



FISHERS of MEN



Fishers of Men

Bible Lesson

Read Matthew 4:18-22. Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew were just ordinary men. They were simple fishermen. Jesus could have asked anyone to be one of his disciples, yet he chose two average fishermen. Jesus still chooses ordinary people to do extraordinary things.

What did Jesus mean when he told the two fishermen that he would make them “fisher’s of men.” *Allow for response.* Jesus meant that if these two men followed him he would show them how to lead others to salvation. He has promised the same thing to us if we follow him.

Often times, when God asks us to witness to someone we feel like we can’t. And that’s O.K. God knows we cannot do it by

ourselves and he doesn’t ask us to. In those times when we feel like what God’s asking us to do is impossible, we need to remember that God promised he would be with us. We need to trust in Him and believe that all things are possible through him.

Fishermen have tools that they use to catch fish, such as a rod, net and bait. We also have tools that we can use to lead others to Christ. What might they be? *Allow for response.* Our greatest help is the Holy Spirit working in us and in the hearts of the people we witness to. Other tools are our testimony, our message, our prayers and the way we live our lives. We will talk about these tools in later lessons.

Apply the Lesson

If you read through the gospels, you’ll see how Jesus used love to draw people to him, one at a time. From the Samaritan woman at the well, to the religious leader Nicodemus, to Zacchaeus the tax collector, Jesus showed people how much he loved them.

That love, more than anything, led them to believe and then go out and tell other people about Jesus.

We can love others by being a good friend. That means being there for our friends, being a helpful hand when it’s needed, and being a good listener. It also means reaching out to people who don’t have many friends. That takes courage, but it’s a great way to show the love of Jesus.

Loving others also means we resist the temptation to hurt others. When someone pushes us, we don’t

push back. When people gossip, we don’t join in. When we are called names and made fun of, we respond with love instead of cruel words.

People may think we are strange for doing such things. Anyone else would fight back! But we are not “anyone else.” We are fishers of men. We are people saved by Jesus, commanded to share Jesus’ awesome love with others.

A good fisherman knows that he needs a good lure to draw in the fish. Fishers of men know the one thing that draws people to Jesus is His love. Ask God to make you a fisher of men. Ask him to help you share His love with others. Then be ready to tell your friends about Jesus once you have their attention.

Power Point

God wants us
to love others
and introduce
them to Jesus.

MEMORY VERSE

Matthew 4:19,
“Come, follow me,
Jesus said, and I
will make you fish-
ers of men.”

Gentoo Penguins

When people think of penguins, they think of funny, flightless birds waddling around on the ice. They see in their mind's eye thousands of little black and white birds, each one

identical, swimming the Antarctic waters and crowding together on an island ice.

Most people don't realize that there are not one but many kinds of penguins! There are

black and white penguins, black white and orange penguins, and even blue and white

penguins. There are penguins that swim, and some that don't. There are penguins that

live in the cold, and there are many penguins that prefer warm climates. There are penguins



with regal names like the Emperor Penguin and the King Penguin, and there are

penguins with fun names like the Macaroni Penguin and the tiny Blue Fairy Penguin.

There are even penguins in Pennsylvania that play ice hockey!

Okay, so those are not a real penguins.

Over the next few weeks, we'll be talking about a few species of penguin, starting

with the Gentoo. Gentoo penguins are the third largest species of penguin, growing to

almost three feet in height. They are distinguished from other breeds by the white band

that crosses the top of their heads like a bonnet. They are also the fastest penguins

under water, reaching speeds of 22 miles an hour when they swim.

That speed means they are also very good at catching

MAIN POINT

Jesus tells Peter, Andrew, James, and John that he wants them to be fishers of men.

That sounds pretty strange, but when you remember that Peter, Andrew, James, and John were actually fishermen, you realize Jesus was speaking their language.

Fishermen go out to sea to gather up fish. They use lures and bait to draw the fish in so that they can be caught. As Christians

we don't want to catch other people, but we do want to catch their attention so that we can tell them about Jesus. Like fishermen, we need bait that is attractive to people. Unlike fishermen, we can't dangle worms in front of them! We need bait that will help people see how much Jesus loves them.

There's no better way to draw people to Jesus than by loving others the way Jesus first loved us!

Year 2—Quarter 3

Object Lesson: Fish Pole

ITEMS NEEDED: A fishing pole with bait (or lure), A red paper heart

Have any of you ever been fishing? Fishing is a fun, quiet, and relaxing hobby. It's a

great way to spend some time outdoors, and it's fun to catch fish for sport, or for food.

It doesn't take much to get started, either. You need a pole, a line, and one thing more.

Do you know what that is?

You need to put some bait on the line. Whether it's a worm, a smaller fish, or a specially

made lure, you need something to catch the fish's eye and make him bite.

Jesus wants us to be fishers of men. Like any good fishermen, we need to have good

bait when we go fishing (*attach the paper heart onto the hook*).

The best bait is the love

of God. When we love others the way Jesus loves us, we show people how much Jesus

loves them. Nothing draws people to Jesus more than seeing real love in action.



Group Activity: Going Fishing

Leader will have the group pretend they are the disciples in a boat going fishing. Use large body movements to act out each scene.

- First we have to load the nets in the boat. (pretend to pull heavy nets off the shore and throw them into the boat)
- Then we have to row the boat out on the Sea of Galilee. (Big rowing motions. Rowing, rowing, rowing)
- Next we have to throw the nets into the water. (Throwing heave nets. Feeling tired.)
- Pull the nets back into the boat. (Pull heavy nets. Pulling, pulling, pulling)
- No fish! Throw the nets back in! (Throwing, throwing, throwing. Feeling tired)
- Pull the nets back in the boat. (Pulling, pulling, pulling)

- Still no fish! Let's quit for today. Turn the boat around. (Rowing slowly, so tired. Rowing slowly, Rowing slowly)
- We get to shore and Jesus is there. He says, "Follow Me and I will make your fishers of men."



