LESSON PLAN

JESUS CALLS PETER

SERIES: Following Christ
THE POINT: Followers of Christ go and make more Followers of Christ
BIBLE STORY: Jesus Calls Peter || Matthew 4:18-22
AGE: Grade 3 - Grade 6

ABOUT THIS LESSON

In the final week of the "Following Christ" series, children explore the story of Jesus calling Peter and the other fishermen to follow Him. Jesus invites ordinary people into an extraordinary mission, not just to follow Him, but to help others follow Him too. This lesson helps children understand that being a follower of Jesus means sharing Him with others. Children will learn that they do not need to be experts to talk about Jesus, they simply need to be willing to go and tell others about Him.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this lesson, students will:

- Learn, understand and retell the story of Jesus calling Peter
- Understand that following Jesus includes telling others about Him
- Recognise that there are people in their lives they can talk to about following Jesus

BIBLE CONTEXT

In Matthew 4, Jesus is walking beside the Sea of Galilee when He sees Peter and Andrew fishing. Jesus calls them to leave their nets and follow Him, promising to make them "fishers of people." Peter immediately leaves what he is doing and follows Jesus. This moment marks the beginning of Peter's journey as a disciple and later as a leader in the early church. This story shows that Jesus calls everyday people and sends them out to help others come to know Him.

SERIES MEMORY VERSE

Matthew 16:24 (NIV) "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."

Pages 2-4 have a variety of different activities to add onto the Link Crew Video!

Make this toolbox your own! Use it in whatever way helps your group dive deeper into the lesson. The goal is deep understanding and great discussions.

Page Number	Name	Activity Description
2	Discussion Guide	Discussions guides, application "Faith in Action" statements and prayer pointers to help facilitate a greater discussion.
3	Activities Page	Fun, topic based activities like a craft, game, quiz and Memory verse activity that bring the learning to life.

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DISCUSSION GUIDE

JESUS CALLS PETER

START THE CONVERSATION

"Can you name five of your closest friends?"

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS, GRADE 3 - 4

1. Peter was busy fishing when Jesus called him to follow. What does this tell you about when Jesus calls people? How does it make you feel knowing Jesus calls ordinary people like Peter?

2. Jesus told Peter he would become a fisher of people. What do you think Jesus meant by this? How can you help people learn about Jesus?

3. Peter's journey started with one simple yes. How does this encourage you to take small steps in sharing your faith? Who is one person God might be putting on your heart?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS, GRADE 5 - 6

1. Peter left his job and security to follow Jesus. Why can following Jesus sometimes feel risky or uncomfortable? What helps people trust Jesus enough to follow Him fully?

2. Jesus did not just call Peter to follow Him — He gave him a mission. Why do you think sharing Jesus is part of following Him? How can our actions and words point people to Jesus?

3. Everyone who follows Jesus is part of God's plan to reach others. What fears might stop people from talking about Jesus? How can God help us be brave?

FAITH IN ACTION

Following Jesus means going and helping others follow Him too. God can use your words, actions and kindness to point people to Jesus. This could be a close friend or someone you met for the first time. Think of one way you can share Jesus this week.

- "I can ask to pray for someone."
- "I can invite a friend to my church, kids ministry or Jesus based event."
- "I can talk to others about why I love Jesus, and what He has done in my life."
- "I can show Jesus' love through kindness with my words and actions."

Pray

Go around the class asking your kids if there is anything they would like prayer for. Ask if anyone would like to pray for each other, and give them the opportunity to. If not, then pray for the needs as the teacher / facilitator. Remember to pray for the children to feel confident that God is with them when they go and share the good news of Jesus with people in their life.

Take note of any prayer requests to be passed onto your child's support network.

Lesson Wrap-up

Jesus calls ordinary people to follow Him and invites them into His mission. When we follow Jesus, we are also called to help others follow Him. One simple yes can make a big difference.

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ACTIVITIES PAGE

JESUS CALLS PETER

ACTIVITY - SHARE JESUS WITH THE WHOLE WORLD

Supplies Needed: Resource Page, Colouring Pens or Pencils, Scissors

Have the children fold on the lines to create the full image that says "Share Jesus with the Whole World." Once this is done, have the children open up the craft again and have them write specific names of people that they would like to tell about Jesus.

GAME - FISHING FOR PEOPLE

Supplies Needed: Paper fish, markers, bucket or hula hoop per team

Before the game, cut out paper fish and write one word on each fish, such as "Pray," "Invite," "Kindness," "Share," and "Encourage." Place the fish around the room. Divide the children into teams. One child from each team runs to collect one fish and brings it back to their team's bucket or hula hoop. Then the next child has a turn. Keep going until all the fish are collected.

After the game, read the words on the fish and talk about how each one can help someone know Jesus. Remind the children that Jesus told Peter he would become a "fisher of people." This does not mean catching people. It means helping people know and follow Jesus through our words, actions, prayers and kindness.

BIBLE QUIZ

1. True or False: Peter was a fisherman. (True)

2. Multiple Choice: What was Peter's name before Jesus changed his name to Peter? (c)
   a) Andrew
   b) John
   c) Simon

3. Short Answer: What did Jesus say He would make Peter? (A fisher of people)

4. Multiple Choice: What did Peter do when Jesus called him? (He followed Him straight away)

5. Multiple Choice: What is the main lesson of this story? (c)
   a) Fishing is important to be a follower of Jesus
   b) Jesus calls leaders only
   c) Followers of Jesus help others follow Him

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY: VERSE CROSS

Memory Verse: Matthew 16:24 (NIV) "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."

Supplies Needed: Paper, Pens, Scissors, Colouring Pencils

Have the children draw a cross on their piece of paper and then have them write the memory verse around the cross. Have then colour it in so they can take it home and remind themselves that they are a follower of Jesus who is called to follow Jesus' way which includes telling others about Him.

GAME

You can find a list of small group games at https://lmnetwork.com.au/small-group-games/

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