



# STORIES **AND** RITUALS

## LESSON 20

### Stories & Rituals: The Bible in Broad Strokes

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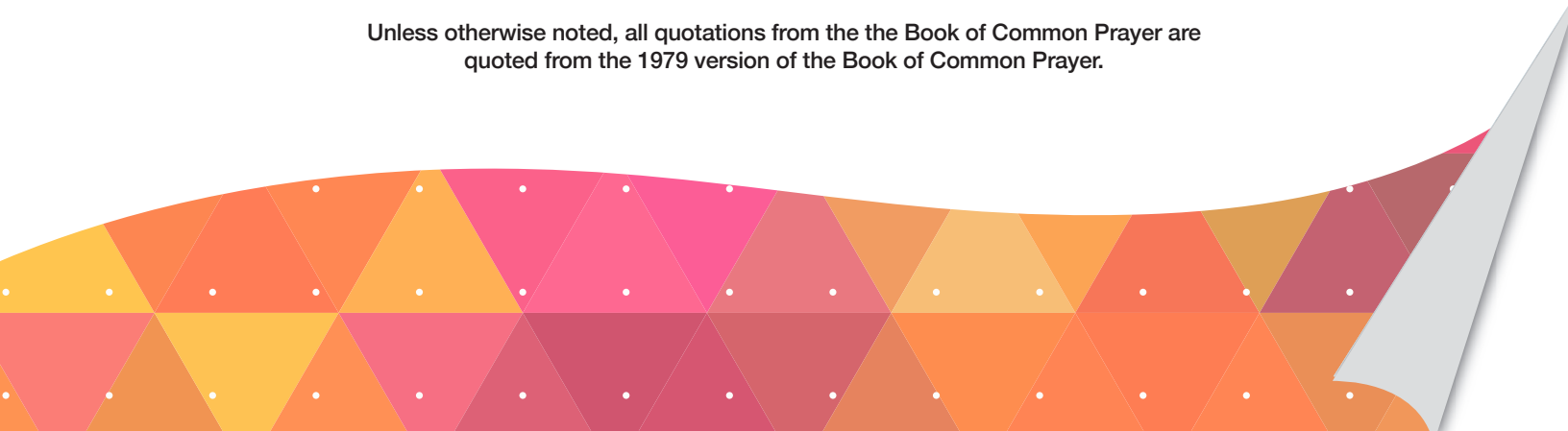
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# Peter Fishes for People

Texts: **Luke 5:1-11**

Big Idea: **We are called to proclaim the Good News.**

## Lesson Objectives

### Participants will:

1. Identify a theme of the lesson by playing a card game.
2. Recognize that we are called to proclaim the Good News by exploring the story of Jesus calling the first disciples.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of being called to follow Jesus and proclaim the good news by participating in a ritual prayer experience.

### ACTIVITY (TIME)

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Dive In (10 minutes)  
**Group Check-In**

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Community Builder (15 minutes)  
**Go Fish!**

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The Story (15 minutes)  
**Peter Fishes for People**

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The Ritual (15 minutes)  
**Hearing the Call**

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Dig Deeper (10 minutes)  
**Youth Directory**

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Wrap it Up (5 minutes)  
**Closing Prayer**

### MATERIALS NEEDED

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- Nothing

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- Decks of cards

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- Copy of Lesson Sheet 20.1

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- Soft, instrumental music (optional)
- Method for playing music (optional)
- Fish net    • Poster board
- Pencils or pens    • Paper
- Bowl of goldfish crackers

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- Copies of Lesson Sheet 20.2
- Cardstock
- Markers, stickers, and other art supplies

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- Nothing

# LESSON OVERVIEW



## What's the Story?

Today's story is found in Luke 5:1-11. It is about the calling of the first disciples.

In churches that use the lectionary, we sometimes hear this story during the time after Epiphany. It's the story of Simon Peter and the fishermen catching so much fish that their nets start to break and the boats almost sink! Simon recognizes his Lord and falls to his feet confessing his sins.

This story reminds us that when faced with abundance we often become aware of our unworthiness! Jesus instructs Peter to follow him and become a fisher of men.



## What's the "Big Idea?"

The big idea for this story is that *we are called to proclaim the Good News*. Like Simon Peter, we may not realize how Jesus is our Lord, but when we do, we want everyone to know about him. As Jesus instructs Simon, we must not be afraid.



## What's the Symbol?

The fish was an early symbol Christians used to secretly identify themselves to each other. Find or make a large fish to hang above or place on your altar area. You can draw one on newsprint or a poster board, or make one out of chenille sticks. Be creative and do what will work for your setting.



## What's the Ritual?

Using Scripture for inspiration, participants are invited to identify things that block them from following Jesus. These can be things like a busy schedule, being afraid you'll be labeled in some way, or just not knowing Jesus. Then, participants will record their answers inside a fish symbol drawn on newsprint. Then they take a piece of paper and draw a fish symbol on it and place their name in the middle of the fish. This goes face down on the altar. When everyone is done they experience having their name called to follow Jesus and share a symbolic snack.



## Setting Up Your Space

Create a sacred space by designating a table to use as an "altar." Drape your worship area with fishnets if you can. If you don't have access to fish nets, you can substitute sports net of some kind. Add existing fish symbols or plastic fish, a cross, a candle, or other sacred objects that define your space. Gather the other supplies needed for the Community Builder, Ritual, and Dig Deeper activities, if you plan to complete them.

## DIVE IN (10 MINUTES)

### Group Check-In

#### *Materials:*

- Nothing

#### During the session:

- Open your session with a quick prayer. Use this one or a prayer of your own:  
**Holy Lord, open our eyes, ears, and hearts to see your love and faithfulness in the world around us. Help us see your love for us in your Word. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**
- **Let's start our time together by sharing some of the great and not-so-great things that have happened to us this week. What were the high points and low points of your week?** Go around the group and invite everyone to share.

## COMMUNITY BUILDER (15 MINUTES)

### Go Fish!

#### *Materials:*

- A deck of cards for every 3-6 players

#### During the session:

- Divide participants into small groups of 3-6 players each.
- Give each group a deck of cards to use.
- In this game the object is to collect the most “books” or 4 cards of the same rank (i.e. 4 kings, 4 jacks, 4 tens, etc.)
- One person in each group should be designated a dealer. The dealer deals 5 cards to each player. The remaining cards are placed face down to form a stack.
- The person to the left of the dealer goes first. They ask any other player for a specific rank of card that they have in their hand. For example, “(name), please give me your Kings.”
- If the person asked has any of the requested cards in their hand, then they must give all their cards to the player who asked. The player then gets another turn and may ask for any card they already hold in their hand.

## COMMUNITY BUILDER - CONTINUED

- As soon as a player collects a book of 4 cards of the same rank, this must be shown and discarded face down.
- The game continues until time is called, someone has no cards left in their hand, or the cards run out. The winner is the player who then has the most “books.”
- After the game has ended, discuss the following questions:
- **What do the words “go fish” mean to you?** *[Answers will vary.]*
- **How did you feel when you got the cards you asked for?** *[Answers will vary, but may include: excited, happy, grateful, etc.]*
- **What did you feel when you were told to “go fish”?** *[Answers will vary, but may include: sad, disappointed, hopeful that you’d pick the right card, etc.]*



# THE STORY

## (15 MINUTES)

### Peter Fishes for People

#### Materials:

- Copy of Lesson Sheet 20.1

#### Before the session:

- Make a copy of Lesson Sheet 20.1
- Practice reading through the story several times so you are familiar with it.

#### During the session:

- Tell the story on Lesson Sheet 20.1.
- After the story ask: **What is this story telling us about God?** *[Answers will vary but may include: God came to dwell among us in the form of the man Jesus, God speaks to us, God calls us to spread the good news, etc.]*
- **What is this story telling us about humanity?** *[Answers will vary but may include: People are hungry for the good news, we find it scary to follow Jesus; we need to trust in God's call, we need a reminder to not be afraid, etc.]*
- **What is the story telling us about the world?** *[Answers will vary but may include: The world is full of work to do for God's kingdom, the world is in need of faith, we find the abundance given to us by Jesus in the world around us, etc.]*
- **Like the Simon, James and John - Jesus challenges us to follow him! There is good news to share. As we do this, we remember Jesus' words: "Don't be afraid!"**



# THE RITUAL

## (15 MINUTES)

# Hearing the Call

### Materials:

- Soft, instrumental music (*optional*)
- Method for playing music (*optional*)
- Fish net
- Newsprint or poster board
- Marker
- Paper
- Pencils or Pens
- Bowl of goldfish crackers



### During the session:

- If you are using music, start it playing softly.
- Ask participants to gather around your altar area.
- **What blocks you from hearing Jesus' call? Take a moment to think about these things.**
- Give everyone a moment to think. Then, invite participants to take turns recording their answers on the large fish newsprint or poster board.
- After everyone has recorded their answer, invite them to take a sheet piece of paper and draw the Christian fish symbol and write their name in the middle of the fish.
- Ask each person to place their paper face down on the altar. Then, invite the group to sit around the altar.
- After everyone is sitting, call each person to stand by reading their names from the submitted papers, speaking loudly. For each person, say: **(NAME of the person) – stand up and follow Jesus!**
- After all names have been read and everyone is standing, affirm their call: **As Jesus said to Simon, “Don’t be afraid. From now on, you are fishers of people!”**
- As a symbol of the community we create by accepting Jesus' call, share together a snack of goldfish crackers (or other fish-shaped goodies!)

# DIG DEEPER

## (10 MINUTES)

### Youth Directory

#### Materials:

- Copies of Lesson Sheet 20.2
- Cardstock
- Markers, stickers, and other art supplies

#### Before the session:

- Print copies of Lesson Sheet 20.2 on cardstock.

#### During the session:

- In today's story, Simon, James and John are told to become "fishers of men." As members of this group, we are also charged to take the good news to the people we know. We are going to create our own directory with personalized information cards that all of us will design and make.
- But we are fishing here, too! When you are done the front of your card, turn it over to the blank side. Sit quietly and reflect: who in your life needs to hear the good news about Jesus? Draw 3 fish symbols, and inside each one write the first name of 3 people you might consider inviting into our community sometime this year.
- Make available the information card and art materials. Give participants time to complete them.
- Collect the pages. Tell participants they will be bound and made in to a Youth Directory.
- Keep the directory in your office or youth room. In a few weeks, follow up with students and help them extend invitations to those whose names are on the backs of the cards.

# WRAP IT UP

## (5 MINUTES)

### Closing Prayer

Close with a "popcorn prayer". Stand in a circle and join hands.

Explain the prayer: **I'm going to squeeze the right hand of the person next to me, and they will use their left hand to squeeze the hand of the person next to them. Each of you will do this – as your right hand is squeezed, squeeze your left hand and we will "send" the squeeze around the room.**

Do this and repeat until it works! When the squeeze makes it successfully around one time, tell participants that you are going to start a prayer. After feeling the squeeze, each participant has the option of thanking God for something that reminds them the Good News about Jesus.

**Let us pray...** Thank God for something that reminds you of the Good News, then begin sending the squeeze around the circle. After the squeeze comes back to you – look at the participants while you say, **"And the people of Jesus say – AMEN!"**



# Lesson Sheet 20.1

## Peter Fishes for People

### **A story from John:**

As Jesus' ministry grew, he drew great crowds of people wherever he went. One day, he was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, and there were people everywhere trying to listen to him teach. He was looking for a way to be seen and heard by all the people, and he saw fishermen in their boats washing out their nets. He hopped in to the nearest one belonging to a man named Simon, and asked him to move the boat out a little from shore and anchor it. Then Jesus sat down and taught the people from the boat.

When he was finished teaching, he asked Simon to head for deep water and cast his net. Simon resisted saying they had fished all night and caught nothing but net. But because Jesus asked, he did it. As soon as he let down his nets, they became so filled with fish that the nets began to break. He motioned to his partners to bring their boats out and help him. They came and their boats were so full that they began to sink!

Faced with such abundance, Simon fell to his knees and told Jesus to go away, that he was sinful and not worthy of the catch. Simon and his partners were so amazed that they didn't know what to think. Jesus gently pulled Simon up and said, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be a fisher of men."

So they docked their boats, left everything, and followed Jesus.

# Lesson Sheet 20.2

## Youth Directory Cards

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Your Email \_\_\_\_\_ Family Email \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No . \_\_\_\_\_

List Things You Do for Fun

\_\_\_\_\_

What's your Favorite Restaurant: \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite Food? \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Your Email \_\_\_\_\_ Family Email \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No . \_\_\_\_\_

List Things You Do for Fun

\_\_\_\_\_

What's your Favorite Restaurant: \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite Food? \_\_\_\_\_