Let's have some fun fishing! How'd you like to go fishing for ice?

ACTIVITY: Give each student a wooden stir stick with a piece of string. Each student should tie an end of the string to one end of the stick, creating a fishing pole.

For older students: They could help with handling the activity equipment.

Students gather at the stations, two or three students per station, and take turns completing the following steps.

1. Place one ice cube in the water. Wait until it is resting on top of the water.
2. Place the end of the string from the fishing pole on top of the ice cube. Sprinkle salt where the string is touching the ice cube. Watch as the ice melts slightly and then refreezes.
3. After ten seconds, carefully lift the ice cube (your catch!) out of the water with the fishing pole.

Why do you think your fishing poles could catch an ice cube?

Water freezes at 32 degrees Fahrenheit. But the salt raised the temperature where ice would freeze, and the ice started to melt around the string.

But then, when the ice started melting, the salt in the melted water lost its strength. The water started freezing again around the string. Then the ice cube could then be lifted!

Catching ice is one thing. Do you know any fishers who try to catch people with their fishing poles? I don't! But Jesus called some of His friends to follow Him and learn to fish for people. Those men were never the same afterward.

Option 2: Something's Fishy

Materials

- **Primary-L1-Fish** from the VBS Resources (34502 or 34502EB); construction paper; glue; scissors; tape; blue plastic tablecloth; *optional:* scissors with decorative edges.

Before class: *Print and cut out fish images from the VBS Resources. Glue each fish image to construction paper. Cut out each fish, then cut it into two pieces vertically, using a variety of cutting patterns or decorative-edge scissors. Mount a "lake" of blue plastic tablecloth on a wall. Station a worker at the lake on the wall to help students as needed.*

ACTIVITY: Give each student half of a fish picture. Lay the other picture halves on a table. Allow two or three minutes for students to find the other half of their fish and, with the help of a worker if necessary, tape it onto the lake.

People often like to camp near a lake or river where they can go fishing. In Jesus' day, men went fishing because it was their job. They sold the fish that same day.



Materials

- *Optional:* nets (available in craft and party stores).

Before class: *If desired, invite an outdoors enthusiast from your church to tell about fishing and demonstrate fishing gear, without hooks or other sharp objects. Allow students to ask questions.*

How many of you have ever gone fishing? You probably used a fishing pole, but many people use nets if they fish to earn money for their families. Let's practice fishing with a net.

ACTIVITY: Invite students to pantomime dropping and pulling in a net, acting as if the net is heavy with lots of fish. *Optional:* Use nets instead of pantomimes.

If you're a fisher, you have good days and bad days. Some days you just don't catch much.

Today we will learn about a fisherman and his friends who fished all night but didn't catch even one single fish. So they had no fish to sell. No fish meant no money.

Let's find out if things got any better for them!

TIPS

- **Before you begin the Introduction each day, practice using a signal—such as raising your hand—to indicate when it is time for students to sit quietly. Whenever students have a little trouble calming down, use a transition like counting down from five.**
- **If you use the term "Bible story" for a Bible narrative, remind the students that when the Bible says a story happened, it really happened. Bible stories are not make-believe like some of the other stories they hear.**

EXPLORE THE BIBLE!

TIP
Each lesson has actions at Very Important Points of the lesson. These VIPs are set apart by different colors. This lesson's VIPs are in blue.

Materials

- Bible; lesson 1 visuals (34507 or 34507EB); construction paper; scissors; marker; fishing net (available in craft and party stores) or blanket.

Before class: *Cut construction paper into five fish shapes. Write one word or phrase on each fish:* ***nets, water, miracle, Jesus' greatness, follow Jesus.*** *Place a fishing net or blanket in one location and the pile of fish in another.*

ACTIVITY: Each time you come to a word in blue (e.g., **"nets,"** have one student run to the pile of fish, select the fish with the word or phrase you just said, put it in the net, and return to his or her seat.

In Bible times, many men were fishermen. They caught fish to earn money that would pay for food and other things their families needed.

What might happen to a net as you pull it through the water? *(It might get holes in it.)* What might get caught in the net besides fish? *(Shells; branches; junk.)* Great answers! To get ready for your next fishing trip, you would have had to clean and fix your net.

This is what Peter and his friends were doing one morning on a lakeshore. This lake was called the Sea of Galilee. Nearby a crowd grew bigger and bigger.



Lesson 1 Visual 1

Everyone wanted to see Jesus and hear Him teach! But as they crowded around Jesus, it probably became hard for all of them to hear.

DISPLAY: Visual 1.1.

Jesus knew just what to do. He asked Peter if He could use Peter's boat for a while. So Peter and his brother, Andrew, followed what Jesus said. They rowed out from the shore, and Jesus preached to the crowd—right from the boat!

When Jesus finished speaking, He told Peter, "Go out into the deep water and let down your **nets**." *(Invite a volunteer to find the fish shape with the word "nets" and place it in the net.)*

Every good fisherman knew that nighttime was the best time to fish. Peter said, "Master, we've worked hard all night long, and we didn't catch a thing." But Peter still did what Jesus asked.

Peter and Andrew rowed out to deep water. Do you want to help Peter? Let's all row the same way at the same time.

ACTIVITY: Tell students to pretend to grip an oar. Show how to pull an oar back with both hands. Explain that they will be facing backward as they row. Encourage students to follow you so everyone rows at the same time.

This is far enough. *(Students stop rowing.)* Peter threw the nets into the **water.** *(Invite a volunteer to find the fish with the word "water" and place it in the net.)*

Let's help Peter and Andrew. *(Have the students pretend to throw a net.)* Ready? One, two, three . . . *throw!* Let the net sink down into the water.

Soon they began to pull up the net. Let's help them pull. *(Tell the students to pretend to pull in a heavy load.)* Pull, pull, pull! Whoa! Does this net seem heavy to you? Look! It's stuffed full of fish! Look at them flopping around.

DISPLAY: Visual 1.2.



Lesson 1 Visual 2

Peter and Andrew's nets were breaking. They shouted to James and John, who were in another boat, to come and help them pull in the nets. But the boats couldn't hold all the fish! Soon they were so full they began to sink.

DISPLAY: Visual 1.3.



Lesson 1 Visual 3

What a catch! These men had been fishermen a long time, but they had never seen anything like this. It was a **miracle.** A miracle is a special work that only God can do. *(Invite a volunteer to find the fish shape with the word "miracle" and place it in the net.)*

Peter and his friends were amazed at Jesus' greatness and power that day. Peter knew he could not make fish go into his net. Nobody could—except Jesus!

Peter fell to his knees in front of Jesus, right there in the boat. Seeing **Jesus' greatness** made Peter realize his own sinfulness. *(Invite a volunteer to find the fish shape with the words "Jesus' greatness" and place it in the net.)*

"Leave me, Jesus. I'm too sinful," Peter said. "Sinful" means that Peter had said, thought, or done things his own way instead of God's way. Peter knew he could do nothing that was good enough to make up for his sins or make himself good.

He needed a Savior to rescue him from his sinfulness. He needed Jesus!

DISPLAY: Visual 1.4.

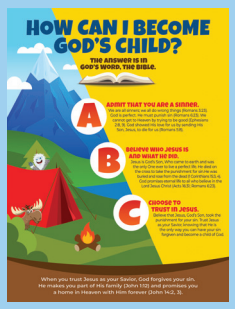


Lesson 1 Visual 4

"Don't be afraid," Jesus said. "From now on, instead of catching fish, you will catch people." Jesus had a special plan for Peter. From then on, instead of catching fish, he would "catch" people by telling them about Jesus.

READ: Matthew 4:19; Luke 5:11. **ASK:** When Jesus said, **"Follow Me,"** what did Peter and his friends do? *(They left everything and followed Jesus. Invite a volunteer to find "follow Jesus" and place it in the net.)*

Why would Peter leave his boat, his job, and all those fish? Because seeing Jesus' greatness with his own eyes made him willing to follow Jesus, no matter what came next.



Salvation Poster (34536)

DECISION TIME

Materials

- Bible; salvation poster (34536).

Pretend you're fishing, and you need to catch something so you can eat dinner. Along comes a fishing expert.

ASK: What would you say to the fishing expert? Why? *(You'd probably ask the expert for help because you're hungry!)*

We need an expert to help us with more than fishing. Everyone has sinned. And without Jesus, our sin separates us eternally—forever—from God.

ASK: What are some examples of sin? *(Unkind thoughts; disobeying our parents or teachers; not telling the truth.)*

That's the bad news. The good news is that Someone has come to rescue us. God loves us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to be our Savior.

ACTIVITY: Use the salvation poster to share the gospel. Ask students to bow their heads and close their eyes. Invite any students who would like to know more about how to trust Jesus Christ as their Savior to look up at you. Assign workers to counsel and pray with responding students.

If you've already trusted in Jesus to take away your sin and be your Savior, He wants to teach you how to follow Him, just like He did for Peter. You don't have to figure out everything on your own. You don't have to feel like you're lost in the woods. Jesus teaches you from the Bible.

As we learn about Jesus and His love for us, we'll love Him more. Sometimes that means stopping or leaving something we're doing, like Peter left his nets and fish. But as you keep following Jesus, you'll find that following Him brings you the most joy!

DISCOVER!

Storyline Speed Fishing

TIP
Use this activity to reinforce and cement the lesson truths.

Materials

- Lesson 1 visuals (34507 or 34507EB); buckets; Ping-Pong balls; small fishing nets; permanent marker; tape; whiteboard; dry-erase marker.

Before class: *Print the four PowerPoint visuals from the digital files in the visual packet and tape them to the whiteboard in random order. Or write or draw a representation of each visual in a box on the whiteboard in random*

order. Number the pictures 1 to 4 from left to right. For each team, prepare a bucket containing four Ping-Pong balls, numbered 1 to 4.

ACTIVITY: Students gather in groups of four. Place a bucket of Ping-Pong balls and a small fishing net across the room from each team. The first player from each team runs to the team's bucket, uses the net to scoop out one Ping-Pong ball, and runs it back to the team, keeping the ball in the net the entire time. Each team member takes a turn fishing. Once a team has all its Ping-Pong balls, the students work together to place the balls in the correct story order, matching the numbers on the balls with the numbers assigned to the pictures. The first team to successfully place its Ping-Pong balls in the correct order wins.



Memory Verse: **Matthew 4:19.**

DISPLAY: Verse poster from **rbpVBS.org/VersePosters** or PowerPoint of the verse from the VBS Resources (34502 or 34502EB).

Jesus told Peter and his friends, "Follow Me." Peter took a big risk when he left his job to follow Jesus. But Peter didn't hesitate. He knew Jesus was worth it. Instead of looking for fish to catch, Peter and his friends would now be looking for people to tell about Jesus.

Option 1: Follow Me

ACTIVITY: Invite a volunteer to demonstrate an action *(e.g., hopping, patting head, standing on tiptoe, balancing on one foot)*. Everyone else must follow that action while saying the verse. Take turns coming up with new actions and reciting the verse as a class.

We're following the directions of our leader. Jesus wants us to follow Him and learn from Him. He wants each of us to become "fishers of men" by telling other people about Him.

Option 2: Come with Me

ACTIVITY: Have volunteers take turns making an appeal by quoting the verse. Have them say it as persuasively as they can *(e.g., with emphasis, pleadingly, loudly, softly).*

It can be hard to convince others to come somewhere with us. But when they can see we're excited and that it means a lot to us, it's easier for them to want to come too!

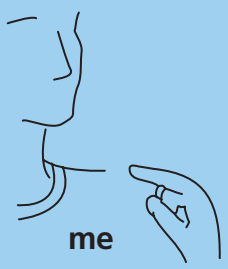
At VBS, we'll learn that Peter became so excited about following Jesus that he led others to come follow Jesus too.

Looking for a super special way to ground students in God's Word? Get verse posters at rbpVBS.org/VersePosters!

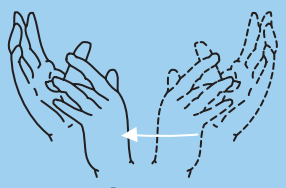
TIP
The VBS Resources include printable cards for students to take home so they can keep learning the memory verses.

TIP
Choose one of the following options to help students apply the lesson.

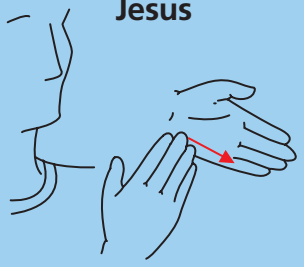
TIP
Option 1 is great for younger students.



me



Jesus



forgiven

APPLY IT NOW!

Option 1: Sing and Sign

ACTIVITY: Sing the following words to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell." Do the actions, and encourage your students to mimic you and sing along. Repeat as time allows.

God sent His Son for me.	*(Sign "me.")*
God sent His Son for me.	*(Sign "me.")*
Jesus died and rose again.	*(Sign "Jesus.")*
God sent His Son for me.	*(Sign "me.")*
I am forgiven now.	*(Sign "forgiven.")*
I am forgiven now.	*(Sign "forgiven.")*
When I believe and trust in Christ,	*(Point to self.)*
I am forgiven now.	*(Sign "forgiven.")*
Now I will follow Him.	*(Sign "Jesus.")*
Now I will follow Him.	*(Sign "Jesus.")*
I'll tell my friends about His love.	*(Point to mouth.)*
Now I will follow Him.	*(Sign "Jesus.")*

Option 2: I Will Follow Jesus

Materials

- Construction paper; scissors; pens or markers; sticky tack; whiteboard; dry-erase marker.

Before class: *Cut small boat shapes out of construction paper.*

TIP
Examples of answers include video games, TV shows, or comic books that you know displease God; ways of talking about someone that make people laugh but are unkind; disobedience to your parent.

What are some things that Peter willingly gave up? *(His boat; his job; a big catch of fish.)* God doesn't tell everyone to give up these kinds of things. But we should be *willing* to give them up. Peter had to leave everything to follow Jesus, learn about Him, and become a fisher of people.

In His Word, the Bible, God has clearly told us some things we should give up to follow Jesus. The Bible calls them "sins." What are some of these things?

ACTIVITY: Give each student a construction paper boat, and have students write or draw their answers on their boats. While students do this, draw a simple scene on the whiteboard: a boat floating in water on the left side, two stick figures walking together on the right, and a path between the two. When students are ready, have them place their boats in the water on the whiteboard, using sticky tack. Read several responses.

Like Peter, when we're willing to give up things that God says are wrong, we can spend our time following Jesus and getting to know Him better.