



PHUMC Sunday School lessons for Preschool – 5th grade.

January 17, 2021 – Calling the Disciples (Matthew 4:18-22)

Prepare to Wonder

Faith Word: Include

Jesus was walking along the shore of the Galilean Sea when he saw two brothers, Peter and Andrew, fishing with nets. Jesus called to them: “Come, follow me! I will teach you how to fish for people.” They dropped everything and followed Jesus. Farther along the shore, Jesus saw two brothers, James and John, fishing with their father. He called out the same invitation, and they left their father to follow Jesus.

The CEB Study Bible states that the two accounts portray different kinds of fishing. Peter and Andrew are fishing with nets, which shows their status as being higher than James and John. James and John were probably a part of a family business since they were fishing with their father. Status didn’t matter when Jesus called. Both sets of brothers dropped what they were doing and followed Jesus.

Status didn’t matter to Jesus, either. The brothers were not called because of any special qualification or because of their status in society. They were called because they were there. Jesus invited and included all people to follow him and become disciples.

“I will teach you how to fish for people.” Jesus spent his life teaching the disciples, and anyone else who would listen, how to help people become disciples. Through the process of discipleship, followers of Christ help others discover and come to know God. Jesus calls for us to follow him today. Any of us can accept the call; any of us can be included in showing others the love of God.

Wonder with Me

READ the Bible Story

- Calling the Disciples, from Matthew 4:18-22 (*Read from your Bible, see the verses listed below, or see one of the following pages for a picture of the Celebrate Wonder version.*)

¹⁸ As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” ²⁰ At once they left their nets and followed him.

²¹ Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, ²² and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

WATCH the Bible Story

- <https://youtu.be/ohNC9y2tPME>

SHARE the Faith Word

Faith Word: Include – It means to welcome all God’s children in God’s love.

Our story today is an example of how Jesus sought to include all people in God’s community.

WONDER Together:

1. What did Jesus say to the men? (Come follow me and I will make you fishers of men.)
2. What did these men do before they followed Jesus? (Were fishermen)
3. How can we become followers of Jesus? (By letting Him in our heart, by believing in Him, and following what He taught us.)

Spiritual Practice

- **Share the Celebrate Wonder Family Activity Book together** (page 16 & 17). On page 17 you will find the suggested Spiritual Practice activity for the week.

Jesus was forming a community when he called his disciples. Jesus’ disciples would include many different kinds of people.

What kind of people would Jesus invite into his community today? Draw a picture of the community Jesus would want today. Hang it on your wall as a reminder that God loves and welcomes all people. God wants us to do the same.

Go in Peace

Blessing: Touch your child and say: **“Blessed are those who include everyone in God’s community.”**

Prayer: Thank you, God, for inviting me to be a disciple and for helping me invite others to follow you. Amen.

Additional Activity for each age group

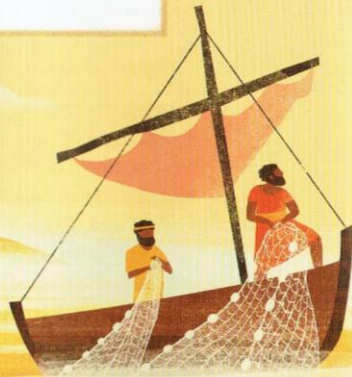
Select the material toward the end of the lesson that is age appropriate for your child(ren)

Calling the Disciples

Matthew 4:18-22

One day Jesus was walking along the sea when he saw two fishermen. The fishermen were the brothers, Peter and Andrew. The brothers were out fishing on the water.

Jesus called out to Peter and Andrew, "Come, follow me! I will teach you how to fish for people." Peter and Andrew left their nets and followed Jesus.



I wonder: When was a time you followed Jesus?

Jesus walked farther down the shore where he saw two more brothers, James and John, who were mending their nets with their father.

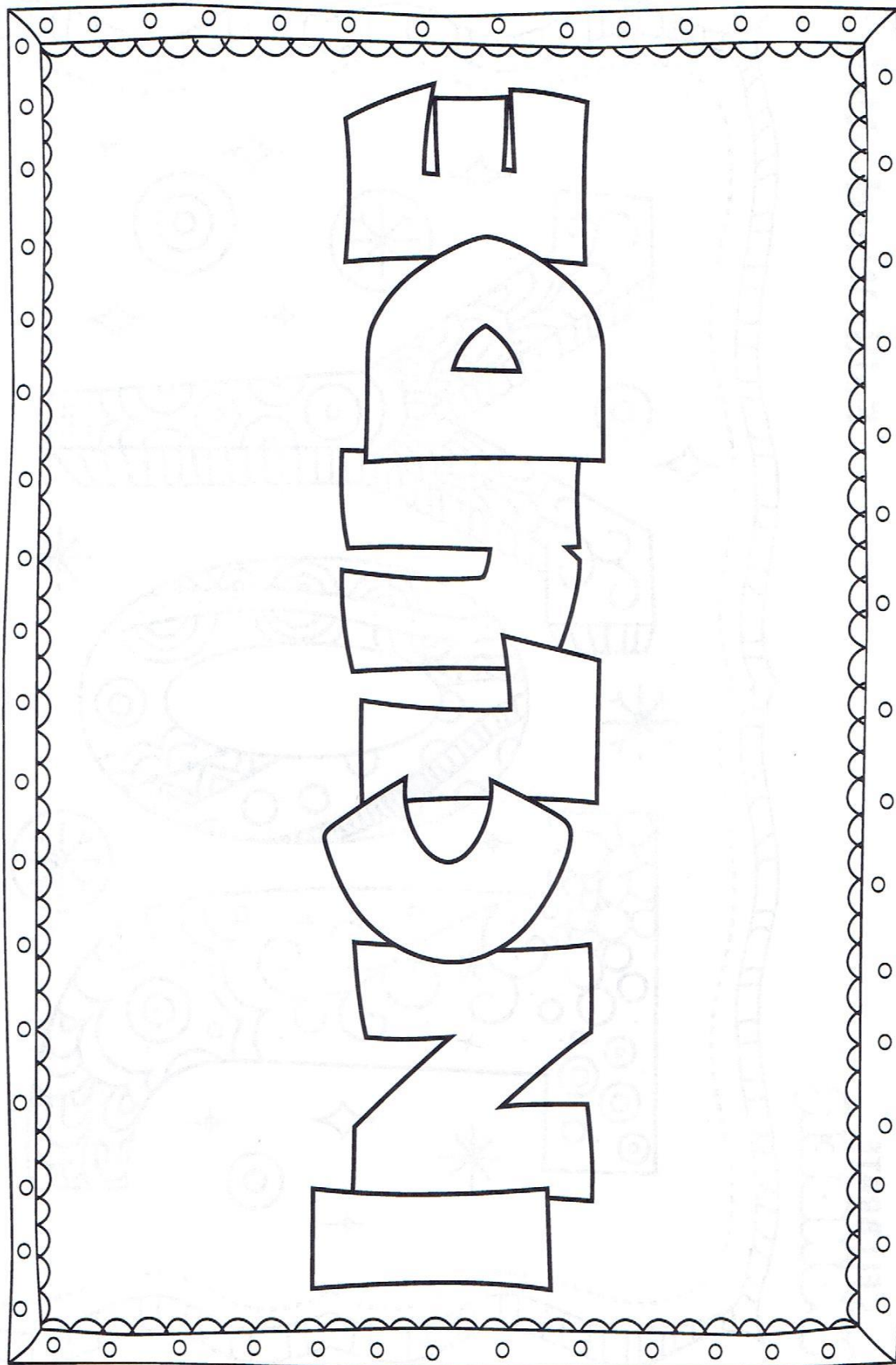
Jesus said to the men, "Come and follow me!" James and John left the boat and their father, and followed Jesus.



Color Sheet for all



Faith Word—Unit 2



Preschool Activity

Fishing for Snacks (Snack)

Supplies: Shallow bowl, fish shaped crackers *(or any other snack item such as maybe popcorn or even cut up cheese or fruit)*, small paper cup, and a plate or napkin

Say: Jesus invited the disciples to fish for people, but he didn't really mean to use a net or a fishing pole. What he wanted them to do was tell people about Jesus and invite them to be followers.

Ask: What is something you could tell someone about Jesus that might make that person want to follow Jesus?

Use the cup to "fish" for a snack and, as you all enjoy your snack, talk together about ways you can share Jesus with people through your actions. And, if you wish, sing the following song together.

Fishers of Men:

I will make you fishers of men,
Fishers of men, fishers of men.
I will make you fishers of men,
If you follow Me.

If you follow Me,
If you follow Me,
I will make you fishers of men,
If you follow Me.

Early Elementary Activity

Self Discovery (Reflection)

Supplies: copy of the Early Elementary Activity sheet below, pencil, markers, crayons

SAY: Each one of us is special! Fill out the fish profile all about you. Share with someone.

Favorite things to do:

1. 2. 3.

Draw Yourself:

Name:

Age:

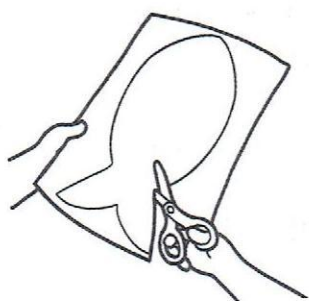
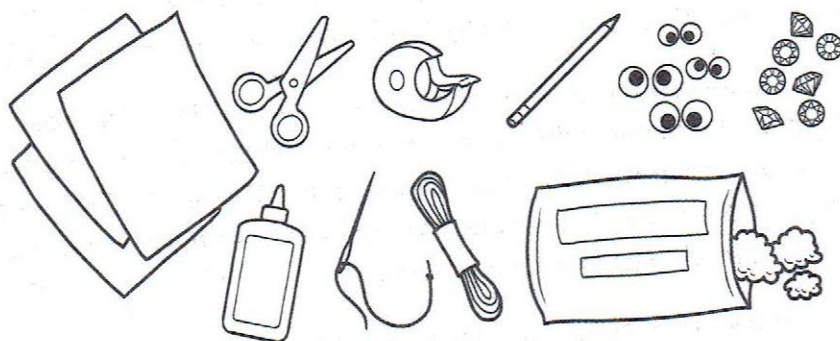
Favorite quote:

Older Elementary Activity

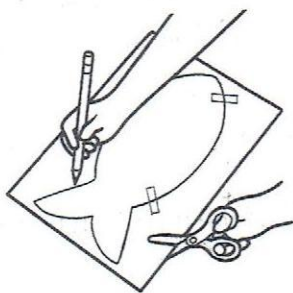
Stuffed Fish (Craft)

Supplies: felt sheets (various colors), scissors, tape, pencils, googly eyes, glue-on rhinestones, glue, sewing needles, embroidery thread, polyester fill

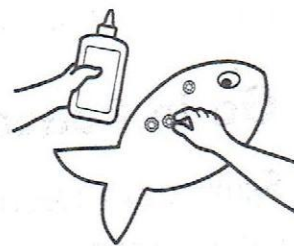
Say: **Follow directions on the page below** (Older Elementary Activity). Enjoy!



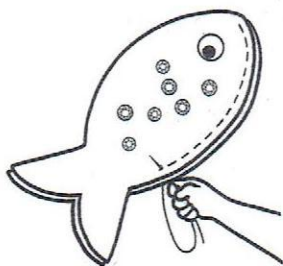
1. Cut out the fish pattern.



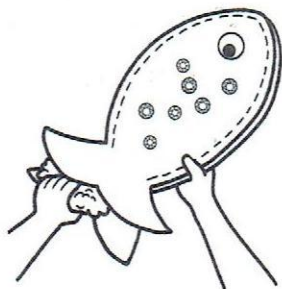
2. Use tape to attach the pattern to the felt, use a pencil to trace the pattern on the felt, and cut out a felt fish. Repeat one time to make two felt fish cutouts.



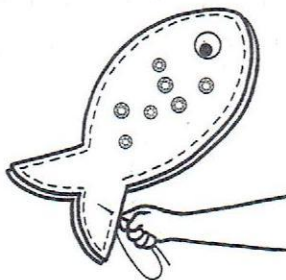
3. Use glue to attach a googly eye and rhinestones (in any pattern) to one side of one fish. (Avoid the edges so that there is room for sewing.)



4. Align the two felt fish. Use a needle and embroidery thread to sew the two fish together, leaving the tail of the fish open. (Use a running stitch for the sewing. Make a knot at one end of the thread. Bring the needle through the two pieces of felt from the back side of the fish until the knot hits the fabric. Then make a stitch to the right or left from the front side of the felt through to the back of the felt. Continue weaving the thread from the front to the back until the thread runs around the fish, leaving the tail of the fish open.)

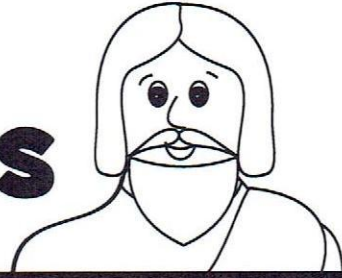


5. Stuff the fish with fiber fill.



6. Close the tail of the fish by continuing the same sewing technique.

Search for Jesus' 12 Disciples



C	M	T	P	H	I	L	I	P	A	G
M	T	I	E	E	O	Y	N	J	D	L
B	A	R	T	H	O	L	O	M	E	W
J	Z	Q	E	A	Y	S	C	A	K	V
A	N	D	R	E	W	Z	T	T	D	R
M	B	W	P	S	J	R	H	T	E	H
E	J	A	E	N	C	J	O	H	N	N
S	A	D	U	J	G	O	M	E	U	O
W	M	H	B	Q	X	D	A	W	V	M
F	E	B	P	L	U	K	S	X	F	I
I	S	T	H	A	D	D	A	E	U	S

Can you find the names of the twelve disciples from the word box below?

ANDREW
BARTHOLOMEW
JAMES
JAMES

JOHN
JUDAS
MATTHEW
PETER

PHILIP
SIMON
THADDAEUS
THOMAS