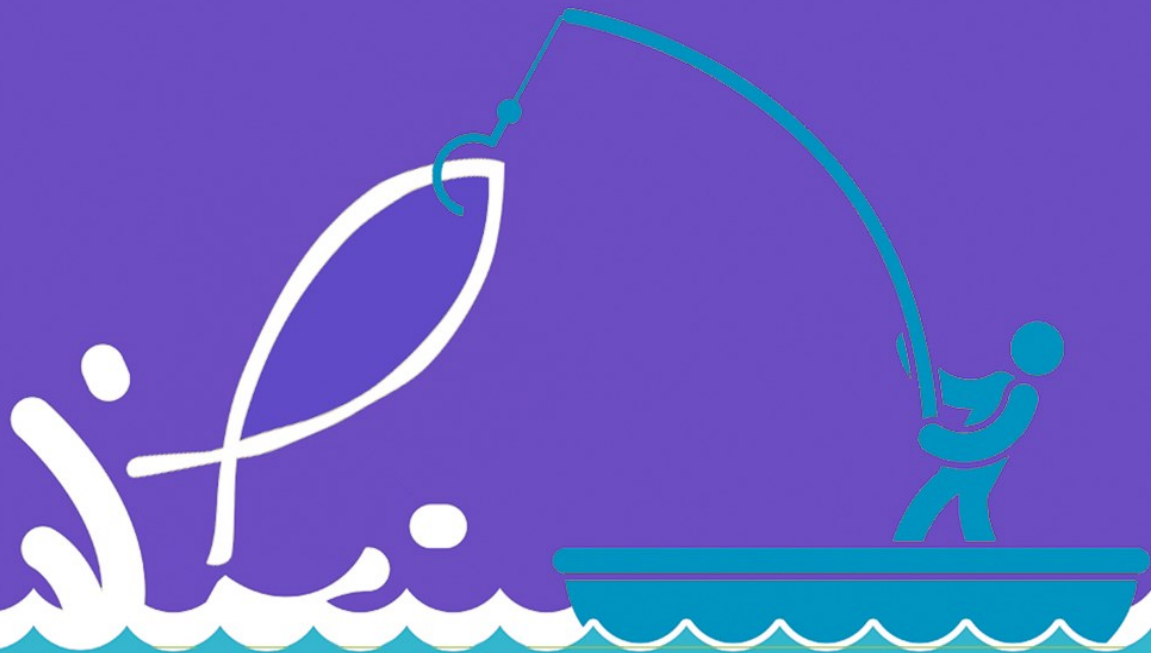


VBS
2018

Monday



FOLLOW ME!

Lessons from the Life of Peter

1st-5th Grade

Come Follow Me

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 that we can trust Jesus completely, and because of this we can follow Him in every way.

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

Play a quick game of follow the leader around the classroom. Pick three students and tell them that they have to copy every movement that you make exactly. Move around the room and making silly gestures or do a funny walk.

Tell the students that following Jesus means acting just like He did. If we want to follow Jesus we need to think about what He would do and try to follow His example.

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

In today’s story, Jesus was asking Peter, Andrew, James, and John to do something much more than just follow Him. Jesus was asking these men to follow Him by leaving everything else behind. How would you feel if you were asked to leave your home and be homeless for three years? Or what about if you were asked to leave all of your things behind, your toys, games, computer, bed, books? How would you feel if you were asked to leave your family behind, your mom and dad, brothers and sisters, and even all of your friends? When Jesus told Peter to follow Him, that is exactly what He was asking. He was telling these men to leave everything they had and everything they knew, and they did it.

The most amazing word in this Bible passage is the word “immediately.” Peter, Andrew, James, and John left everything they knew and obeyed immediately. They didn’t have to talk about it first. They didn’t write a list of pros and cons, weigh up the choices and then decide. They just left.

LOOK (Continued)

Peter was able to follow Jesus right away because he trusted Jesus. Jesus had healed Peter's mother-in-law. He had performed a miracle and filled Peter's boat with fish. Peter and his brother Andrew had heard Jesus teach and believed that Jesus might be the Messiah. Because they trusted Jesus, they could obey Him immediately and completely.

There are lots of things that Jesus asks us to do in His Word. He tells us to love our neighbor as ourselves and to love our enemy and pray for them. He tells us to show mercy and kindness to everyone we meet. Most importantly, He says to love God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength. These things might sound difficult or even impossible, but we know that we can do them if we trust Jesus, just like Peter did.

Jesus wants us to follow Him so that He can make us fishers of men. He wants us to hear His voice and respond with the same faith that Peter and the other disciples did, so that other people can hear about how good and loving Jesus is and they too can follow Him in faith. As 1st-5th graders, Jesus is not going to ask us to leave our home or family behind, but He might one day when we grow older. If we can place our trust fully in Him, it doesn't matter what He asks us to do, we will be able to walk in obedience.

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 asking the class if they sometimes have difficulty obeying. (parents, teachers, the Lord, etc.). Ask them how trusting Jesus can help them to be more obedient in all of those areas.

Pray: Thank the Lord for calling us to follow Him. Ask Him to give us greater faith and trust so that we can follow Him in all ways, at all times.

Parent Question: Why did Jesus call Peter to follow Him? What did Jesus want Peter to become?

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.