

A Fish Tale

Bible Story

Jesus Calls the First Disciples

Scripture

Luke 5:1-11

The Scene: a boat on a lake

The Simple Setup: an empty stage

For Extra Impact: Create a raised area stage right that acts as the boat. Give Simon, James, and John large fishnets.

The Characters

Narrator: a friendly storyteller

join Simon in the "water"

Jesus: a guy

Crowd: kids willing to nod, wave, and shout, "Tell us more!"

Simon: a guy or girl

James and John: two kids willing to

The Skit

After you've assigned the roles of Jesus and Simon, choose two volunteers to be James and John and have the rest of your children be the Crowd. If you have just a few kids, let them play both the roles of the Crowd and James and John.

As the skit begins, Simon, James, and John sit on the floor in the middle of the stage. They're pretending to wash their nets. Jesus and the Crowd are waiting to enter from stage left.



Start the "Jesus Calls the First Disciples" track on The Humongous Book of Bible Skits for Children's Ministry CD (track 26). Set your CD player on "repeat" so the track repeats.

Narrator: One day Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret with people crowding all around him. The people were listening to the Word of God.

Jesus: Crowd, come FOLLOW me. Let's stand HERE by the Lake of Gennesaret. I want to tell you more about the Word of God.

Crowd: Tell us more! Tell us more!

narrator: The Crowd LISTENED closely. They NODDED as Jesus talked to them. But the Crowd was so large that many people couldn't see Jesus clearly. See the people in the back standing on their tiptoes? See them jumping up and down hoping to catch a glimpse of Jesus? Jesus noticed the problem.

Jesus: You're a great, attentive Crowd. But I wish more of you could SEE me. Hmm, what can I do?

narrator: Jesus saw Simon, James, and John sitting by their boats. The fishermen were WASHING their nets. They'd just returned from a night of fishing. A very BAD night of fishing, in fact.

Simon: I don't know why I'm bothering to wash this net. It's not like it got DIRTY or anything. We worked hard all night long and didn't catch a SINGLE fish. Hmph. And now there's a Crowd here scaring away whatever fish might be out in the lake. I am NOT a happy fisherman!

narrator: Simon looked at the Crowd.

Simon: That's an awfully big bunch of people over there. It's cloudy today, so they can't be sunbathing. And they aren't FISHING. I wonder what they ARE doing. Oh, I see—they're here listening to THAT guy.

narrator: Jesus saw Simon, and walked over to the fisherman.

Jesus: Simon, can you please take me out a little ways in your boat? That way I can sit in your boat and everyone in the crowd can see me as I teach.

narrator: Simon did as Jesus asked. Jesus sat in the boat teaching, and the people in the Crowd listened and nodded as they heard what he had to say.

Crowd: Tell us more! Tell us more!

narrator: Simon was glad he could hear Jesus speak.

Simon: Hmm. This guy has some interesting things to say. Good thing I washed my boat out the other day. I wouldn't have wanted him to see all those fig cookie packages lying around.

Crowd: Tell us more! Tell us more!

narrator: Jesus finished teaching the crowd...

Crowd: Awwwww...

narrator: Then Jesus turned to Simon.

Jesus: Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.

Simon:

You seem to be a pretty smart guy, and I like what you have to say. But, in case you didn't notice, we've been fishing all night and we didn't catch anything. I just don't think the fish are out right now. Might be all those clouds or something. I suppose I could try it though, since you suggested it.

Narrator:

Simon THREW out his nets in deep water and when he tried to bring them in they were so HEAVY with fish that they began to break.

Simon:

Holy cow! Or, I mean, holy fish! I can't believe all the fish that are in this net. It's starting to SINK my boat! I'm gonna need some help. JAMES AND JOHN, come out here and HELP me HAUL in these fish.

Narrator:

So James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came out to help Simon pull in all the fish. When they saw all the fish in his net, they were amazed and FELL at Jesus' knees.

Simon:

I can't believe it! This guy is more than a prophet! I can't believe he's standing in my boat. Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!

Jesus:

Don't be afraid. Follow me and from now on you will catch men instead of fish.

Narrator:

So Simon, James, and John LEFT their boats and FOLLOWED Jesus. They became Jesus' first disciples...and instead of fishermen, they became fishers OF men!



To Talk About

- ◆ Simon, James, and John were probably feeling pretty discouraged after a night without catching fish. How did Jesus help them? How does Jesus help you?
- ◆ Simon, James, and John witnessed a miracle and they were amazed and believed in Jesus. What makes you believe in Jesus?
- ◆ Jesus asked Simon, James, and John to leave everything and follow him. Why do you think they obeyed him? What sacrifices have you had to make to follow Jesus? What sacrifices would you be willing to make to follow Jesus?

Topical Tie-Ins: Jesus the Provider, Miracles, Belief, Cost of Following Jesus