

Kid's Slot – July 31st – Aug. 6th, 2011



“Follow ME”



Overview: Children will learn about following Jesus

Preparation: You will need your Bible.

Bible Story & Verse: Luke 5:1-11; 1 John 5:3

Icebreaker: Ask: **Do you like to fish? Have you ever caught a fish?**

READ: “Swimming In Fish” Bible Story (on the other side)

QUESTIONS TO ASK:

1. **Why was there a large crowd gathered around Jesus?** (People came to hear Him talk/teach)
2. **Why did Jesus want to use Simon's boat?** (So that He could sit in the boat a bit further out on the lake so He could teach the people.)
3. **After he finished teaching, what did Jesus ask Simon to do?** (Throw his net in the deep water.)
4. **Why didn't Simon want to obey Jesus?** (Because he and his friends had just come in from fishing all night and didn't catch a single fish.)
5. **What happened when Simon obeyed?** (He caught a huge amount of fish; so much so, that it took help from another boat to bring the fish in.)
6. **What did Jesus tell Simon he would be?** (A fisher of men.)
7. **What does a “fisher of men” mean?** (Jesus meant that Simon would be telling people about Jesus and “catching” them to follow Jesus; Simon would no longer be fishing for real fish. Jesus was calling the men to follow him and to bring other people with them by sharing the Good News!)

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE: Jesus said...“from now on, you will catch men...Simon and the men left everything and followed Jesus.” Luke 5:11

Activity: “OK, I’LL OBEY”

Have the children play “Follow the Leader.” Tell them to do everything you do. Hop on one foot, turn circles, wave or clap hands. Give several children a chance to lead. Have the children sit in a circle and ask them, “How does it feel to follow a leader?” Read 1 John 5:3 and ask what this scripture tells us about obeying God. If we love God, we’ll obey His commands.

RETURN: Return to the Life Group. Have the children tell their Bible Memory Verse to the adults. And then have the children tell the story in their own words. The children then pray with the rest of the Life Group and share in the fellowship time together.



“Swimming In Fish”

Have you ever been fishing with your parents or grandparents and the only thing that you caught was a bad case of sunburn? Bummer! You sit there all day long and nothing happens, nothing at all! Then, when it's time to go and you've picked up your fishing pole and your tackle box, a friendly old man comes walking up, after you've been fishing all day, casts his line in the water and waits. You think to yourself, “Good luck, there, buddy, because we've haven't had a single nibble all day!”

But suddenly the man's cork goes under the water, and he starts to struggle with the line, and he catches a big fish!!! Hey, what gives? You gave your **time** to catch fish, but it didn't work. Maybe it's because you didn't give the fish what was needed—the **right bait**.

Let's take a look at a really cool fishing story about the ones that didn't get away.

~~~~~  
Now it came about that a large crowd of people gathered around Jesus and was listening to Him preach the word of God. He was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, and He saw two boats just floating at the edge of the water. The fishermen had gotten out of the boats and were washing their nets, since that's how they used to catch fish back in Jesus time...instead of using a fishing pole, they would throw out giant nets and scoop up fish in their nets – a lot harder work, but a whole lot more fish can be caught at one time. Clearly, these men were tired, after fishing all night long, and they hadn't caught a single fish. They were ready to wash up, go home, get a little breakfast and go to sleeepppppp!

Jesus walked over to one of the boats—the one that belonged to a man named Simon—and asked him to put the boat out a little way from the land, back out into the lake, so he could talk to the people who were gathered on the shore listening to him, and Simon obeyed. So Jesus sat down in the boat and began to teach the people.

After he had finished his message, Jesus said to Simon, “*Get back into your boat and throw your nets into the deep water and you will catch a lot of fish.*” And Simon answered and said to Jesus, *But Master, we fished all night long and didn't catch a thing. But, because YOU said to let down the nets, I will do so.*”

And when they had done this, they caught a whole bunch of fish, so much fish that their nets were beginning to break! They called to the other fishermen in the area to come and help them. And when they came, they filled both boats with so much fish that the boats began to sink. But when Simon saw what had happened, he fell at Jesus' feet and said, “*Go away from me, Lord, for I am a man who is a sinner!*” He said this because he and his fishing pals, James and John, were amazed at what had happened and at the huge amount of fish they caught because of Jesus. Who is this Jesus?

Jesus said to Simon, “*Don't be afraid, Simon, from now on you will be catching men.*” And when they had brought their boats to land, they left **everything** and **followed** Him.

Now what do you think made the difference that allowed Simon to catch so much fish? He had fished all night with his partners and was unable to get even a nibble. And now his boat was sinking because of all the fish that he had. What's the deal?

The reason Simon was able to catch so many fish was that he was willing to listen and obey Jesus. That's right! Simon decided following Jesus was much better than the life he was living...always worrying and working hard to catch fish. Following Jesus instead of following the fish was Simon's new life. From that day on, Simon was a new man. He no longer went out on long fishing trips to catch fish. He became a follower of Jesus and began to listen to the words and teaching of Jesus. And after a while, he was able to share the gospel with others and bring other people to Jesus as well.

God has great plans for your life, too! The best thing you can do is to obey Jesus and follow him...you may not always understand – like Simon didn't understand – but when you follow Jesus, amazing things happen. It happened to Simon and it can happen to you. Give it a try. Be willing to do what Jesus asks you to do and watch what happens.

