

Family Faith Packet

Bethany Green Lake | Sunday, January 24

Big Idea: Jesus Wants Us to Follow Him (Series - Subscribe Now!)

Scripture: Mark 1:14-20, Luke 5:1-22

Intro

This week, Jesus calls a new set of disciples – all fishermen. After a miraculous catch of fish, Peter, Andrew, James, and John join the fold. We are talking about the concept of following this week. Explore this with your kids a little bit. When it comes to social media, people always want more followers. What does having a lot of followers mean really? Are there times when following might not be a good thing? How can we make wise decisions about who to follow?

Opening Question | If Jesus Had a YouTube Channel . . .

In today's Bible story, we're going to hear about one of the amazing ways Jesus got followers, otherwise known as disciples.

If Jesus had a YouTube Channel . . .

- **What would it be called?**
- **What kinds of videos would you see on there?**
- **What might the comments say?**

Scripture | Mark 1:14-20; Luke 5:1-11

INSTRUCTIONS: *Read or summarize today's Bible verses. Here is one way you could tell the story.*

The phrase, "Follow me" seems like an easy request. Yet in today's Bible story, Simon Peter did not know his life would change forever with that one phrase.

Simon Peter and his brother, Andrew, were fishermen, and fishing was a good job because it gave them money and food. But that day, Simon Peter wasn't catching any fish.

Jesus got onto Simon Peter's boat and told Simon Peter to head out to deeper water and put their nets in the water there.

- **Has this ever happened to you? Like, when something isn't working and someone tells you to try something you already tried?**

That's happened to me a lot. I have to be honest. . . I get annoyed when that happens! Simon Peter told Jesus he already tried that, but he would try again. And when he did, a miracle happened!

They caught so many fish that they had to ask for help from a nearby boat. The nets got so heavy that they began to break, and both boats started to sink!

Peter knew this was impossible! Only someone who controls the seas can make something like this happen! Who could that be? That's right! God!

- **What would you do if you saw a miracle happen in front of your eyes? Do you think you would drop everything and do as the person performing the miracle says?**

That is exactly what Simon Peter did. He knew this was someone very special he had to follow. So, when Jesus said, "Come, follow me. I will make you fishers of people," Peter and Andrew dropped everything and followed Jesus.

- **Do you think they knew what "fishing for people" meant? What do you think it means?**

Whether or not they knew, the one thing they knew for sure is that Jesus was someone worth following.

Discussion Questions |

- When Simon Peter finally realized who Jesus was, what did Jesus ask of him?
- Read Mark 1:17. What did it mean when Jesus asked these men to follow Jesus and "fish for people?"
- How can we follow Jesus?
- What is different about your life because you follow Jesus?

Prayer | Dear God, thank You so much for asking us to follow You. Help us follow You with more of our time and energy, even if it means we need to give up something we like to do. We know that it will be worth it if it means following You and getting to know You better. Amen.

Activities | Like and Subscribe

- **Do you know how you show you like a photo or a video online? That's right, you give it a thumbs up!**
- **What does a subscribe button do? When you "subscribe" to a channel, you can always see the latest things that person has posted.**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Make a large poster that says, "JESUS" in large print across the top and two columns under it labeled, "like" and "subscribe." Give each kid a ['Like and Subscribe' printable](#) and something to color with. Encourage them to color the "like" and "subscribe" buttons on the printable, and help them cut them out. Attach them to the poster to show all the likes and subscribes!
- **Look at all these "likes" and "subscribes" Jesus has! Following Jesus means we get to keep learning more about God and about what God wants us to do. That's why Jesus wants us to follow him!**

Memory Verse | Fish it Out

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print and cut the memory verse [printable](#). Tape the pieces to the bottom each fish in a [fishing set](#). (Or tie a string around a rod and attach a magnet at the end, then attach paper clips to the pieces of your memory verse printable.) Encourage the kids to take turns fishing out the pieces of the memory verse and putting it in order. After it's all in order, tell the kids to take turns reading and memorizing the verse.