

Kid's Slot ~ Dec. 11th – 17th, 2011



“Fishers of Men”



OVERVIEW: Children will learn that God created them to follow Him and show others how to follow Jesus by being a “fisher of men!”

PREPARATION: You will need construction paper, markers, your Bible and the Children's Prayer Notebook.

BIBLE STORY & VERSE: Matthew 4:18-25

ICEBREAKER: “Have you ever gone fishing? Did you catch any fish?”

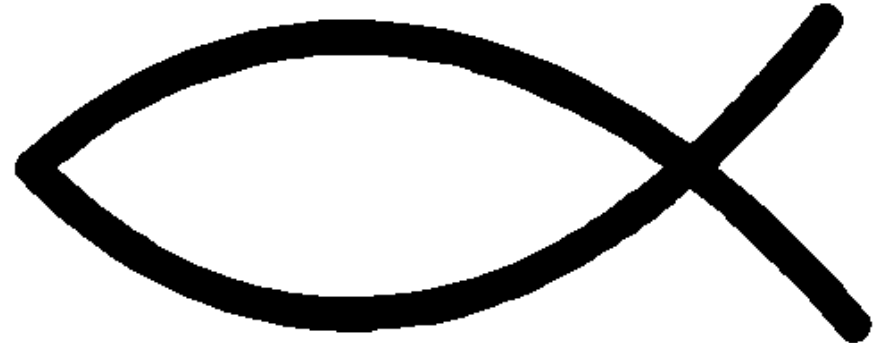
READ: -Follow ME! Bible Story (on the other side)

Discussion Questions:

1. What were the names of the 2 brothers that Jesus talked to on the shore? (Peter and Andrew)
2. What did Jesus ask them to do? (To follow Him and be fishers of men)
3. What was Peter and Andrew's response? (They immediately left their nets and boat and followed Jesus)
4. If you were Peter or Andrew, would you have followed Jesus right away? (Let the children share)
5. How can you be a fisher of men during Christmastime? (Let them share)

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE: “Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!”
(Matthew 4:19 NLT)

ACTIVITY: Make a list of the people or ways the children could follow Jesus and be “fishers of men.” The children can draw a simple fish (see below) and have the children write their names/ideas inside of the fish. When others see the children following Jesus and serving others, they will want to follow Jesus, too!



RETURN: Return to the Life Group and let the children show their “fish” and explain the names/ideas they have written on their fish on how to be fishers of men. Put all the construction paper fish on a table or on the floor and lay hands on them...praying for the Lord to bless the children's efforts in winning others to Jesus. The children then join the adults in prayer and fellowship.



“Follow Me!”

One day, two men were on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, gathering the fish out of their nets and washing the nets in the water, since they had been fishing all day and were eager to finish and go home. The men were actually brothers, Peter and Andrew. Their bodies were strong and their hands were rough, from throwing the nets out again and again in the water, in order to catch fish. They didn't use fishing poles, but giant nets with bait inside the nets. When the fish swam by, they were attracted to the bait and swam inside the nets. At just the right time, Peter and Andrew would quickly pull up the nets and catch the fish that were inside their nets. Some days were great days, with lots and lots of fish to catch...other days were not so good days, with very little fish in their nets. But such is the life of a fisherman...good days and not so good days. There was rain and storming weather sometimes and beautiful breezy or hot sunny days the other times.

Peter and Andrew didn't complain – this was their lives as fisherman and they were faithful each day to do a hard day's work. Something happened on this one particular day that changed their lives forever. A man named Jesus, but Peter and Andrew didn't know much about Jesus at the time, was walking along the seashore and was watching as the brothers scooped out the fish and cleaned their nets in the water. Jesus took one look at them and said something that they certainly didn't expect! He said to them, “Follow Me...and I will make you fishers of MEN!” More unusual than those words was what Peter and Andrew did. They **didn't** say, “What? Fishing is our life! We can't follow you...besides, who are you...who's going to feed our family...how will we work...what's to happen to our boat and nets...we are FISHERMEN not FISHERS OF MEN...” Nope – the Bible says they simply dropped their nets and began following Jesus – immediately! They were the first two of the twelve disciples Jesus called to follow him! Both men loved Jesus with all their hearts and began “fishing for men” to follow Jesus too. They served Jesus by serving others...and telling others about Jesus.

At Christmastime, there will be lots of people around you...at the store; at the mall; at your house. Maybe your family will go to the

movies or out to eat in a restaurant. You may spend the night at your cousin's house or a one of your friends. You may even go away on vacation to visit family and friends in another city or state. Yes, there will be lots of times and lots of people you can “fish” for at Christmas time. People need to hear about Jesus – and Christmas is the perfect time to share.

People will also be watching you – how you act, the things you say, your attitude and your willingness to serve others. What better way is there to show your family and friends – and even people you've never even met before – that you are a Christian. At Christmas time, it is easy and natural to bring up the story of Jesus from the Gospel. People's hearts may be more ready now than ever before to hear you share your story how Jesus changed your heart! Be sure to pray for them by name – if you know you're going to visit at their house or them to your house. Ask God to help you be bold in what you say and kind in what you, so that others will see you and know the reason you are different is because you have Jesus in your heart. Show them the way to Jesus by acting like Jesus – and follow in HIS footsteps by being a “fisher of men!”

