

**Gospel of Luke/ Lesson 9**  
**The Fishers of Men**  
**Picking the Apostles**  
**Luke 5:1-11; 6:12-16**

### **For Servants,**

- Please review the introduction to the Book of Luke and pick some information to focus on.
- It is advisable to have the children take turns in reading the verses so that they get engaged and pay attention. Upon the servant prep. Servant may elect to summarize some verses into a story instead of reading verse by verse.

### **MEMORY VERSE**

#### **LUKE 5:5**

**“At Your word I will let down the net.”**

#### WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

A large paper bag with as many papers clipped fish-shaped papers as the number of children in your class (each fish should have the memory verse printed on it), one man-shaped cutout with a paper clip on it, a pole with an attached string and magnet, and enough “fish shaped” stickers or small prizes as the number of children in your class.

A large blanket or sheet.

Bible story skit props (optional).

#### **[Activity] The “Fishers of Men” Game**

Prepare a large paper bag with assorted paper fish that have the memory verse printed on them. Attach a paper clip to the mouth of each fish. In addition to the fish, place one man-shaped paper in the bag, also with a paper clip.

Use a stick with a string tied to it and magnet taped to the end of the string for a fishing pole. Have the children take turns “fishing” in the paper bag for the assorted shapes.

Reward all of the children with “fish shaped” stickers or small prizes [or simply give them the fish with the verse they caught] . Introduce today’s lesson and talk about how Jesus used something very familiar to his disciples (fishing) to help them understand what He was calling them to do (fish for men). **We should follow Jesus and live for Him.**

### **LESSON TIME!**

**For servants: this lesson is about Jesus Picking his disciples therefore it is covering part of Luke 5 and another part of Luke 6**

**Lesson Goal: We should follow Jesus and live for Him**

If Jesus were to ask you right now to follow Him, and be His disciple, would you go? Could you give up and walk away from all that you have, to follow and do whatever Jesus would want you to do? When you stop to think about it, it is a very serious decision.

We need to make a choice to either love the things that we have and live for them or give our lives to Jesus and live for Him. We are going to learn about some men who were asked to put everything aside and follow Jesus. These men made a choice to follow Jesus; later on they became the disciples who taught the whole world about Jesus and Christianity. **We should follow Jesus and live for Him.**

## Part 1: Picking The 4 disciples

### Luke 5:1-3

**5 So it was, as the multitude pressed about Him to hear the word of God, that He stood by the Lake of Gennesaret, 2 and saw two boats standing by the lake; but the fishermen had gone from them and were washing their nets. 3 Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat.**

A great crowd of people pressed in on Jesus to hear Him teach the Word of God. His popularity was spreading throughout the land, as He demonstrated His power by performing miracles and teaching the Word of God with authority. The people had a deep need in their lives that only Jesus could fill. With compassion, Jesus taught them to "repent" and turn to God; "for the Kingdom of Heaven is near" (Matthew 4:17).

Jesus noticed **Simon (Peter), his brother Andrew, James, and John**, fishing at some distance, but He waited until they came to shore and washed their nets before He approached them. Fishermen used bell shaped nets with lead weights around the edges. They would throw the net flat on the water, letting it sink and cover the fish. Then, the fisherman would pull a cord drawing the net around the fish.

**[For servants] Ask the kids to repeat the names and make sure they memorized those names**

The fishermen were washing their nets to keep them in good condition. Jesus chose to use Simon Peter's boat as a pulpit so the great crowd could hear His voice as he taught them about the kingdom of God.

### Luke 5:4-5

**4 When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch."**

**5 But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless, at Your word I will let down the net."**

**[For servants] have the kids repeat the memory verse after you at least once.**

When Jesus had finished His sermon [teaching], He told Peter to get back to work assuring him that this time he would catch a lot of fish. Peter was probably ready for a nice long nap after fishing all night, As an experienced fisher he knew that only at night

they can catch fish, how Jesus is asking him and his 3 friends to go back and try again; he did not object; he just expressed that they are tired and have tried all night in vein; but he obeyed God and said **at Your word I will let down the net.**"

Sometimes it is not easy to do what the Lord asks, but we need to be obedient and faithful in all things the Lord asks us to do. He will give us the strength and the desire to obey Him, if we ask for His help to follow Him. **We should follow Jesus and live for Him.**

#### **Luke 5:6-8**

**6 And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. 7 So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. 8 When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!"**

Nighttime was the best time to fish because the fish came closer to the surface. In the daytime, fish go down to the cooler waters of the deep. Though this was the worst time to fish, the nets became so full of fish they began to break. The catch was so large that both the nets and the boats were overwhelmed with fish.

This miracle was evident to all as they watched both boats, probably 5 or 6 tons each, begin to sink. It was also evident that **Jesus had power and authority over nature, demonstrating complete control over the fish.**

**[For servants] Ask the kids who has power and authority over nature except for who created it?**

**Only God has that power; Jesus our God is powerful and great.**

[For Servants: PS: In the book of Christ's divinity for Pope Shenouda the 3<sup>rd</sup>; he used that part to prove that Jesus is God; We are using simple words to reiterate the fact and root it down in the kids heart.]

God's blessings are overly abundant when we respond in obedience, just as Peter and his companions did. Peter was awestruck at this miracle, and his first response was to feel his own insignificance in comparison to the greatness of Jesus. In contrast with Jesus, whose deity (the fact that He was God) was shown by this miracle, Peter realized that he was sinful and felt unworthy to have Jesus with him.

Jesus is not only interested in saving us but also in helping us in our day-to-day living. When we, like Peter, realize our own sinfulness, we too will come before Jesus with a humble heart, confessing our sins, so we may be close to Him. This is the first step we must take if we are to follow Jesus. **We should follow Jesus and live for Him.**

#### **Luke 5:9-11**

**9 For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken; 10 and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men." 11 So when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all and followed Him.**

What a miracle! Peter and his companions knew Jesus healed the sick and cast out

demons, but they were amazed that He cared about their everyday needs too.

### **What does it mean: to catch men?**

Is that to play hide and seek and catch each other? No

**Jesus called Peter, Andrew, James, and John [the sons of Zebedee] to a special service, to make them His apostles and use them to carry the good news of the gospel to a lost and dying world. Instead of catching fish, Jesus would make them fishers of men. To bring all people to God.**

Instead of going to seek a market for their fish, which could have brought them a lot of money, they forsook all [left everything, even the fish that they had just caught]. They remained with Jesus from that point on.

We as children of God need to make a choice too. We have to leave everything that is not pleasing to God and do good things, be kind to one another, obedient to our parents and servants in the church, confess our sins, and dedicate our futures to Jesus. We need to decide in our hearts that nothing will be more important than doing what God wants us to do. **We should follow Jesus and live for Him.**

## **Part 2 : The Twelve Apostles**

### **Luke 6:12-16**

**12 Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. 13 And when it was day, He called His disciples to Himself; and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles: 14 Simon, whom He also named Peter, and Andrew his brother; James and John; Philip and Bartholomew; 15 Matthew and Thomas; James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon called the Zealot; 16 Judas the brother of James, and Judas Iscariot who also became a traitor.**

Every time Jesus had an important event in His life, He took time to go off by Himself and pray. This time, He was preparing to choose His inner circle, the twelve disciples. Jesus always made time to spend with His Heavenly Father by Himself, without any disturbance or interruption. Jesus did that to teach us to pray before we do any important thing; before studying; or doing homework, before picking our friends or going to confess or have communion.

Jesus knew that the men He chose would have to carry on His ministry, bringing the gospel to save men and to bring everyone to God.

St. Mark came to Egypt and spread the Gospel, he taught us to be Christians and to follow Jesus; we are thankful to him and love to name some of our churches and children after him

Jesus had many disciples who followed Him and listened to his teachings, but He chose only twelve men who would be His Apostles, commissioned to deliver a message. Jesus selected ordinary men who had different backgrounds and personalities. They were ordinary people like you and me, but they had been chosen as Apostles.

The Apostles were Jesus' inner circle, men especially trained to serve His people. He sent them out in His authority to build His church. Today, God is calling ordinary people to serve Him just like you and me. Each one of us must make a choice to put aside the things of this world and follow Jesus. **We should follow Jesus and live for Him.** You can be a fisher of men, too!

### **Quick review questions**

Ask the kids, how many Apostles; did Jesus have? 12

Do you know that our Elementary ministry building is names after the Apostles? Yes, is it called; Apostles building

Ask the kids to name some of the Apostles that they have learned about today?

### **PRAYER**

Lead the children in a prayer asking Jesus to allow us all to follow Him and live for Him.

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### **Email to Parents:**

Dear Parents,

In the lesson this week, we learned about the time when Jesus called His disciples (Luke 5:1-11 and 6:12-16). We encourage you to review these scriptures with your child. When Jesus called His disciples, He said He would make them "fishers of men." Jesus taught them for 3 1/2 years and when He empowered them with the Holy Spirit, this band of disciples changed the world. The Lord wants us to be "fishers of men!" When Jesus called the disciples, they were willing to forsake all and follow Him. May we have the same kind of heart in following Him, willing to go or do anything that He asks us to do. It is really a matter of where our heart is. Let's look at some more things this week about what it means to be a "fisher of men." We hope you and your family will be blessed as you study God's Word together.

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### **Videos**