



BIG IDEA

Jesus invites us to join his mission.

GOD STORY

Peter Is Called By Jesus (Matthew 4:13–20)

KEY VERSE

[Jesus] said, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must say no to themselves. They must pick up their cross and follow me.” (Matthew 16:24b ,NIRV)

1 | Conversation Starter

INSTRUCTIONS

- a. Introduce today’s Big Idea: **Jesus invites us to join his mission.**
- b. To lead into the lesson, ask: Have you ever watched or been in a relay race? What happened? Did each person run their own race?
- c. Emphasize that relays are raced as a team. The second person cannot run until the first person passes them the baton, and so on. Each teammate must do their part. The same is true of us! We each have a part to play in Jesus’ mission.

2 | Watch

SUPPLIES

- Media player

INSTRUCTIONS

- a. Watch this week’s video from the Now Playing Kids playlist on the One Story YouTube channel.

3 | Discuss & Pray

INSTRUCTIONS

- a. Review the video teaching together:
 - What was today’s Life Story about?
 - What stood out to you in the God Story?
 - Who did Jesus invite to join him? What did he ask them to do?
 - What does fishing for people mean? What do you think it means for us today?
 - What could we share about Jesus with other people? How could we show them God’s love?
- b. Pray that the kids would share about and show the love of Jesus with others in their everyday lives. Ask for God’s help in joining the mission and becoming fishers of people!



4 | Activity

SUPPLIES

- Masking tape
- Flyswatter
- Bibles
- Numbered fish cutouts
- Pipe cleaners
- Beads

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY

- Place a large loop of tape on the flyswatter.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Place the numbered fish cutouts on the floor or a table and gather everyone around them.
 - Look up and read aloud Matthew 4:18–20.
 - Direct the kids to take turns “fishing” by hitting the cutouts with the tape on the flyswatter.
 - When someone catches a fish, read the question or instructions that correspond with the number:
 - Who were Simon Peter and Andrew? What were they doing? (Fishers who were fishing)
 - What did Jesus say to Simon Peter and Andrew? (Come, follow me. I will show you how to fish for people.)
 - Pretend that you’re trying to pull a huge fish that you caught into your boat!
 - How long did Simon Peter and Andrew wait to follow Jesus? (They went right away)
 - What did Jesus mean when he told Simon Peter and Andrew to follow him? (To come and join him; learn from him; be a disciple; join his mission)
 - Make your best fish face!
- Jesus invites us to join his mission.** What does that mean? What is the mission? (Jesus invites us to be his disciples, learn from him, and invite other people to join us; his mission is to share God’s love with everyone and welcome them into God’s kingdom)
 - Say the Big Idea (**Jesus invites us to join his mission**) as if you’re under water.
 - Other than the cross, do you know of a symbol that Christians often use to point to Jesus? (A fish)
 - What does it mean to be “fishers of people”?
 - Guide the kids to create their own fish symbol with the pipe cleaners. They could thread on beads for decoration.
 - Encourage them to use their fish craft as a reminder that **Jesus invites us to join his mission**.



5 | Key Verse

SUPPLIES

- Key Verse word cards
- Key Verse sign
- Timer

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY

- Mix up the Key Verse word cards and place them face down on the floor at one end of your space.
- Place the Key Verse sign at the opposite end.

INSTRUCTIONS

- a. Gather around the Key Verse sign.
- b. Review Matthew 16:24 and briefly discuss what Jesus means in this verse.
- c. Cover up or turn over the sign.
- d. Start the timer.
- e. Direct one person to move to the words in a fun way (e.g., move like a sea creature) and bring one back to the sign.
- f. Work together and decide where the word goes in the verse.
- g. When everyone agrees, prompt the next person to take a turn.
- h. Continue until the verse is in order. Depending on time and interest, repeat the activity and try to do it faster!