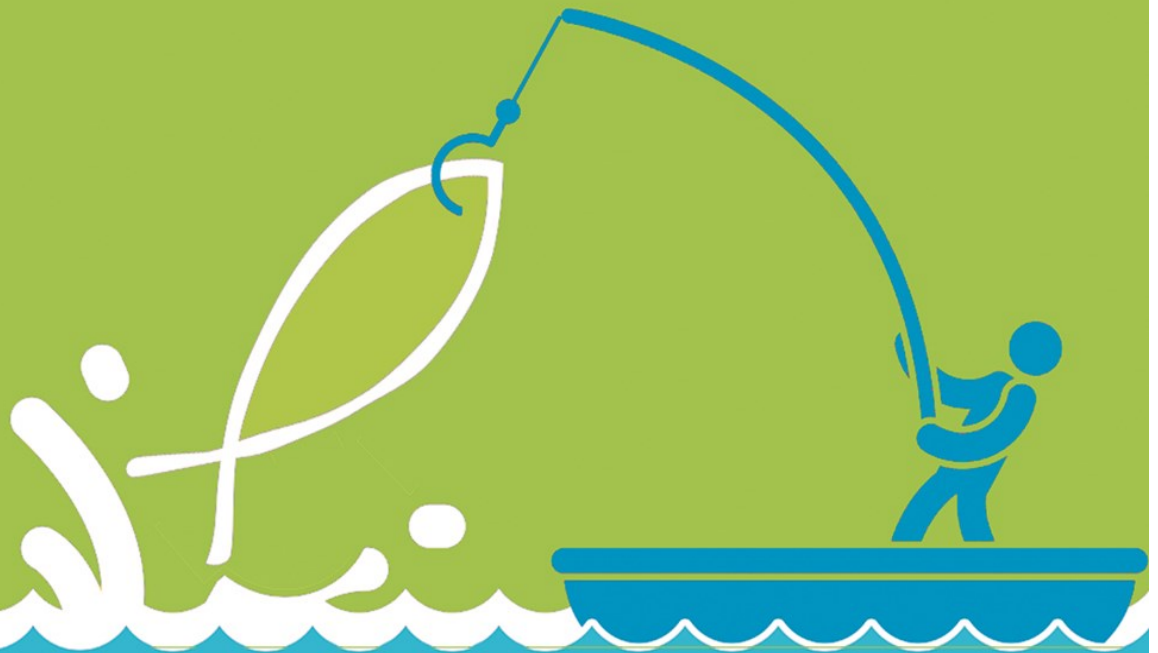


VBS
2018

Monday



FOLLOW ME!

Lessons from the Life of Peter

Pre-K/Kindergarten

Call to Follow

The Objective is the key concept for this weeks lesson. It should be the main focus of the study

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The “Main passage” is the basis of the study, where the other verse support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the “reward box” found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God’s Word

Objective To teach the students the importance of hearing and obeying the Lord.

Key Verses

Matthew 4:18-22—Main Teaching Passage

Luke 5:1-11

John 1:35-42

James 1:22

Memory Verse - Matthew 16:24

“Then Jesus said to His disciples, ‘If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.’”

Hook

Tell the kids that you and the other VBS volunteers are going to demonstrate what obedience and disobedience look like. Have one of the adults in the room make a small mess with objects in the room, and have them start to play with those things on the floor. Ask them clean up the mess and have the volunteer continue to play without listening. Ask the kids if the volunteer is doing a good job of obeying. Ask them again to clean up, and have them only clean up some of the mess. Ask the kids if they are being obedient again. Finally, ask them to clean up and have them do it completely.

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

BOOK

Having been baptized by John, and tempted in the wilderness by Satan, Jesus began His earthly ministry by preaching a message of repentance, “for the Kingdom of God is at hand.” Jesus encountered two families by the Sea of Galilee, specifically two sets of brothers.

Reading the four Gospels in context, we realize that this is not the first encounter that Jesus had with Peter and Andrew. John’s Gospel tells us that Jesus had already spoken with Andrew and Peter and that Andrew at least believed Jesus to be the Messiah (John 1:35-42). Luke’s Gospel tells us that Jesus had performed two miracles in Peter’s life at this point. First, Jesus had healed Peter’s mother-in-law from a bad fever, and second, He had blessed their fishing so that they caught so many fish that their boats began to sink (Luke 4:38-41 and 5:1-11).

Jesus called out to these brothers, (first Simon called Peter and Andrew, then James and John) “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Both Matthew and Mark tell us that without hesitation or discussion, Andrew and Peter abandoned their nets and followed Jesus. We see that these men were in the middle of their work, literally casting their nets into the lake.

The same is true for James and John, who were in the boat with their Father. When Jesus called to them and asked them to follow Him, verse 22 tells us that they immediately got out of their boat and left not just the nets, but their Father as well.

The interpretation/exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

LOOK

There are not too many Bible verse that are written just for children, but the ones that are written just for children are very, very important. God put something in a book of the Bible called Ephesians just for you. It says, “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.” That’s right, the Bible tells us that as children, it is right for us to honor our mother and father by obeying what they tell us to do. Even more important than obeying our parents (which, I remind, you is very, very important) is obeying God.

What does it mean to obey? And what does it look like for us to obey? We can learn a lot from the way that Peter (and the other disciples) responded to Jesus when He called them to come and follow Him. When Jesus called Peter, did Peter ignore what Jesus said and keep fishing? Of course not. Peter heard and understood what Jesus asked him to do. The first step in obeying is listening. We need to listen to what our parents tell us, and more importantly, what God tells us in the Bible.

LOOK (Continued)

When Peter heard Jesus call him, did Peter wait for twenty minutes and then follow Jesus? No, Peter listened and then did what he was asked immediately. When we obey our parents, or when we obey God, we should do what we are asked right away.

When Peter immediately did what Jesus asked, did he leave half of his nets behind and take the other half with him? Did he follow Jesus for a couple of hours and then go back to what he was doing before? No, Peter obeyed completely. He did everything that he was asked to do, not just some or part of it.

When we obey our parents, and when we obey God we need to remember these different parts of obedience: We need to listen. If we don't pay attention to what we are told, we will not be able to do the thing we are asked to do. If we are told to clean our room and don't do it, we are being disobedient. We need to obey right away. Delayed obedience is disobedience. If we are told to clean our room but wait for three days to do it, then we are being disobedient. We need to obey all the way. Partial obedience is disobedience. If we are told to clean our room and only clean up half of the toys and don't put our clothes in the hamper, we are being disobedient.

God tells us it is right to obey our parents, and it is right to obey Him. So we should listen well so that we know what we should do, then we should do it right away and we should do it all the way.

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

TOOK

As a class, memorize Matthew 16:24.

Review the lesson by writing the words, "Listen, right away, all the way" on the board. Ask the kids to give examples of how they could be obedient using those three clues.

Pray: Thank the Lord for the example that Peter gives us in obedience. Ask Him to help us to be good listeners but also good doers.

Parent Question: When we obey, what three things do we need to do?

FURTHER STUDY

Commentary on Matthew 4:18-22 by David Guzik

And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." They immediately left *their* nets and followed Him. Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James *the son* of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him.

a. **Saw two brothers...casting a net into the sea:** This was not the first time Jesus met these men, and other gospels describe previous encounters ([John 1:35-42](#) and [Luke 5:3](#)), but this is when Jesus called them to leave their professions and follow Him with a full-time commitment.

i. "Its fishing industry was prosperous, and its *fishermen* not necessarily poor (Zebedee's family employed workers, [Mark 1:20](#))." (France)

ii. God usually calls people as they are busy doing something. Jesus called the apostles as they were **casting a net into the sea** or **mending their nets**. "They were busy in a lawful occupation when he called them to be ministers: our Lord does not call idlers but *fishers*." (Spurgeon)

- Saul was looking for his father's donkeys.
- David was keeping his father's sheep.
- The shepherds were guarding their flocks.
- Amos was farming in Tekoa.
- Matthew was working at the tax collector's table.
- Moses was tending his father-in-law's flock.
- Gideon was threshing wheat.

b. **Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men:** In that day, it was customary for a rabbi to have disciples; there was nothing cult-like about Jesus asking these men to be with Him constantly and to learn from Him. In some aspects, Jesus offered them a traditional education at the feet of a rabbi; in other aspects, this was very different from a normal rabbinical education.

i. **Follow Me** "would immediately suggest the disciples of a Rabbi...who literally followed him around to absorb his teaching, though this was by their own choice, not by his summons." (France)

ii. "He, however, went further than John, who could only announce and point to another. Jesus immediately followed the announcement with the word spoken to individuals, 'Follow Me,' thus claiming the position of King. (Morgan)

c. **They immediately left their nets...And immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him:** The *immediate* response of these disciples is a great example to us. Then the first disciples did what all disciples of Jesus should do: they **followed Him**.

i. Following Jesus means leaving some things behind. The Samaritan woman left her pitcher, Matthew left his tax table, and blind Bartimaeus left his cloak to follow Jesus.