

JESUS AND THE "BIG CATCH"

Lesson Plan:

1. *Activity:* Sit down with your children and have them draw a fish. Help them as needed. (Alternate: Have them make the fish from Play-doh.)
2. *Account:* Read the account to your children (below). Incorporate the drawings or Play-doh as desired.
3. *Application:* Share some applications with your children (examples below).



Jesus and the Big Catch (Paraphrased from Luke 5:1-11)

One day Jesus was near the Sea of Galilee and they was a huge crowd of people around Him. They were all trying to get close to Him. They wanted Him to teach them the Word of God. Jesus saw two fishing ships nearby. The fisherman were not in the ships, but they were nearby them and were washing their nets. Jesus got into one of the ships (it was the ship that was owned by Simon Peter). Jesus asked Simon Peter to push the ship out into the water a little ways. Simon Peter did it, and Jesus sat down in the ship and began to teach all of the people who were on the shore.

When Jesus had finished teaching the huge crowd, He told Simon Peter to take the ship out into the deep part of the water and let down his fishing nets in order to catch some fish. Simon Peter said, "Master, we have worked hard all night long and we didn't catch any fish at all....however, if you say so, I will let down my fishing net."

When Simon Peter obeyed Jesus, he caught so many fish that his fishing net broke! Simon Peter called for his partners who were in another ship to come and help them. The partners brought their ship over and they were able to fill BOTH of the ships with fish. The ships were so full that they began to sink!

When Simon Peter saw this, he fell down at Jesus' knees and said, "Leave me dear Lord, for I am too sinful to be around you!" Simon Peter said this because he was amazed at how many fish they caught. Everyone that was with him was amazed too – including his partners, James and John (they were brothers and their father's name was Zebedee).

Jesus told Simon Peter, "Don't be afraid, from this point on you will be catching people!" So, when they had brought their ships to shore, they left everything they had and followed Jesus.

Application and Review: (Review the account and discuss some of the applications to your children. To encourage learning, consider giving candy or a reward when the kids get the answer right. Below are some examples.)

- Why was the huge crowd following Jesus? (They wanted to hear the Word of God. It is a very special privilege to learn what God says.)
- What did Jesus see nearby at the sea? (Some fishing boats)
- Who owned one of the ships? (Simon Peter)
- Jesus got into Simon Peter's ship. What did Jesus ask Simon Peter to do? (To push his boat out into the water a little bit.)

- After Jesus finished teaching the huge crowd, what did He ask Simon Peter to do? (To take his ship out into the deep water and let his nets down for a catch.)
- What happened when Simon Peter let down his nets? (They caught so many fish that the nets broke and they had to get their partners to help. They caught so many fish that both ships were filled and began to sink. Note: Jesus always knows best.)
- How did Simon Peter respond to this enormous catch of fish? (He realized how awesome Jesus was and he didn't feel worthy to be around Him. Note: Jesus is perfectly righteous and we are all sinners. None of us are worthy to be around Jesus, but Jesus loves us.)
- What did Jesus tell Simon Peter he would be doing from that point on? (He would be catching people for God. He would be helping other people learn about Jesus.)
- What did Simon Peter and the rest do when they got back to shore? (They left everything they had and followed Jesus.)
- Would you like to follow Jesus like that? (That's what Jesus wants. He wants us to be willing to give up everything else in life and be willing to follow Him.)