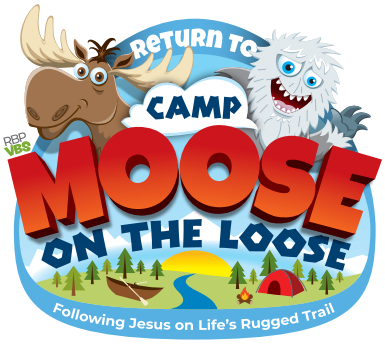


JUNIOR: Ages 9–12 or fourth, fifth, and sixth grades

JUNIOR OVERVIEW

JUNIOR	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 anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God" (Philippians 4:6).	"Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, 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 to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you 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	• Fisherman Tag • Fish Toss	• Base Boat • Walking with Water Relay • "Beary" Big Banquet	• Flashlight Baton Relay • Try Again Toss • Don't Quit Yeti • Forgiveness Volleyball	• 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 • Mini Canoe • Mini Kite	• Forest Memory Box • Pup Tent • Firefly • Bruce the Moose Ornament	• Campfire Treat Craft • Forest Buddy Craft Bags • Wooden Necklace	• Foam Photo Tent • Lace-Up Lantern • Camp Moose on the Loose Friends

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JUNIOR
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.)

EXTRA CREDIT VERSES

Luke 9:23; John 6:67–69; Romans 5:8; Philippians 3:7, 8

- **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: Come with Me

Before class: *Recruit two to four adult or teen workers who will each give a promotional pitch for a different camping expedition.*

ACTIVITY: Each worker makes a promotional pitch for a camping expedition: a fishing trip, a hiking trip, a water adventure trip, or a wildlife observation trip. The workers should emphasize the expertise they have, even if they're pretending, and the skills they could teach. After they 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?

For a small class: Without having the workers stand in separate corners, simply have students share which expedition they would choose.

It's easy to follow a person on a trip that we're excited about. It's even easier if the person we're following is an expert guide. Today we'll learn about a man who got so excited about an expedition and its Guide that he left his job to follow Him!

Option 2: Ice Fishing

Materials

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

Before class: *Set up a station for each group of two or three students. Each station should have a bowl of water, a few ice cubes, and some salt.*

Let's have some fun fishing. How'd you like to fish for ice?

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

For older students: Let them tie the strings for the younger kids.

Two or three students gather at each station and take turns completing the following steps.

1. Place one ice cube in the water. Wait until it rests on the water and is mostly still.
2. Using the fishing pole, carefully place the free end of the string on top of the ice cube. Sprinkle salt where the string rests against the ice cube. Watch the ice melt slightly and then refreeze.
3. After ten seconds, carefully lift the ice cube out of the water with the fishing pole. What a catch!

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

Water freezes at 32 degrees Fahrenheit. Salt raises an ice cube's freezing temperature so the ice can melt around the string. But when the ice starts melting, it dilutes the salt in the melted water, so the freezing point goes back up. The ice then refreezes around the string.

But this illustration is just ice. Do you know any fishermen 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. The lives of those men would never be the same.



Materials

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

Optional warmup: 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 who fish to earn money use nets. 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 pantomime.

If you're a fisherman, 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 a single fish. So they had no fish to sell. No fish meant no money.

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

TIP
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.

TIP
Following Jesus 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. A word we sometimes use for learning to follow Jesus is "discipleship."

TIP
Each lesson has an interactive activity at a Very Important Point of the lesson. These activities are set apart by different colors. For the lesson 1 VIPs, students will share ideas of what Peter had before he met Christ, what he gave up to follow Him, and what he gained afterward. These are set apart in green.

TIP
If you use the term "Bible story" for a Bible narrative, teach the students that if the Bible says a story is true, it's true. It's not made up like some stories.



Lesson 1 Visual 1

EXPLORE THE BIBLE!

Materials

- Bible; lesson 1 visuals (34507 or 34507EB); whiteboard; dry-erase marker; large fishing net or a picture of a large fishing net..

Before class: *Prepare to write the students' ideas on the whiteboard.*

Do any of you like to fish? When we fish, we all probably use a fishing rod, and sometimes a small net to lift the fish out of the water. But pro fishers often use big nets to catch fish. This was also true in Bible times.

Several fishermen were washing their nets after a full night's work. They had no idea that Jesus had way bigger plans for them that day than cleaning their nets. Let's dive into this wonderfully true story from God's Word, the Bible.

READ: Luke 5:1, 2. **ASK:** How many boats did Jesus notice at the lake? *(Two.)* **DISPLAY:** Visual 1.1.

Wherever Jesus went, He drew a crowd. He said and did things no one else could. On this day, He was teaching by a big lake called Gennesaret, often called the Sea of Galilee. A huge crowd wanted to hear Him. But for some in the crowd, seeing over other people or hearing what Jesus was saying was just about impossible.

Jesus asked a fisherman named Peter to take Him out a little way from the shore. So Peter and his brother, Andrew, rowed out on the water with Jesus. Perfect! This new spot was a natural sound amplifier. Everyone could hear Jesus teach.

When Jesus finished His message, He had something else for Peter to do.

READ: Luke 5:4, 5. **ASK:** What did Jesus tell Peter to do? *(Take the boat out farther from the shore and put his net in the water.)* How did Peter respond to this strange request? *(He pointed out they hadn't caught any fish all night.)*

Jesus' request might not sound unusual. He had asked a fisherman to fish! But the timing seemed lousy for fishing. The best time to fish was at night, not during the daytime. Besides, Peter had just spent all night fishing in that same water and had caught nothing.

But even though he didn't understand, Peter did as Jesus asked. Peter and Andrew rowed into the deep part of the lake and cast their nets out on the water.

DISPLAY: Show a fishing net or a picture of a fishing net.

Peter and Andrew would probably have used large, round nets with weights tied to the edges and a rope tied to the middle. When they cast a net, it spread

out and landed on the water. The weights around the net pulled it down into the water. Remember, all night there had been no fish in this spot!

They pulled up the net—and Peter had the surprise of his life. The net was so heavy with fish that it started to break.

DISPLAY: Visual 1.2.

"Hey," Peter and Andrew called out to their fishing partners. "Come help us!" Their partners in another boat hurried to help their friends, but with so many fish, both boats began to sink.

The men had struck it rich! They could have lived off the profits of that catch for a while.

DISPLAY: Visual 1.3. **ACTIVITY:** **Write "Things Peter Had" on the left side of the whiteboard**. Ask volunteers to each say one thing Peter had at this point in the account. Write them under Things Peter Had. Examples include a boat, fishing partners, and a valuable catch of fish. Record students' suggestions.

READ: Luke 5:8–10. **ASK:** What was Peter's response to this miracle? *(He fell at Jesus' feet and confessed that he was a sinful man.)* What did Jesus tell Peter about Peter's future? *(He was going to be a fisher of men.)* **EXPLAIN:** At that time, "men" was another word for "people."

Peter couldn't deny the miracle that had happened right in front of his eyes. It showed Jesus' greatness—so much so that Peter realized how sinful he was.

He fell at Jesus' feet and confessed that he was a sinful man. Peter had said, thought, and done wrong things that displeased God, Who is holy and perfect. Peter could do nothing to make himself good enough for God. He needed Jesus' forgiveness!

Sitting there in that boat with probably the biggest catch of his life, Peter also realized something else. He knew Jesus was more important than a big catch or the money it could bring.

Jesus told Peter not to be afraid. From that moment, instead of catching fish, Peter and his friends were going to "catch" people by telling them about Jesus.

DISPLAY: Visual 1.4. **READ:** Luke 5:11.

When the boats touched shore, the fishermen climbed out and immediately followed Jesus. Their boats, their business, and their huge catch of fish meant nothing to them after what they had seen. Jesus was greater than all of it.

ACTIVITY: **Cross out "Had" in the title of the list on the board and write "Gave Up" above it.** Review the list of what Peter had but gave up when he followed Jesus.

TIP
The partners in the other boat were James and John.



Lesson 1 Visual 2



Lesson 1 Visual 3



Lesson 1 Visual 4



Materials

- Bible; salvation poster (34536).

If you've already asked Jesus to forgive your sin and be your Savior, you are His disciple, like Peter was! As we grow in our love for Jesus, we'll be more and more willing to give up things that displease Him. We'll discover that choosing to follow Jesus brings the most joy!

ASK: What did following Jesus bring to Peter? Help me think of ways Peter's life might have changed for the better. **ACTIVITY:** **On the right side of the board, write "Things Peter Gained."** Have students suggest items for this list. Examples include a close relationship with Jesus, close relationship with believers *(God's family),* joy, purpose, guidance, partners in God's work, and rewards in Heaven. Record students' suggestions under Things Peter Gained.

Unfortunately, there's another path you could follow. Imagine that you're hiking through a forest, but you get lost, and now it's night. You desperately need help because danger is coming. Then a park ranger shows up.

ASK: What should you do? *(First verify the ranger is a real ranger. Then let the ranger help you find your way back to camp.)*

The Bible tells us of a worse situation than the one I just described. It says that everyone is a sinner. And God says all sin must be punished. The *Good News* is better than a park ranger showing up. Jesus, God's Son, died on a cross to take the punishment our sin deserves. Then He rose from the dead.

Following Jesus starts with trusting Him as your Savior. His invitation to you is "Follow Me!" Have you listened to His invitation? Is He your Savior?

ACTIVITY: Ask students to bow their heads and close their eyes. Invite any students who would like 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.



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

Drawing the Details

Materials

- Slips of paper cut into fish shapes; pen; small fish tank net; whiteboard; dry-erase markers and eraser; stopwatch.

Before class: *On each fish, write a key word (or words) from today's lesson (e.g., boat, fishing net, fish, crowd, Peter, catch, follow Jesus, disciple). Put the fish in the net.*

ACTIVITY: Divide the class into two teams. A member of the first team pulls a fish out of the net while his or her eyes are closed and then draws a picture of that word or words on the whiteboard. The first team has thirty seconds to guess the word as the student draws. If the team guesses correctly, award the team one point. Repeat with the other team, and then continue back and forth until all the words have been drawn. *(If your class size is too small for two teams, simply have students take turns drawing as the rest of the class guesses.)*

ASK: Peter had made a good life for himself as a fisherman. Why was he willing to give it up to follow Jesus? *(He saw the greatness of Jesus and wanted to follow Him, no matter the cost.)*.



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

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

Peter didn't fish just for fun. Fishing was his job. But Jesus said, "Follow Me." Instead of looking for fish to catch, Peter would be looking for people to tell about Jesus. Jesus would teach Peter to love people and tell them the good news of salvation.

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.

Fishing Lake Puzzle

Materials

- Blue construction paper; markers; scissors; envelopes.

Before class: *For each student, trim a sheet of construction paper into an oval lake shape.*

DISPLAY: PowerPoint or visual of Matthew 4:19. **READ:** Ask students to read the verse together two or three times. **ACTIVITY:** Give each student a construction paper "lake." Each student writes the verse on the lake, using the whole lake, and then cuts apart the words, creating a puzzle. Students assemble their own puzzles and then trade with other students and assemble those puzzles. Give each student an envelope to store his or her puzzles.

TIP

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



APPLY IT NOW!



Option 1: Listed Value

Materials

- Paper; pencils.

ACTIVITY: Give each student a sheet of paper and a pencil. Students label their papers "Things I Have" and list ten things that they have and value. After several minutes, invite volunteers to share one item from their lists.

Through God's Word, the Bible, Jesus asks you to follow Him. He wants to be more important to you than other things. Would you be willing to change "Things I Have" on the top of your paper to "Things I Could Give Up"?

ASK: Did Peter give up everything so he could be good enough for God to forgive his sins? *(No. Peter simply put his faith in Jesus as his Savior, and God forgave his sins.)* Does being willing to give up these good things mean that God will take them all away? Why or why not? *(No. Just like Peter didn't lose his brother, but they served Jesus together, many times Jesus asks His followers to use what they already have to serve Him.)*

If you want to learn more about making Jesus more important to you than any of these things on your list, feel free to talk with me or *(name of other leader[s]).*

Option 2: Speed Fishing

Materials

- Five-gallon buckets; Ping-Pong balls; small fish tank nets; permanent marker.

Before class: *For each team, prepare a bucket containing a set of Ping-Pong balls, each with a one- or two-word way to follow Jesus (e.g., trust Jesus, pray, read the Bible, church, memorize verses, Christian friends).*

ACTIVITY: Group students into teams. Place a bucket of Ping-Pong balls 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 the teams have all their Ping-Pong balls, ask one team to read aloud the word(s) on one Ping-Pong ball.

ASK: To follow Jesus in this way, what might you have to give up? How would that sacrifice help you know Jesus better? *(Continue asking the same questions as the other teams read different words.)*