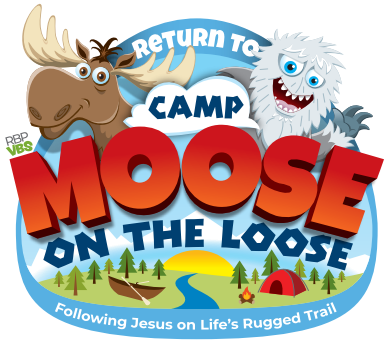


PRIMARY: Ages 6–9 or first, second, and third grades

PRE-PRIMARY OVERVIEW

PRE-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*	"Let your requests be made known to God" (Philippians 4:6).	"Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation" (Mark 14:38).	"If we confess our sins, He [God] is faithful and just to forgive us our sins" (1 John 1:9).	"As I have loved you, . . . 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!	• Base Boat • Help Peter • Walking with Water Relay	• Flashlight Baton Relay • Try Again Toss	• Flying in the Forest • Cross the Creek	• Mouse, Mouse, Moose • Catch a Shooting Star
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	• 3D Campsite • Fish Friend • Tackle Box • String o' Fish	• Bruce Antlers • S'more Fun • Beary Fun Mask	• Forest Memory Box • Pup Tent • Firefly • Jesus Loves Me	• Forest Buddy Craft Bags • Cozy Campfire • Cloud Watching Binoculars • Wooden Necklace	• Foam Photo Tent • Camp Moose on the Loose Friends • Campfire Hands

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PRE-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: How Do Fish Breathe?

Materials

- 2 glass jars; round coffee filter; rubber band; soil or coffee grounds; ¼ cup water; spoon; towel; *optional:* plastic fish; aquarium plant.

Before class: *If using a fish and plant, add them to one of the jars. Place the coffee filter upside down over the jar. Lightly press the center of the coffee filter into the mouth of the jar, and secure the filter around the jar with the rubber band. Pour 2 cups of water into the second jar. During class, you will need these two prepared jars, the soil or coffee grounds, a spoon, and a towel.*

Fish live in water. Have you ever wondered how they can breathe? They need oxygen just like we do. How do they get it from water?

Let's pretend this soil is the oxygen—the air—we breathe. *(Take several deep breaths. Encourage the children to do the same.)*

ACTIVITY: *Car*efully pour a spoonful of soil or coffee grounds into the jar containing water.

Fish have slits called gills in the sides of their bodies. Their gills filter the oxygen from the water.

ACTIVITY: Carefully pour the water mixture into the filter-covered jar, pouring onto the filter. Have a towel nearby for any cleanup. **ASK:** What is happening to the water? *(Pause for replies.)* Can you see how the water is flowing through this filter and the "oxygen" is staying on top?

Today we will learn about Jesus' special friends who fished all the time.

Option 2: Follow Me

Let's play a game called Follow Me.

ACTIVITY: Choose one student to stand behind you. Tell that student to follow you around the room, doing the motions that you do. After one turn around the room, choose another child to join the end of the line, following you both around the room. Continue until all the children have been chosen and have joined the line, following your motions.

In today's Bible story, we will learn that Jesus chose special friends to follow Him.

TIP
This VBS is about following Jesus. Following Him starts with trusting Him as Savior and grows through loving Him, learning from His Word, talking to Him in prayer, and becoming more like Him.

Option 3: What's in the Tent?

Materials

- Calming camp tent (34643); fishing gear; illustrated children's books about fishing and freshwater fish.

Before class: *Set up a tent in your classroom. Place fishing gear (e.g., poles, bobbers, sinkers, wading boots, nets, life vests, tackle box, fishing hat, fishing line—nothing with hooks) in the tent. Add illustrated children's books about fishing and freshwater fish.*

Optional: *Leave the tent up all week. Each day place something new in the tent for children to explore, e.g., sleeping bag, canteen, small cooler, life preserver or life vest, oar, backpack, map, compass.*

ACTIVITY: As campers arrive, invite two or three at a time to explore the tent. **ASK:** Have you ever gone fishing? What do you need to bring when you fish? *(Engage students in conversation.)*

In today's Bible story, we will learn about Jesus' special friends who fished every day!



Materials

- **L1-PP-Canoe** from the VBS Resources (34502 or 34502EB); *optional:* camping gear; life vests.

Before class: *Unless you will be using a real canoe, print an image of a canoe from the VBS Resources.*

(Direct students' attention to the canoe image or canoe.) Who knows what this is? Yes, this is a canoe! It's perfect for camping. A canoe can hold several people and can even carry our camping gear! Let's load up and head to our campsite.

ACTIVITY: Encourage students to pretend to load camping gear into a canoe, or help students load gear into a real canoe.

Our canoe is floating on the lake. When we climb into the canoe, we've got to be careful so we do not tip the boat over and spill all our camping gear! Carefully place one foot in, bring your other foot in, and then carefully sit down with your paddle.

ACTIVITY: Invite children to take turns putting on life vests (or pretending to put on life vests) and climbing into the canoe. If you don't have a canoe, encourage each student to pretend to put on a life vest and climb into a canoe. **SAY:** Now let's paddle our canoe. *(Children pretend to*

TIP
This activity works well for younger students.

TIPS
- Before you begin the introduction each day, practice using a signal—such as raising your hand—to indicate when it's time for students to sit quietly. Whenever students have a little trouble calming down, use a transition like counting down from five or clapping three times.
- If you use the term "Bible story" for a Bible account, teach the students that all Bible stories are true. They're not make-believe like some stories.

hold and use paddles.) Keep your paddle as close to the boat as possible. Don't forget to work together! (*Complete the motions and encourage children to mimic your movement.)*

One day Jesus asked to go for a ride in Peter's fishing boat. But Jesus wasn't going to a campsite. He had a much bigger adventure planned for Peter.



Materials

- Bible; lesson 1 visuals (34507 or 34507EB).

Each lesson has a special word or phrase at Very Important Points of the lesson. These ***VIP words*** *are set apart by different colors. This lesson's VIP word is* ***"special,"*** *in blue. Each time students hear* ***"special,"*** *have them say "yay" or jump for joy.*

ACTIVITY: While teaching the first few paragraphs (until "**DISPLAY:** Visual 1.1"), start at the back of your classroom and walk to the front of the room, pretending to walk through a crowd of people.

Jesus is God's Son. Jesus told people about God's love, and He did **special** things only God can do. We call those powerful things "miracles."

One day, a crowd of people had come to the shore of the Sea of Galilee to see Jesus. There were so many people! They were crowding closer and closer to Jesus. It was probably getting hard for everybody to hear Him.

Jesus saw two fishing boats at the shore. The boats belonged to Peter and his brother Andrew. Peter and Andrew were fishermen. Their job was to catch lots and lots of fish.

Jesus called out to Peter. *(Cup your hands around your mouth.)* "Peter! Could you please row Me out just a little way from the shore?"

Peter had worked all night because that's when fish were easier to catch. He was probably tired, but he agreed to help Jesus. Peter, Andrew, and Jesus got into the boat, and they floated a little way from land so all the people could hear.

DISPLAY: Visual 1.1.

Jesus sat in the boat and taught the people about God. When Jesus was done teaching, He said to Peter, "Row out to where the water is deep and let down your net. You'll catch a lot of fish."



Lesson 1 Visual 1

Peter and his friends had been fishermen for a long time. They were good at their jobs! Peter was not sure this was a good idea. "Teacher," Peter said, "we have worked hard all night, and we've caught nothing, but we will obey You."

ACTIVITY: Have the children pretend to be Peter and his friends, rowing to deep water. Tell the children to stand and pretend to throw their nets into the water.

Peter and his friends let down the net and began to pull, pull, PUUULLL!

ACTIVITY: Have the children pretend to pull the nets out of the water and then sit.

DISPLAY: Visual 1.2.



Lesson 1 Visual 2

Peter couldn't believe his eyes! The net was full of fish, flopping and squirming back and forth. Jesus had performed a miracle by helping the fishermen catch so many fish! A miracle is something **special** that only God can do.

There were so many fish that the net was breaking. "Help! Come help us!" Peter and Andrew called to the fishermen in another boat.

DISPLAY: Visual 1.3.



Lesson 1 Visual 3

Peter's fishermen friends, James and John, rowed as fast as they could. They were surprised too! They pulled and tugged the net, and they emptied the fish into both of the boats.

ACTIVITY: Encourage the children to pretend to pull in a heavy net.

The boats were now so full of fish that they almost couldn't hold them all!

DISPLAY: Visual 1.4.



Lesson 1 Visual 4

Peter and his friends saw something **special** that day. They saw Jesus' power. Peter knew that Jesus was not like any other person. Peter also knew that he was a sinner and had done things that disobeyed God.

Peter was afraid. He fell on his knees in front of Jesus, right there in the boat. "Jesus, I am a sinner!" Peter said.

"Don't be afraid, Peter," Jesus told him. Jesus didn't come to earth to make us afraid of God. Jesus came to earth to make a way for people to be made right with God, because He loved them.

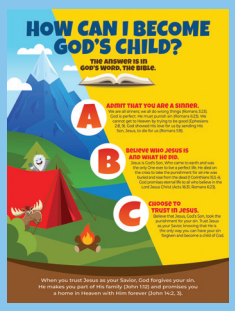
Jesus had a **special** plan for Peter and his friends. "Follow Me," Jesus said.

ACTIVITY: To help children understand what it means to follow Jesus, play a simple round of follow the leader. Have children stand facing you, and tell them to do whatever you are doing. Start with simple commands (e.g., "Clap your hands"). Depending on the age of your students, encourage them to repeat your motions without you giving verbal instructions.

When we played follow the leader, you listened and obeyed what I asked you to do. That's what Jesus wanted Peter and his friends to do. Jesus wanted Peter to follow Him. To follow Jesus, first Peter had to trust in Jesus. Then Peter had to listen to Jesus and learn to love others like Jesus did.

Peter had seen how **special** Jesus is. Peter knew that he could trust Jesus, so Peter and his friends did something amazing. They left everything and followed Jesus!





Salvation Poster (34536)

Materials

- Bible; salvation poster (34536).

We can trust and follow Jesus too. Like Peter, we must learn that we have sinned. We sin when we do what we want instead of what God wants. Sin is anything we think, say, or do that disobeys God. The Bible says that we are all sinners.

But there is good news. God loves us. He sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment for sin by dying on a cross. And because Jesus is greater than everything, He didn't stay dead. He came alive again!

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

If you have already asked Jesus to take away your sin and be your Savior, Jesus wants you to be like Peter and his friends. He wants you to follow Him!

We learn to keep following Jesus by listening to what He says in His Word, the Bible, and talking to Him in prayer. As we learn about Jesus, we learn to love Him more and more and to tell other people that He loves them too.



TIP
Choose one of the following options to reinforce and cement the lesson truths.

Option 1: Role-Play

Materials

- Lesson 1 visuals (34507 or 34507EB); students' chairs.

Before class: *Cluster the students' chairs in the shape of a boat. Assign a worker to lead the children in motions as you review the lesson.* Optional: *Arrange students in a boat shape and have them sit on the floor.*

ACTIVITY: Use the lesson 1 visuals to highlight key events of the lesson. Have children role-play the following characters as you review the story: the crowd, Peter and his friends, and Jesus. Invite children to take turns sitting in the boat as they role-play the different characters.

Option 2: What's in My Boat?

Materials

- Lesson 1 visuals (34507 or 34507EB); cardboard box; **L1-PP-Boat** from the VBS Resources (34502 or 34502EB); tape; small aquarium net; toy fish; red construction paper heart.

Before class: *Print a boat image from the VBS Resources and tape it to the cardboard box. Place the net, toy fish, and heart in the box.*

DISPLAY: Visual 1.1. Review that section of the story, then point to the picture of the boat on your box**.**

ACTIVITY: Tell the students to pretend the box is Peter's boat. Have volunteers guess what items might be in the boat (the box), based on the story. As needed, show visuals 2 and 3, illustrating the fishing net and fish. When a student guesses correctly, have them hold up the net or fish from the box. Review the events displayed in visuals 1.2 and 1.3.

DISPLAY: Visual 1.4. **ACTIVITY:** Ask a volunteer to choose the last item in the box.

Jesus and His friends learned that they needed to love and follow Jesus. They chose to love and follow Him!



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 invited Peter to trust Him, learn from Him, and tell people the good news of God's love!

ACTIVITY: Say the verse a few times with the students.

Option 1: Fishing Game

Materials

- Construction paper or cardstock fish (various colors); marker; baby pool or blue plastic tablecloth.

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 children to take home so they can keep learning the memory verses with help from an adult.

Before class: *Write a word or short phrase from the verse on each fish. Place the fish face down in the "pond"—the empty pool or plastic tablecloth.*

Peter fished with a net. Today many people fish with a fishing pole. The words from our memory verse are written on these fish. Let's take turns fishing. Then we will work together to put the fish in verse order.

ACTIVITY: Have students take turns fishing—reaching into the pond and pulling out a fish. Read the word or phrase on each fish. Ask a worker to help the students place the words in the correct order.

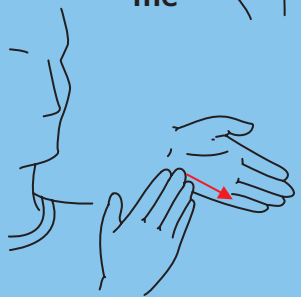
Option 2: Follow Me

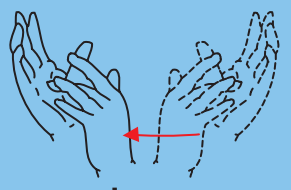
ACTIVITY: Call on a student to demonstrate an action *(e.g., hopping, patting head, standing on tiptoe, balancing on one foot)*. Everyone else must follow that action while saying the verse. Take turns coming up with new actions and reciting the verse as a class.

We are 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 Jesus.

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









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 Can Follow Jesus

Materials

- Laundry basket; toys.

Before class: *Place toys in the laundry basket.*

Peter and his friends learned that they could trust and follow Jesus. We can learn to trust and follow Him too! We can follow Jesus when we learn about Him.

ACTIVITY: Encourage children to think of ways they learn about Jesus *(reading the Bible, going to VBS, going to church, etc.)*.

We can follow Jesus by obeying! *(Empty the basket of toys on the floor.)* Pretend these are your toys. If a grown-up asks you to pick up your toys, how can you follow Jesus? *(You can follow Jesus by obeying your grown-ups.)*

ACTIVITY: Have children pick up the toys.

We can also choose to follow Jesus, just like Peter, when we tell others the good news of God's love.

ACTIVITY: Tell children to point to another student and say, "Jesus loves you!"