

General Church Education



The Lord Calls His Disciples

Matthew 4:17-25

Lesson 18

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Introductory Level: The Lord Is Our
Heavenly Father

For ages 5-6 years

THE LORD CALLS HIS DISCIPLES

Matthew 4:17-25

OVERVIEW OF THE STORY

After His baptism, the Lord went out preaching, teaching, and healing. He called twelve men to help. These disciples immediately left everything they had to follow Him.

CONCEPTS FOR PARENTS AND TEACHERS

- ❖ The Lord's first disciples were fishermen. Spiritual fishermen are those who want to search for truths and then teach others about them.
- ❖ The sea pictures factual knowledges or truths stored in our natural memory.
- ❖ Fish picture individual facts learned with our five senses.
- ❖ We can all be disciples of the Lord if we are willing to leave our own ideas behind and learn truth from the Lord with the intention of putting it to use in our lives.

THE LORD CALLS HIS DISCIPLES

IMPORTANT IDEAS FOR CHILDREN

Disciples are people who love the Lord and follow His teachings.
We can all be the Lord's disciples.

LET'S REMEMBER:

- ♦ **Do you remember how John the Baptist was dressed?** (Clothed in camel's hair garment with leather belt.)
- ♦ **What kind of food did he eat?** (Locusts and wild honey.)
- ♦ **What was John doing for the people?** (Telling them that the Lord was coming, that they should repent, and baptizing.)
- ♦ **What wonderful thing happened when Jesus was being baptized?** (The Spirit of God descended like a dove and a voice from heaven said, "This is My Beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.")



OUR STORY FOR TODAY:

After Jesus was baptized, He began to help people in many ways. He went about preaching or talking to people. He urged them to repent and live a heavenly life. He taught them how to change their ways and healed them of many diseases.

Jesus began to gather a small group of men who would help Him. These men were called disciples. A disciple is a student or someone who learns and follows his teacher. The men Jesus picked happily followed Him and loved to learn from Him. They left whatever they were doing because they could see a very special quality in Him. At this time none of them realized how very special He was, that He was the Lord, our Heavenly Father who came to earth. But they were so happy when they were with Him that they followed wherever He went. They left their homes and families, they left their jobs to follow Him and learn from Him.

Jesus came to live in Galilee, which is in the northern part of the Holy Land. He went to a town named Capernaum which is by the Sea of Galilee. Our story is about the first disciples He called to follow Him. Listen and try to remember their names.



Read **Matthew 4:17-19**.

What were their names? (Simon, who was called Peter, and Andrew.) How were they related? (Brothers.) What were they doing? (Fishing.) Do you think they will leave their boat and follow Jesus? Let's see.



Read **Matthew 4:20**.

Yes, they did follow Him. Then He called two more men.



Read **Matthew 4:21-22**.

What were their names? (John and James.) How were they related? (Brothers.) What were they doing? (Mending their nets in the fishing boat.)

Fishermen would go out on the water in their boats. Then they threw large nets overboard into the water. The fish would swim into the nets. After a while they pulled the nets, with fish caught inside, back into the boats. The fishermen would then row back to shore. They usually had plenty of fish for their families to eat plus more to sell. This is how they earned their living.

The Lord called twelve men in all to be His disciples. They would learn from Him about the kingdom of heaven and help Him spread this good news. Not all of them were fishermen. However, each of them left everything behind. They wanted to be with Him and hear what He had to say. Jesus taught them beautiful truths and they wanted to hear more.

Now let's read about some of the wonderful things Jesus did.





Read **Matthew 4:23-25**.

Where did Jesus teach? (In synagogues.)

A synagogue is a Jewish place of worship. Christian places of worship are usually called churches. Jesus taught and preached in synagogues or the sometimes in the temple in Jerusalem. He also taught in homes, by the lakes, on the mountains, anywhere the people gathered to hear Him.

Does it sound like a lot of people came to hear Him? (Yes, it says multitudes or large numbers of people followed Him.)

What did He do for the sick people? (He healed them of their sicknesses.)

The disciples gradually began to see that Jesus was God. When we want to hear what is true and do what is good, we are the Lord's disciples too. In this way we can be happy ourselves and also help others by setting a good example.



WHAT DID WE LEARN TODAY?

- ♦ **What is a disciple?** (A student or someone who learns.)
- ♦ **What were the first four disciples doing when the Lord found them?** (Fishing.)
- ♦ **How many disciples were there in all?** (Twelve.)
- ♦ **How can we be Jesus' disciples today?** (Be willing to learn from Him and then follow Him.)
- ♦ **What are some things you know about the Lord or heaven that you could teach other people?**

THE LORD CALLS HIS DISCIPLES

ACTIVITIES



Recitation: Learn the recitation by heart and earn an award. Awards are on the last page of this lesson.

Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.

Matthew 7:24-27



Project choices:

The Lord Teaching project
Color a picture of the disciples



Songs:

Praise Ye Our Father—Listen or download at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-praise-ye-our-father/>

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us—Listen or download at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-savior-like-a-shepherd-lead-us/>



Additional Activities:

- ❖ Act out the story, or retell the story with simple puppets or flannel board figures.
- ❖ Visit an aquarium and see many varieties of beautiful fish.
- ❖ Discover what fishermen do by going fishing or doing a fishing activity.

The Lord Teaching

A project about how the Lord taught people while He was on earth.

Supplies:

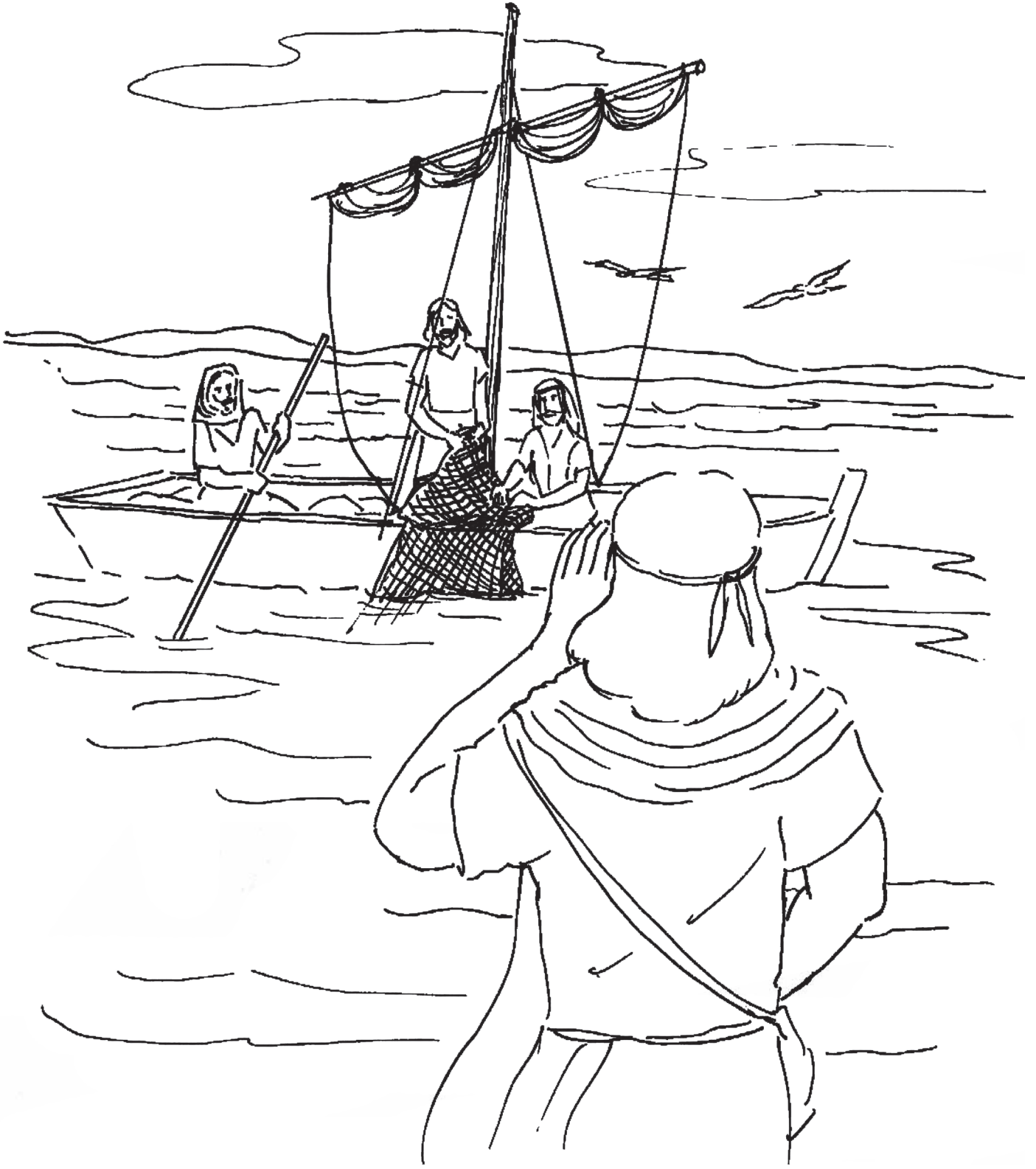
1 printed page
1 piece of green or red paper
crayons or markers
glue

Project instructions:

1. On one side of the printed page, draw a pictures of the Lord teaching.
2. On the other side of the page, draw some of the disciples and other people listening to the Lord. Or you could draw yourself listening to Him.
3. Glue the picture to the center of the green construction paper. Now your picture will have a colored border.

The Lord taught truths to His disciples.

He teaches us truths also.



Recitation Award: The Lord Calls His Disciples

Purchase a wide colorful ribbon. Attach each recitation award to the ribbon as it is learned. Multiple copies of the award are provided for classes.

