
Luke 5:1-11

Leader Guide

Teachers Dig In

Dig In to the Bible

- Read: Luke 5:1-11
- In This Passage: Jesus finds some fishermen, frustrated after a night with no catches. Jesus tells them to let down their nets again, and when they do, there are so many fish that they have to call for help lifting the nets! They're amazed because Jesus is amazing.
- Bible Point: Jesus is amazing.
- Summary Verse: "Many will see what he has done and be amazed. They will put their trust in the Lord" (Psalm 40:3).

Dig Deeper

- You'll Be Teaching: *Jesus is amazing.* In a world of YouTube and social media, kids have seen a lot more amazing things than kids of past generations saw. They've seen dogs riding bicycles, cats turning doorknobs, and so much more. It can be hard to amaze them, but use this lesson to captivate them with the amazing miracles Jesus can do.
- Think About: What amazes you about Jesus? What amazing things have you personally seen Jesus do in your life? How have these things helped you put trust in Jesus?

Dig In to Prayer

- Pray that God would equip you to share about the miracles in your own life in a way that captures your kids' imagination.

Quick Tip

- Affirm children even if they offer bizarre answers. You could say, "I've never thought of it that way before; would you explain why you answered that way?"

This Lesson at a Glance



BIBLE MESSAGE

Kids look for fish without much success.

Supplies

- Bible
- “Fish Handout” (1 copy of the first page and several copies of the second page) (download [here](#))
- basin (small storage tub)
- paper (at least 3 pieces per child)

Easy Prep

- Create 2 batches of crumpled papers. For the first batch, crumple blank pieces of paper—at least 3 per child. Add in just 1 crumpled copy of the handout page with just 1 fish on it. Place this batch of papers in a storage tub for later.
- For your second batch of crumpled papers, crumple several copies of the handout page that shows *lots* of fish. Find a place in your room where you can hide this batch of papers. It needs to be a place where kids won’t find them until they are told to look there.



PRAYER

Kids form a circle and call out things to thank God for.



JESUS CONNECTION

Kids fill cups and praise amazing Jesus.

Supplies

- Bible, bookmarked to Luke 2; Luke 17; John 2; John 12
- 3-ounce disposable cups (1 per child)
- pompoms (at least 5 per child)



SCRIPTURE SKILLS

Kids bounce ping-pong balls into a cup.

Supplies

- Bibles
- “Hands-On Bible: Books of the Bible Poster Set” (purchase [here](#))
- ping-pong balls (1 for every 2 kids)
- 3-ounce disposable cups (1 per older child)
- 8-ounce disposable cups (1 per younger child)



BIBLE MEMORY

Kids play a game like “I Spy” and look for what God has done.



ACTIVITY PAGES WITH A POINT

Older kids count how many fish are in an optical illusion; younger kids color a picture of the Bible story.

Supplies

- “A Miraculous Catch of Fish” Activity Page (1 per reader) (download [here](#))
- “A Miraculous Catch of Fish” Coloring Page (1 per non-reader) (download [here](#))
- pencils
- crayons
- fish stickers (optional)
- three-hole punch and binders (optional)



OVERTIME

Kids act out superpowers—including some unusual ones.

**Marked supplies can be reused from Core Bible Discovery*

Let's keep kids safe! You can help by using supplies as instructed for only ages 3+, purchasing child-safe items, and being aware of allergy concerns.



BIBLE MESSAGE

A Miraculous Catch of Fish (Luke 5:1-11)

[10 min]

Supplies

- Bible
- “Fish Handout” (1 copy of the first page and several copies of the second page) (download [here](#))
- basin (small storage tub)
- paper (at least 3 pieces per child)

Easy Prep

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Tips

- Need a good hiding spot? Remove the bag from a trash can and put your fish in the can, then put the bag back in place.
- Showing kids a real Bible and reading part of the story directly from the Bible helps kids know this isn’t just a made-up story—it’s found in God’s Word!
- Using “pair shares” where kids share with a partner ensures everyone gets a chance to answer the question—not just one or two kids.

Go Fishing

Open your Bible to Luke 5, and show kids the words.

Say: **Today’s Bible story is about some fishermen who were out fishing!**

Let’s go fishing!

Dump out “batch one” of the crumpled papers (the set with mostly blank papers). Scatter them all over the floor.

Say: **All you need to do is uncrumple these papers and see if you find any fish! Ready? Go!**

Allow time for kids to uncrumple all the papers. Only one child will find one fish.

Ask: • **How do you feel about your fishing experience?**

Say: **In our Bible story, the fishermen worked hard all night to catch fish.**

Back then, they fished with big nets that they had to throw way out into the water, then pull back in. I imagine their arms got so tired after doing that hour after hour. And they didn’t catch any—not even one like [name of child who found the fish] did! They must have felt [some words the kids shared].

Now it was morning and time to give up. So they brought in their boats and got out to clean their nets.

All of a sudden, Jesus stepped into one of their boats and started teaching! When Jesus finished teaching, he asked one of the fishermen, Simon, to row the boat out deeper and lower his nets to catch fish.

Ask: • **How would you feel about doing some more fishing right now?**

Say: **Let's see how Simon felt about Jesus' idea.**

Read Luke 5:5.

Say: **Simon didn't seem very excited to do more fishing. But he agreed.**

Jesus told Simon right where to go to lower his nets. And I have some directions for you, too! Give clues to lead kids to the location where you hid the crumpled pages with many fish. Let kids open the handouts and celebrate their catch.

Say: **That's just like what happened to Simon!**

Read Luke 5:6-7.

Say: **Simon went from feeling discouraged and tired to being amazed!**

The Bible says he was awestruck by the number of fish they caught, and so were his friends. Awestruck sort of means you're so surprised that maybe your jaw drops in amazement. Can you show me that kind of surprised face? Pause.

Those fishermen could see that Jesus is amazing! So they left everything to follow him—even all those fish they caught!

Discuss

Say: **Simon and his friends must have been so excited when they found all those fish in their nets!**

Ask: • **What's the most amazing thing you've ever found?** Have kids turn to a partner to share. Then ask a few kids to share with everyone.

Say: **We've found some amazing things. When we follow Jesus, we'll be amazed at what he does for us. Jesus is amazing!**



PRAYER Prayer of Thanksgiving

[5 min]

Tip

- With attention spans in mind, try to keep these prayers of thanksgiving moving as quickly as possible.

Think of Things to Thank God For

Say: I'm so glad Jesus is amazing. Jesus may not give us a boatload of fish like he gave the fishermen in today's Bible story, but Jesus does give us amazing gifts to be thankful for.

When a friend gives us a gift, it's good to say, "Thank you!" Well, Jesus is a friend who gives us so much. So let's respond to Jesus with a prayer of thanks!

Have kids form one big circle so they can see and hear each other well. If you have a large group, create one circle for every adult or teen helper.

Say: **Sometimes we close our eyes when we pray. Today we'll pray all together and with our eyes open so we can see God's blessings all around us.**

I'll call out a category of things, like animals, people, or food! Then we'll go around the circle and each person will shout out something amazing in that category to thank God for. So if the category is "animals," you might shout, "Zebras!" After each person shouts something, we'll all respond with "Thank you, God!"

Call out a few categories. Ideas include things in the room, animals, people, food, sports, musical instruments, plants, and movies or shows kids like.

Pray: **We thank you, God, for all these things and more! Most of all, we thank you that Jesus is amazing. Thank you. Amen.**



JESUS CONNECTION Cups Full of Fish

[10 min]

Supplies

- Bible, bookmarked to Luke 2; Luke 17; John 2; John 12
- 3-ounce disposable cups (1 per child)
- pompoms (at least 5 per child)

Talk About Empty Nets

Say: **In the Bible, Jesus' friends had empty nets because they failed to catch fish. We all fail sometimes.** Briefly tell about a time you tried something and failed.

Ask: • **Tell about a time you tried something and failed.** Have kids share in pairs.

• **How did it feel to fail?** Take responses from the whole group.

Say: **Sometimes our nets—or our lives—feel sad and empty. We feel like we don't measure up or we're not good enough. But Jesus is amazing! He fills our lives! Let's explore what that means.**

Fill Cups and Praise Jesus

Hand each person a cup, and direct kids to gather at one end of the room. Scatter pompom "fish" around the middle of the room.

Say: **Jesus fills our lives with good things because Jesus is amazing. In this activity, you'll fill your cups with these pompom fish as you hear about some amazing things Jesus did.**

Jesus' birth was pretty amazing! Angels announced it. Listen to this! Read aloud Luke 2:11-14. Then direct kids to take a step forward and each pick up a pompom to add to their empty cups. **The angels announced Jesus' birth. Cup your hands around your mouth like you're making an announcement. Announce to the room, "Jesus is amazing!"** Pause while kids do this.

Well, when shepherds heard that big announcement, they went to see baby Jesus. Here's what they did after they saw him. Read aloud Luke 2:17-18. Have kids walk forward and each add another pompom to their cups. **The shepherds told people about Jesus. Let's do that, too.** Have kids each tell three people, "Jesus is amazing!"

One time, Jesus turned water into wine so people at a wedding could have a special drink. Let's see how people responded to *that* amazing thing! Read aloud John 2:11. Have kids step forward and each add another pompom to their cups. **Jesus' friends—called disciples—put their faith in Jesus when they saw that Jesus is amazing. That means they trusted him. We show we trust Jesus by praying and giving him our problems. Kneel and clasp your hands together to remember what Jesus' friends did.** Pause. Kids can stay in this posture for the next section.

Jesus did other miracles, too. Once he healed 10 men from a serious skin disease. Read aloud Luke 17:15-16. Let kids stand and each pick up another pompom. **The man thanked Jesus with his whole heart. Spread your arms wide and say, "Thanks, Jesus, for..." and call out something you're thankful for.** Lead kids in thanking Jesus.

People got excited when they believed Jesus would save them. Listen to this! Read aloud John 12:12-13. Let kids step forward and each take one more pompom “fish” to add to their cups. **The people celebrated and praised Jesus. Give two people a high-five and tell them, “Praise Jesus!”**

Your cups went from empty to full—full of some of the amazing things Jesus does. Jesus wasn’t just amazing in the Bible; Jesus is amazing for us today!



SCRIPTURE SKILLS

Surprise Success

[10 min]

Supplies

- Bibles
- “Hands-On Bible: Books of the Bible Poster Set” (purchase [here](#))
- ping-pong balls (1 for every 2 kids)
- 3-ounce disposable cups (1 per older child)
- 8-ounce disposable cups (1 per younger child)

Tips

- It may take a while for kids to find the Bible verse. That’s okay! This activity is primarily about building Bible navigation skills.
- If you have a lot of non-readers, have some picture Bibles on hand for them to flip through as older kids look up verses. They won’t look for anything specific, but they can look at the pictures to practice paging through Bibles.
- It’s a great idea to have a stash of matching classroom Bibles, such as the [Hands-On Bible](#). This will avoid confusion of different translations or storybook Bibles that don’t include every passage. Even so, avoid the temptation to just tell kids a page number—let kids practice finding verses.

Keep Trying

Say: Fishing is hard. The men tried all night to catch fish—but they couldn’t catch any. Let’s play a game where we do something that’s kind of hard.

- Have kids form mixed-age pairs.
- Have pairs line up facing one another, about 4 feet apart.
- Give each child a cup and each pair a ping-pong ball. (Older kids will hold smaller cups; younger kids will hold larger cups.)
- If your room has hard floors, encourage kids to try to bounce the balls to their partners, who will try to catch them in the cups.
- If your room is carpeted, encourage kids to toss the balls underhand, while their partners try to catch them in the cups.
- Have kids continue throwing or bouncing the balls back and forth between partners as time allows.
- Adjust the distance between partners so catching the ball is hard but not impossible.

Ask:

- **How did it feel when you didn’t catch the ball after several tries?**
- **How did it feel the first time you *did* catch the ball in the cup?**
- **What does that show you about how the fishermen might have felt?**

Say: When you’re trying to do something hard, sometimes it’s a surprise when you finally get it! That must be how the fishermen felt when Jesus finally helped them catch fish after they’d failed all night long. Let’s read about how Peter felt when he saw that Jesus is amazing.

Explore Luke 5:9

Make sure kids all have Bibles. Younger kids can sit with older kids so they can observe the skills of using their Bibles even before being able to read.

Say: **Our Bible verse is in the book of Luke, chapter 5, verse 9. Let's find the book of Luke. That's in the New Testament—which is the later part of the Bible. Open your Bible kind of near the back.** Allow time.

- Point to the book of Luke on the poster so kids can see the name and what books come before and after it.
- Mention that the chapter numbers are the big numbers, and help kids find the big 5 in Luke.
- Mention that the verse numbers are the small numbers, and help kids find the small 9 in Luke 5.
- When everyone has found the verse, ask someone to read Luke 5:9 aloud.

Say: ***Awestruck* means you're shocked and surprised. Peter was impressed by how many fish they caught. Jesus is amazing. He does surprising things for us, too.**

Ask: • **Tell about a happy surprise you've experienced.**

• **How did you respond to that surprise?**

• **How can we respond when Jesus amazes us?**

Say: **Jesus does amazing things for us. He can do anything. Jesus is amazing!**



BIBLE MEMORY

Many Will See

[10 min]

Help Each Other See Things

Say: **Let's learn a Bible verse that reminds us that Jesus is amazing.**

Even though God inspired people to write the Bible a long time ago, it still matters for us today.

Psalms 40:3 says, "Many will see what he has done and be amazed. They will put their trust in the Lord."

The "he" in this verse is the Lord! The Lord is another name for God or Jesus. This verse reminds us that Jesus is amazing, so let's look around and notice the amazing things he's done.

In this game, we'll look around for different objects in our room. One person will pick something in the room, and the rest of us will guess what it is!

- Choose someone to go first. That person will say:

**Many will see
Something that is [color].
What could it be?**

- Kids call out guesses until they see the same object.
- Say the verse together after each object is found. Then choose another child to choose an object, say the rhyme, and welcome guesses.

Talk About It

Ask: • **What helped you find the item in this game?**

• **When you look around—at home, in nature, or with your friends—what amazing things do you see that Jesus has done?** Give a couple of your own examples so kids can start thinking.

• **God has done amazing things. How does that help you trust him?**

Say: **When we see the amazing things God does, we can be amazed, just like Peter and his friends were! They saw Jesus do something amazing when he filled their nets with fish, and they trusted him! Jesus is amazing, so we can put our trust in him.**



ACTIVITY PAGES WITH A POINT So Many Fish

[10 min]

Supplies

- “A Miraculous Catch of Fish” Activity Page (1 per reader) (download [here](#))
- “A Miraculous Catch of Fish” Coloring Page (1 per non-reader) (download [here](#))
- pencils
- crayons
- fish stickers (optional)
- three-hole punch and binders (optional)

Tip

- **WARNING!** Don’t just print and distribute! [Here’s why](#).

Older Kids: Do an Activity Page

Say: **With Jesus’ help, the fishermen caught so many fish! Let’s see if you can count how many fish they caught.**

Distribute the activity pages and pencils. Kids will try to count the fish.

Ask: • **How many fish did you count?** Because the page is a bit of an optical illusion, there’s no right answer—so kids should have different numbers!

• **Why was it so hard to count?**

• **What’s something Jesus has done that’s hard to understand?**

Say: **The fishermen couldn’t even count how many fish they caught because there were so many! And Jesus does things for us that are hard to understand, too. Jesus is amazing.**

Younger Kids: Color a Coloring Page

Distribute the coloring pages and crayons. Say: **When the fishermen didn’t catch any fish all night, they probably felt sad. But Jesus showed them where to fish and they caught so many! Jesus is amazing! Let’s color their full nets.**

Allow time for kids to color. If you have fish stickers, kids can add even more fish to the picture!

When kids finish coloring, three-hole-punch their pages and put them into binders, if desired.



[10 min]

Act Out Superpowers

Say: **Jesus is amazing.** Imagine being a fisherman, trying all night to catch fish and failing. And then **BAM!** This guy comes along and tells you to throw the net one more time, and you catch a record-breaking number of fish! He must have seemed like a superhero!

Let's play a game where we act out other amazing superpowers.

- If you have more than 10 kids, form smaller groups of five to eight, who can each play their own game.
- Each child will secretly choose a superpower like superheroes have. Kids will take turns miming those superpowers—no sound effects.
- The rest of the group will guess the superpower being acted out.
- If kids need help, offer these suggestions for superpowers: invisibility, super strength, shrinking down/getting bigger, flight, teleportation, super speed, telekinesis, shape-shifting, X-ray vision, super hearing, and freezing time.
- If you need to use more time, challenge kids to think of an unusual superpower to act out. Unusual superpowers might include ability to find fish, ability to turn into a snake, ability to talk with animals, ability to sleep anytime and anywhere, ability to read super-fast, ability to dispense juice from one's fingertips, or ability to sink beneath the surface of the earth.
- Let the game keep going as long as needed to fill time until parents begin to arrive.